

@Boulevard



*A joint publication from the Boulevard church of Christ
and Eagle Recovery Center*



A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 30 — July-August 2015

Jots from Jeff



This issue of our newsletter will be an abridged version of a recent write up about *Eagle Recovery Center* and one of our residents, **Kelli**, which appeared in *The Oklahoman* newspaper on July 20, 2015 (the article is by **Savannah Evanoff**, Staff Writer,

sevanoff@oklahoman.com). **Kelli's** story is very similar to the stories of many of the residents we are honored to serve. We hope this blesses you. Please know that your involvement makes stories like this have happy endings.

Kelli Grossnicklaus bounces around Eagle Recovery Center with a bubbly personality and playfulness, swift to greet visitors and other residents with a sweet smile and the same sense of joy you might see in a young child.

Since January, the secluded, woodsy complex — filled with giant leaves hanging from lush trees, a peaceful pond and even a family of exquisite peacocks that the women who live there fawn over — has been the place Grossnicklaus calls home.

Lora Williams, program director, said the recovery center is based on a foundation of ministry and offers counseling, Bible study and volunteer work, along with residential facilities and transportation. It's a still morning, and when Grossnicklaus sits down on the patio, her demeanor matches the morning's tone. She is calm and collected.

Within 10 minutes, Grossnicklaus has become energetic, her heart filled with radiating joy and then, just as quickly, calm,

with her spirit overtaken by a boundless serenity.

It's unexpected from Grossnicklaus, a 52-year-old recovering drug addict who witnessed her husband's murder.

But Grossnicklaus said she is a "tough girl."

For more than six months at the Eagle center, Grossnicklaus has worked toward recovery from drug addiction. She said she has found peace.

"She's definitely not hardened by her life experiences," Williams said. "I think she's at a point now where they've become learning experiences for her."

In 1994, in front of her Oklahoma City home, Grossnicklaus watched her husband's mother point a .22-caliber pistol at him and shoot four times.

"It happened so fast, yet it was slow motion," Grossnicklaus said. "It was horrific, very horrific. I couldn't do anything. I gave him CPR until the paramedics got there and I prayed with him and I asked him to take God into his heart, but it happened so quick I couldn't do anything."

After the shooting, Grossnicklaus' husband was pronounced dead. No charges were filed against the mother, as Grossnicklaus' husband had a history of violence.

As Grossnicklaus speaks of her husband's abuse and death, her eyes well up with tears, but not one graces her cheek.

For 10 years, Grossnicklaus said, she was abused by her alcoholic husband, many

times ending up in the hospital. Grossnicklaus thought the abuse was her fault.

"You are thinking when you're getting abused that you have it coming, that you've done something wrong," Grossnicklaus said. "You accept it and then you cover for them. You hide everything."

Grossnicklaus and her husband had three children, but Grossnicklaus lost communication with them in 1994 when she was incarcerated on charges of using a bogus check.

"When I got out (of prison), I went to truck driving school, got my CDL and drove cross country and just never really addressed any of my issues — my mental issues," Grossnicklaus said. "To just numb the pain was a lot simpler."

This is when Grossnicklaus said she began using drugs heavily as a form of self-medication.

From there, Grossnicklaus' memory becomes a drug-induced haze of a time when getting high was her first priority. Her body reached an unhealthily low weight, her hair lacked the nutrients for growth and it all culminated in a drug-related arrest.

"I did not contact any family because I was ashamed," Grossnicklaus said. "I hit bottom in there. I finally prayed to God to show me the right way to live."

After being released from jail, Grossnicklaus heard about Eagle Recovery Center while in therapy and moved in three days later.

From the very beginning, Donna Leonard, the in-resident minister at Eagle Recovery Center, said Grossnicklaus was very open-minded.

(continued on reverse side)



About Us

Boulevard church of Christ is a family of believers in Jesus Christ who want to be the hands and feet of Jesus in reaching people with messed up lives. We believe Jesus is the great Healer physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially. And we all need to be healed of something.

Eagle Recovery Center is a Christ-centered, structured, sober-living group home for the purpose of empowering women to successfully re-enter society and live victoriously over drugs and alcohol or any other destructive habit. All residents are valued members of the Boulevard church family.

"She was willing to do whatever she was told to do, to stay away from the places where she used to go and the people she used to run around with, and be very accountable," Leonard said. "She truly did not want to return to the life she had been living."

The residents at Eagle Recovery Center are required to seek a full-time job and attend various meetings, some involving ministry. Grossnicklaus said she works during the day as a dietary aide at the Wellington Parke Retirement Community and goes to church at Boulevard Church of Christ on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Through social networking and the assistance at the Eagle Recovery Center and Narcotics Anonymous, Grossnicklaus is now in communication with her children and is reunited with her mother and sister.

"They had seen pictures I was posting, and they saw how healthy I was and how much weight I'd gained, and how happy I was. They saw the sparkle in my eye again," Grossnicklaus said. "It was hard to not just cry, all so very humbling."

Grossnicklaus is only a few months away from achieving a full year of sobriety and said she is taking things in baby steps. Currently, her biggest challenge is to not eat

everything in sight, gaining what they call the "sober 50."

"I would like to do some type of help for battered women. What they're going through is not right. Getting hit, regardless of what they think they've done, is not right," Grossnicklaus said. "If I could just help one or two girls to not stay in the ... pit of abuse, then I would feel good."

Full article: <http://newsok.com/flight-to-recovery-woman-finds-peace-at-oklahoma-city-recovery-center-to-overcome-an-abusive-past/article/5434946>

Watch the video: <http://newsok.com/multimedia/video/4364411517001>

Donate online at <http://www.gofundme.com/eaglerecovery>

Yes, I would like to partner with the *Boulevard church* and *Eagle Recovery Center* to help bring Christ to and heal those who are struggling to overcome addiction by making a donation of...

\$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ or Other \$ _____ (donation enclosed)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to **Boulevard church of Christ** and send to:

1301 N. Drexel Boulevard • Oklahoma City, OK 73107

www.eaglerecoverycenter.org

Other Ways to Help:

- Female or Husband/Wife teams to help with transportation for a day
- Donate good clothing suitable for work
- Godly women to develop mentoring relationships with an Eagle resident
- Grounds keeping assistance (mowing, limb cutting and removal, painting and repair)

Please contact Lora or Donna at one the numbers listed below to volunteer.



Facility Minister — Donna Myers

Phone — (405) 760-9086

Email — donna@eaglerecoverycenter.org



Eagle Contact Information

Director — Lora Williams

Phone — (405) 737-5383

Email — lora@eaglerecoverycenter.org

Address — 3701 East Reno

Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Boulevard Contact Information

1301 N. Drexel Boulevard • Oklahoma City, OK 73107

(405) 943-3578

Shepherds

**Jim McWhirter
Charles Custer**

Assembly Times

**Sunday — 9:30 am
Wednesday — 7:00 pm**

Evangelist:

Jeff Gardner • heal@blvdchurch.com • (405) 550-7658

Associate Minister:

Ivan Gonzalez • ivan@blvdchurch.com • (405) 923-4964

Boulevard church of Christ and Eagle Recovery Center®, a DBA of Eagle Christian Ministries, are both 501(c)(3) charitable organizations.