



Together we can break the stigma of addiction and revolutionize sober living.



"Support4Recovery helps keep you on the right track in the right direction..."
(Desiree -Support4Recovery grant recipient)

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Todd Bang
President, Board of Directors

I am grateful to the Board of Support4Recovery for their vote of confidence in electing me to be the President. I take this position very seriously and I'm honored and stoked to lead the organization. I am grateful for everyone in the community for all the work you do to fulfill our mission. We all have limited time in our busy lives and I appreciate your spending some of it on supporting the recovery community.

I am writing to share my thoughts and vision for the organization for this coming year. There are three words guiding me into 2023: *Empowerment; Understanding; and Freedom.*

Empowerment: I want our Board to become a strong force in our community. When we show up, people should know who we are. To do that, we plan to get back to our "boots on the ground" thinking.....build from the survey results, listen to what people are saying, respond to what we are hearing on the street. Every one of our projects has the potential to grow ten-fold. We intend to make this happen in the new year!

Understanding: My goal is that we look at the issues, problems, and plans we think up from all different angles. We are planning to practice throwing out all ideas (or spaghetti) on the wall – and see what sticks! We can figure out what our best options are that way.

Freedom: I plan to lead by example. As a leader, I have always surrounded myself with people who are better than me, who can take my job. Every one of us in the community has the potential for that, so I intend to make sure you know you have the freedom to make things happen.

I am ready to help us achieve all these things! If you have ideas or want to kick things around, I am always here to talk.

We need your support and donations to achieve all our goals in 2023. We are working on

two large fundraising events in the upcoming months, including a golf tournament and screenings of the film we commissioned *Encontrando esperanza en America (Finding Hope in America)*. These are both opportunities to support our work and “pay it forward.” Let us know if you have interest in helping us (nikki@support4recovery.org), as we welcome all volunteers.

And, once again, thanks to each and every one of you for being part of our mission. We would not be able to do what we do without you!

Todd Bang

PROJECT REPORTS

Support4Housing – Since inception, Support4Recovery has awarded 1272 housing grants! Since we relinquished the County contract last year, our primary funder is John Muir Health. Because of our success, John Muir recently committed \$35,000 annually to S4R for fiscal years 2023-2025. We are examining the need to house women with children and hope to develop program guidelines for this population soon.

Support4Families – Support4Families distributed toys this Christmas to families in need of a little extra help. This was a very impactful event, as we were able to help many local families in recovery, who sometimes struggle to celebrate. The gifts were donated by Toys for Tots. We continue to work on general programming for families and anticipate a formal program roll-out in the 1st quarter of 2023.

Needs Survey – Thanks to everyone who responded to the Needs Survey. We are using it to determine which path S4R takes as it moves forward to support the recovery community. Our initial review revealed needs in two key areas - 1) advocacy and 2) programming. Before determining a core direction, we will now seek focused input from the community on these two topics. We will be conferring with program staff and counselors, our existing Advisory Group, and the broader community via Community Forums.

Hispanic Community – We have a nearly final version of *Encontrando esperanza en America (Finding Hope in America)*, the documentary film dedicated to increasing awareness of, and participation in, Spanish-language addiction treatment. We are working on a Resource Video now, which we will use as an outreach tool to connect with the community and solicit donations. We are working on scheduling private screenings of the film. If you are interested in this effort or want to find out more about a private screening, reach out to us at nikki@support4recovery.org.

Alumni Association Support – Over 160 people attended the December 9 alumni holiday celebration. In addition to good food and company, we had a visit from Santa!



BOARD PROFILE: Dylan Johnston



Board Member **Dylan Johnston** has become a key part of S4R's effort to improve treatment opportunities for the Hispanic community. In partnership with Support4Recovery, John Muir Health, and Bi-Bett, his company, ShadowPower, is creating the powerful film *Encontrando esperanza en America (Finding Hope in America)*. It documents the nightmare of addiction, seen through the eyes of a group of Hispanic men and women, and the power of the community that saves

their lives. We plan to use the film as the centerpiece of our Hispanic Outreach Program. After overcoming a decade-long struggle with addiction and subsequent homelessness, Dylan (with the support of the S4R housing grant program) finally discovered a sense of meaning and purpose in his life. This reawakened a long-dormant passion for story-telling. He is now an emerging filmmaker in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Dylan's talent in filmmaking is evident. His student autobiographical film, *Empty Pockets*, was screened at the Mixology Program Film Festival in 2022 and was an official selection at the Hudson NY Shorts in 2021. He will earn his BA in Film & Media from the University of California, Berkeley (anticipated Spring 2023).

TESTIMONIALS: Toys for Tots Recipients

(Story relayed by Board member Sara Kerr)



In December, S4R received a donation of gifts from Toys for Tots. One of the most powerful moments occurred during the giveaway. Here is what happened, in Sara's words:

One mother, in particular, had just come to Restore after being in the program for over 6 months. She has two children, both of whom have been exposed to a great deal of hardship in their short lives. The mother is braving new territory trying to make choices for her life that she has had no frame of reference for.

I think it is so important for the average person to understand that many of these mothers, fathers, and parents are coming out of programs and have a true desire to live better - to DO better. However, it takes a whole lot of bravery because many have been raised as multi-generational products of addiction, abuse, and severe dysfunction. The population we serve often has never experienced healthy, positive, support on any level. Helping this mother was so moving. As she is collecting gifts for her children, I can see her hesitation...she looks at me and wondering what this will cost her!

I was very sure to tell her that Support4Recovery is an organization that works alongside addicts and alcoholics who are doing everything in their power to make impactful decisions today, like her decision to continue with outpatient treatment, therapy for herself and her kids, and the decision she makes every day to stay clean and sober, to support them in this journey. I looked her in the eye and told her how much the men and women at Support4Recovery including myself, admired her courage. Her story is like so many, who are coming from a background where drugs, alcohol, and abuse were normalized. I told her that Support4Recovery just wanted to give a helping hand to someone who deserved it! She turned around to hide tears and I gave her a big, huge hug!!

Lastly, I told her that she, like many other women living in the same sober living home, are pioneers for their families, the first of hopefully many in her family to live clean! She is giving her children a chance that she never had!





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