



Bridges to You

OCTOBER 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Reducing Recidivism
- Numbers #2069
- Stopping the Leaks

Reducing Recidivism

Helping end the revolving door of returning to prison for former inmates is still a key component of The Bridge House program. Over one-third of the men in our program currently had more than one incarceration. One of our residents has spent almost half his life behind bars. Typically, the court may determine that he is “incorrigible, a career criminal, unfit to remain in society.” The Bridge House is his sole example of change, which he can offer the court as evidence that he does not fit that mold.

Moreover, we open our doors to potential residents who are “wrapping up” their

prison sentences and work with those on probation. In many programs, if a client is found to have an open case (a current allegation or sentence), that would result in an immediate discharge; but here, he will be evaluated and allowed to stay or return to the program to the satisfaction of the court.

As a Christian faith-based ministry, the gospel informs how we treat our fellow staff members and the men we serve. Giving hope and showing compassionate care is key. All our staff are trained in “Motivational Interviewing and Behavior Modification” as tools to help (Continued pg. 2)

The Challenge...

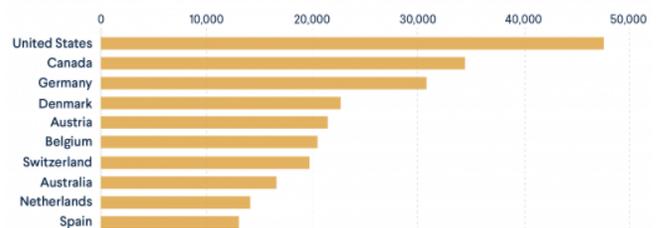
- ♦ Reduce recidivism where ever possible
- ♦ Lower state prison and parole costs
- ♦ Increase public protection through reduction in recidivism
- ♦ Goal is to change anti-social behavior, not temporary control while on probation

NUMBERS #2069

If you live in Massachusetts – you’ve likely seen the #2069 signs planted on lawns along the side of roads. #2069 is the number of opioid deaths in Massachusetts in 2018. Thankfully recent reports indicate that this year (2019) (Continued on page 2)

Countries Consuming the Most Opioids

Standard Daily Opioid Doses Per Million People, 2013–2015



Source: UN International Narcotics Control Board

Reducing Recidivism —cont.

the client realize his need for change.

We also partner with the F8 Foundation. Headed by Cynthia Goldberg, it helps our men with court appointments, employment helps, and many other community related resources to help men reenter into society successfully.

Through our counselors and our Program Director,

Kevin Maguire, we have a good rapport with probation across the state and with local drug courts. This creates a better flow of communication between The Bridge House and the justice system.

Weaving our Christian faith with devotions, optional Bible study, and volunteers from several area churches, the men, who come from a wide spectrum of belief and unbelief backgrounds,

experience grace by the examples of real people.

We covet your support and prayers as we endeavor to serve the men who come to us.



**“It was for freedom Christ set you free so do not put on the yoke of slavery”
Galatians 3:5**

Numbers #2069—continued

we will realize a decline.

Supporters of The Bridge House can take some credit, because treatment works! Our shared faith in Jesus motivates us to instill hope.

To remain in an addicted life-style versus the decision to turn towards a life of renewal mirrors the Mosaic challenge, “I set before you, life and death the blessing and the curse. Choose life”.

(Deuteronomy 30:19) Substance Addiction Recovery is not about the substances. It’s about everything else. It is about choosing life.

In a recent morning group, the men were asked, “What do you want to work on while in the Bridge House?” They answered:

I want to work on . . . :

- *my patience,*
- *self-esteem,*
- *not dwelling on the past,*
- *relationships,*
- *health,*
- *education,*
- *self-worth,*
- *honesty,*
- *integrity,*
- *my impulsivity,*
- *being able to sit with myself,*
- *my consistency,*
- *constant mindfulness,*
- *the awareness of how important it is to go slow and be aware that I can’t drink,*
- *my future,*
- *my weight,*
- *being present for my family,*
- *a better quality of life, fitting in with normal society,*
- *growing closer to my*

God,

- *learning to stay sober,*
- *being a better person,*
- *making my life manageable,*
- *living by principles,*
- *getting proper medical care,*
- *getting my life back,*
- *learning to love myself,*
- *finding a job I will enjoy,*
- *new transportation,*
- *new friends.”*

Asked to describe what brought them into recovery:

*“I decided (no one else decided for me) that I needed recovery. I walked into a detox after being homeless for 2 months and decided that I had had enough of living the way I was living. I want to have a normal life and get back the things that I have lost.”
(Continued pg. 3)*

Numbers #2069—continued

"I am ready for this. I want this for my daughter"

"I was arrested and incarcerated. It was myself that decided to pursue sobriety a few weeks into my six-month sentence. I decided to get involved in any recovery classes available in the jail and pursue treatment upon release."

"I am forcing myself to be in recovery for my kids, my girlfriend, and for me."

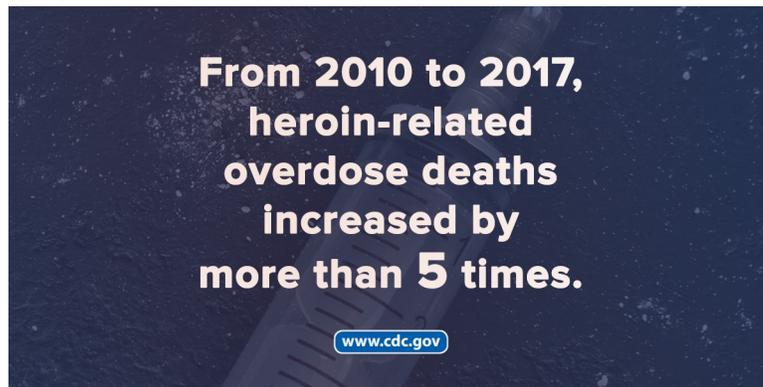
"After being home from jail for 2 days and starting to get high again I just knew something had to change or I would be in the same predicament. I want to live and maintain a better life."

"Although the law brought me to my first AA meeting, it didn't matter. I was far from done drinking. Then considering my drinking as suicide, I found the will and desire to stay alive."

"I want a better life, financial stability, and better health. I want to be there for my family."

Next time you drive past the #2069 signs on a Massachusetts roadway—remember that your support of The Bridge House is whittling that number down—you are choosing to save a life, not count the deaths.

**Jeesus said,
"My yoke is
easy. The bur-
den I give you
is lights"
Gospel of Mat-
thew**



Stopping the Leaks

In the last two years the renovation of the kitchen, the new fire egress on the Tim Bolton House, the new laminate dining floor, replacement of many old windows were completed. The two year project with its fits and starts finally came to an end.

Two of our offices have had leaking ceilings and two of our bathrooms have leaking showers. We want to fix them this fiscal

year.

The cost is estimated between \$25,000 to \$30,000. If you would like to help with this project, please fill out the coupon on the last page and send it in.

Thank you.



THE BRIDGE HOUSE

**A Ministry of New England Aftercare
Ministries**

**18 Summit St.
Framingham, MA 01702
www.thebridgehouse.org
Admissions/ intake: 508-872-6194 ext. 105
dave@thebridgehouse.org**

Help is at hand:

Emergency Assistance: 911

State of Massachusetts Addiction Helpline:

1-800-327-5050

Support for Care Givers:

Allies In Recovery: alliesinrecovery.net

Learn to Cope: www.learn2cope.org

The Bridge House has been serving adult men with substance abuse problems for nearly 30 years. As a state-licensed residential home The Bridge House brings dedicated staff to serve the men.

New England Aftercare Ministries, as a faith-based Christian entity the mission is to:

PROVIDE A MEANS FOR THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST TO OFFER RECONCILIATION TO GOD AND TO SOCIETY FOR PERSONS WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS;

PROVIDE A STRUCTURED, LOVING ENVIRONMENT, BY WHICH THOSE WHO ARE SINCERELY MOTIVATED MIGHT SUCCESSFULLY REENTER SOCIETY;

AID IN BUILDING INTIMATE AND SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHURCHES AND RESIDENTS IN THE PROGRAM;

MINISTER TO THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM;

BE A GOOD WITNESS TO THE LOVE AND POWER OF GOD IN THE COMMUNITY;

ESTABLISH A CENTER OR CENTERS IN WHICH THIS WORK CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.



*Reconciliation
to God and Society.*



Capital Project Coupon

Please accept this gift for the 2019 Capital Project:

I will give \$ _____ for the Fix the Leaks project.

Here is my monthly payment of : Amount: _____ for the next six months
Or

My one time gift of \$ _____.

