

## *Kairos House*

# A Building of Hope

The men of Kairos are in the midst of a building project. What are they building? In truth, they are rebuilding their lives.

The Kairos men are a special group of people. Each has a chronic illness. Each spent time at Christ House while recovering. And each knows what it's like to be homeless, living on the streets. Yet they have made great, often heroic, steps toward rebuilding their lives.

And now, they are building something a little more concrete. They are building a home. A real home.

And they need your help.

Christ House purchased an old apartment building that will become Kairos House. The purchase and renovation cost is \$3 million; \$1 million of this still must be raised.

The building was abandoned for several years, run-down and has significant physical problems. The building is not unlike the experience of the individuals who will live there. They were often broken in spirit. Homeless. Alone. And yet, they have already made great strides in "renovating" their lives.

### *Kairos*

*Kairos* is a Greek word referring to a unique time in people's lives when they are presented with an opportunity for major change. The Kairos Program was initiated in September 1992 for homeless men with chronic illnesses. Once accepted into the Kairos Program, each person signs an agreement to follow an individual recovery plan which includes a personal growth plan,

a self care plan, and a community involvement plan which includes "giving back" service to others.

Joe Poge is one of the fifteen Kairos participants. Joe is a diabetic. He was homeless. The path to recovery required personal courage.

"I had to learn to trust people. I was the eighth of sixteen kids. I was lost in the middle. And they couldn't feed us. I couldn't trust my immediate family because they took my food . . . Then they split us up. I lived with my parents until I was nine years old. Then I went to stay

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*Future residents of Kairos House are (left to right) William Douglas, Herbert Morant, Johnny Jackson and Henry Jones.*

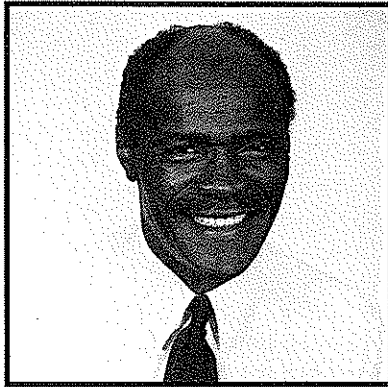


# *Kairos House will be a permanent home for*

in a welfare home."

Because of the seemingly hopeless situation, Joe began to drink. "My buddies moved away. I was the last one left. One of the most difficult things was moving away." Living at a shelter, Joe faced his drinking problem and joined AA.

A turning point in his life was discovering he had diabetes. "I didn't know I had it until I collapsed. Besides my diabetes, my heart was acting up. The doctor said that I'm a miracle. Most people in my condition don't make it!"



*Joe Poge, living with a chronic illness, keeps a positive attitude.*

This illness left more than a physical mark on Joe. "It was my first spiritual awakening. It was God that brought me through that sickness."

Being homeless, Joe came to Christ House to recover. He was active in recovery and in learning to take

care of his diabetes. As he grew stronger, Joe found that sharing with his social worker was important. "I started talking. Now there isn't much fear as long as I talk about it."

Joe made great progress in his personal recovery. In vocational rehabilitation, he found a full-time job and

eventually moved into his own apartment. The future looked bright.

But Joe collapsed on the job one afternoon. "My sugar was messed up whenever I worked eight hours. My doctor told me I had to give up my job. I couldn't hardly walk. I had treatments in the whirlpool so that I wouldn't lose my toes."

After giving up his job for medical reasons, Joe's doctor and social worker suggested he not live alone. "I listened to them. It's too dangerous to be on my own."

Joe is in Kairos Program and does volunteer work as his strength allows. Temporarily staying at Christ House, he encourages the current patients in their own struggles. "I know what they're going through. The patients can relate to me telling them about the program



# *chronically ill men who have been homeless*

more than they could to a social worker."

Kairos House will be a real home for Joe. "I am looking forward to going to Kairos House. I hope to be active in the area. It's a way of giving back to the people who really saved my life."

## *A New Family*

Every Wednesday, all the Kairos participants meet. Each person has a story as compelling as Joe's. Each has been homeless. Each has a chronic illness. Their meeting is a time to bond into a community, share their struggles and dreams, and talk about the future. Kairos House will be a permanent home for Joe and many others like him.

And now they are going to renovate Kairos House! They need your help to make the dream of Kairos House a reality.  
A real home.

## *Facts & Figures*

Christ House manages the Kairos Program. In October 1993, Christ House purchased a building for Kairos House. Architectural plans have been completed. The renovation will create 33 efficiency apartments and three staff apartments.

Kairos House is a \$3 million project. Half of the funds have already been raised. A foundation has generously given a challenge grant of \$500,000 (\$1 for every \$2 raised). Your help is needed to raise the final \$1 million. The funds are needed before the renovation begins in September. Once Kairos House is operational, it will work within a balanced budget. But the renovation must be completed first!

Kairos House will provide a permanent home for some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Yet far from being

recipients of charity, these men are already giving back to their community. Kairos House people are mentors for patients at Christ House, are involved in community projects, and volunteer their time to help others.

Each has a precious and unique gift to give to the community.

Help Kairos House become a reality. Please give as generously as you are able. Every gift counts -- no matter its size.

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*Kairos participants featured below are (left to right) Eric McWilliams, John Ratchford, Charles Harrison, Richard Staton, Anthony Whoie and staff member Dennis Shannon.*



# "You can make a difference in our lives."

The Kairos participants recently met to discuss the renovation project and to reflect on the meaning of Kairos House in their individual lives. The following thoughts were shared during the meeting.

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"Kairos House is for those who need a spiritual program for their whole life."

- Richard Staton

"When I came here, I was more dead than alive. I saw the Kairos men. There was something special about them. I asked where they were going; I wanted to go, too. Now I'm part of Kairos. We need others to follow our path. Newcomers are a lifeline for Kairos."

- Charles Harrison

"I once had my own apartment and know what it's like. I see Kairos House as a safe place for me. I am around people that are practicing the same thing as me -- clean, sober living. It's a safe place."

- Herbert Morant

"Kairos is a way of life for me. It's how I want to live. You can't have a life like this on the streets. It is a life of sobriety, good living and education. I was living in a shelter and now look forward to a place to live. Kairos is a supportive environment."

- Henry Jones

"When I see people on the streets that I used to hang out with, they ask what happened to me. They see that I am healthier. I have put on some weight, I have a cross

around my neck. The change that the Kairos program brings can be seen on the streets."

- William Douglas

"When I was sick, I came to Christ House and I saw Henry in the Kairos program. I couldn't believe it. I hadn't seen him on the streets, but I

"We know that we will never get well until we pass over. I never want to think that I have it. When I think that way, then there is no need to keep working at it."

- Anthony Whoie

"Kairos House is worth anything I have to do for the cause. We are putting down the ground work for those who will come after us."

- Joe Poge

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At the conclusion of each weekly meeting, the Kairos participants pray together. They wish to share their favorite prayer with you.

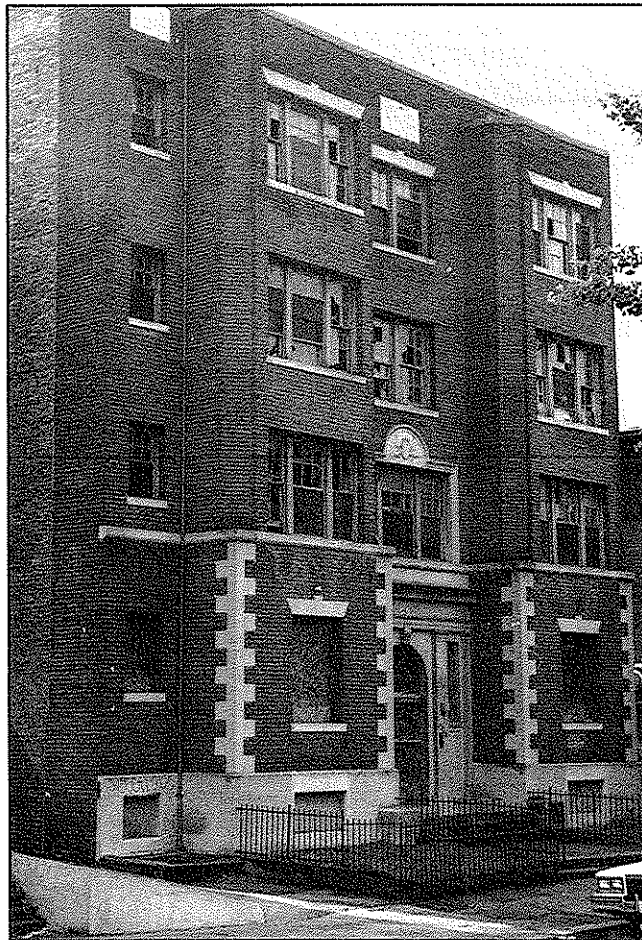
## SERENITY PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.

Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it.

Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.



*This abandoned apartment building will become Kairos House. Although it is now boarded-up, it holds the promise of new life.*

didn't know that he had gotten his life together here."

- Philip Tucker

"Kairos is God's time."

- Richard Noyes

*Gifts For Kairos House*

*May Be Sent To:*

*Christ House*

*1717 Columbia Road, N.W.*

*Washington, D.C. 20009*