

# EAGLE RECOVERY CENTER

*A Place to Heal the Mind, Body & Soul*



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## A Great Need

- Oklahoma has almost twice the number of female offenders per 100,000 population than the national average.
- 65% of these women have young children from whom they are separated.
- 67% of these women were themselves neglected, abused physically or sexually as children.
- As adults, 71% are victims of domestic violence; 44% are victims of rape.
- When released from prison, they are given \$50 and usually have large fines to repay, making the success rate of staying out of trouble very low.
- 22 million people (male and female) over the age of 12 struggle with drug and/or alcohol abuse.
- 1 of every 2 people in the US are related to or know someone in recovery.

## A Brief History

**Eagle Recovery Center** first began as **Eagle Christian Ministries** as the vision of **Jim and Lisa McWhirter** to serve as a healing place for men struggling with addiction. The vision came from the pain of addiction and recovery in their own family experience.

They found and purchased the current Eagle campus at great personal financial risk after much prayer and strong faith. They, along with their son, **Scott**, provided a program of intense, Christ-focused addiction recovery and healing for men who were full-time residents learning accountability, responsibility, turning bad habits into good and learning to fall in love with Jesus. Over fifty men went through this program between 2008 and 2011, and dozens gave their lives to Jesus, being baptized into His name. The men's program was phased out in the summer of 2011 when the focus shifted primarily to women.

The **Eagle Women's Sober-Living** program began in early 2010 after **Lisa** had attended a seminar where she learned the plight of a certain population segment of women in the state of Oklahoma. She learned that Oklahoma had the highest rate of incarceration of women for non-violent offenses in the nation and that many were caught in a vicious cycle which kept sending them back to prison with little hope of breaking that cycle. Upon release and after accruing steep fines while incarcerated, women were expected to be productive citizens and repay their fines with absolutely no support system. They were handed fifty dollars and dropped off on a street corner and basically wished "good luck".

This convicted **Lisa** into action and the current women's program was born. Again, at great personal risk and sacrifice, they renovated a townhouse apartment building into a group home suitable for comfortably housing at least ten women. **Lora Williams**, herself recovering from addiction with a passion to help others AND who has **never** received compensation, was recruited as a resident volunteer to direct this program.

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## How You Can Help

Our biggest need is financial. Last year, our operating costs were \$195,300.55. Our total income (including program fees and donations) was \$79,768.78, leaving a deficit of **-\$115,531.77**. The McWhirter family makes up the difference from personal finances and creative financing. But this is not sustainable. We need more partners to catch the vision and help us help those who are trying to break the cycle of addiction.

Jesus said He came to seek and save the lost. None are more lost than those in addiction. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are compelled to give hope to the hopeless and healing to the hurting.

Would you consider joining the team? We have set up an online donation site at:

[www.gofundme.com/eaglerecovery](http://www.gofundme.com/eaglerecovery)

Or you may send donations to:

Eagle Christian Ministries  
Attn: Jeff Gardner  
3101 Tinker Diagonal Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73115

Eagle Recovery Center Campus:  
3701 East Reno,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Phone Number: 405.702.4325  
email:  
jeff@eaglerecoverycenter.org

*Eagle Christian Ministries is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.*

[www.eaglerecoverycenter.org](http://www.eaglerecoverycenter.org)

When the men's program was phased out, the women's program was moved to the 13-acre campus on East Reno. There have been times when the current location and the renovated townhouse were both used. Currently, the townhouse is only used for overflow.

The women's program is designed to provide an opportunity for women who have struggled with drug and/or alcohol addiction to rebuild their lives and relationships in a safe, structured environment where accountability is top priority and where Jesus is King. We provide transportation to and from work, court and parole/probation appointments, grocery stores, recovery meetings, medical appointments and church. Residents are required to work, remain drug/alcohol-free, attend regular recovery meetings, Bible studies and church worship. Counseling is provided for those who need it at no charge.

The women pay a weekly program fee which covers about 25% of operational costs. Since inception, we have served more than 140 women, dozens of which have recommitted their lives to Jesus or given them to Him for the very first time. Our director, **Lora Williams**, puts in at least 50 hours per week **as a volunteer**. We recently added a facility minister on staff, **Donna Stevens-Leonard**, who has added stability and nurturing to the Eagle experience.

**Boulevard church of Christ** was started in October, 2010, specifically to help serve the unique needs of those who are recovering from addiction. The conventional church can be intimidating when your past includes drug and alcohol addiction, sexual abuse, prostitution, domestic violence, gambling, divorce, and other stigmatized life experiences. We have tried to create an atmosphere which encourages transparency and authenticity.

Since inception, Boulevard has grown by adding ministry to Spanish-speakers, teens and university students. We are staffed with an evangelist (Jeff Gardner), and associate minister (Ivan Gonzalez) and a part-time youth and university outreach minister (Logan Glover). We are served by two elders, Jim McWhirter and Charles Custer.

Not all members have recovery in their background, but all members have a heart for those in recovery and others in the world who are in need of the healing that Jesus offers.

Using their own finances, the McWhirters purchased our current location from the dissolving Drexel Boulevard church of Christ so we could have a comfortable facility for our church home. The building is located at 1301 N. Drexel Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73107, and everyone is welcome. Especially people with problems. We are a place to worship, serve and heal.

[www.boulevardchurch.org](http://www.boulevardchurch.org)