

AN UPDATE FROM

# STABILITYFIRST



## LIVVY - IN HER OWN WORDS

*(Editor's Note: Livvy originally wrote this for a ministry partner. We thought she did an excellent job and that our friends and supporters would enjoy reading her story too. She's pictured here with her dog, Loui, on the porch of their new place.)*

Hello,

Let me start out by saying that my name is Livvy and I am a grateful recovering drug addict. I'll go back to the very beginning to fill you in on how my life took this drastic turn down the wrong road, and then how my life was turned back around. As a child I had a single mother and an absent father due to his addiction, and I fell through the cracks, so to speak. Growing up I always felt I wasn't

good enough, insecure and like nobody understood me. I felt like I was walking around with this huge hole inside of me.

At the age of 14 I took my first drink of alcohol. I felt confident and free for the first time in my life, free from abandonment and everything else negative I had ever felt about myself. It filled the hole, I thought at the time. What I didn't know was this would slowly, but surely, ruin my life, my family's life and any dream I ever had. This was a feeling I wouldn't want to let go of for the next 10 years. I would binge drink, take pills, and smoke marijuana any chance I got. Still trying to fill that hole. At age 15 I dropped out of high school. At age 16 I was introduced to heroin and meth by a boyfriend. By the time I was 18 I had caught my first drug related charge, couldn't hold a job and had no life skills. At the time I didn't have one passing thought about quitting. It hadn't registered yet that I was an addict and this wasn't what my life was supposed to be like. This continued for 6 years, losing many people I was friends with to overdose and suicide. I couldn't stay out of jail and was dragging my family right along with me. It still didn't click in my mind. My mind was focused on the one thing – using drugs to fix how I felt and take my mind off everything I had messed up. Over the course of my years in addiction there were few times I was sober. I was high almost every day for years, except the times my Mom forced me to go to rehab, jail stays, or the early days before I became an every day user. During these times I accomplished very few things and no matter what happened to me I still didn't want to stop.

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STABILITY FIRST GALA

**ELEVATE!**

VIRTUAL GALA

Thurs. September 30, 2021 7:00 PM  
WATCH HERE ON FACEBOOK LIVE

JOIN US!



We provide resources for the lost & hopeless so they can experience stability & hope.

We've ELEVATED hundreds of women out of poverty, addiction and homelessness. We've purchased a facility to do the same for men.

Together let's ELEVATE the lost & hopeless.

**JOIN US VIRTUALLY!  
SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**

Welcome to fall – a time for gathering the harvest and counting our blessings. It seems like the perfect time to **ELEVATE** our voices, thanking God for His goodness to Stability First and to the people He has blessed through this ministry. Mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and join us for a brief, yet inspiring, update. The **ELEVATE** Virtual Gala will live stream at 7:00 p.m. on the Stability First Facebook page or through a link at our website [stability-first.com](http://stability-first.com). Grab some dessert and watch us from home. Or for an in-person option, plan to attend our viewing party at the SCI REMC Community Room (300 Morton Ave, Martinsville).

Hosted by Luke Helmer, the event will feature an interview with former Magdalene House resident, Brandi. She's come a long way from the day she arrived at our doorstep, desperate to do everything she could to be a better mother to her children. You'll also hear from ministry leaders about our plans for a Foundations House for men and other initiatives we're taking to **ELEVATE** our community.

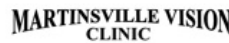
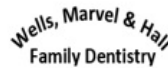
Support Stability First while you shop at our Silent Auction at [bit.ly/SF-Auction21](http://bit.ly/SF-Auction21). There are several very nice items to bid on including tickets to the 2022 NCAA Final Four or US Open, a Caribbean vacation, a Florida condo stay, beautiful purses, Pacer tickets, A Big Green Egg Mini Max, Tiffany sunglasses and much more! The silent auction will be live from September 16 through October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Please join us and invite your friends to join too!**

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS 2021 SPONSORS**



Mr. Craig Fenneman



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## PREPARING FOR A COVID CLIFF LEADS TO SHORT & LONG TERM RESPONSES

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> Stability First and Home Bank co-hosted a community summit entitled Preparing for the COVID Cliff. 70 individuals gathered at Hoosier Harvest Church, and several others watched on social media. Together they learned and talked about some of the potential consequences resulting from the ongoing pandemic and its impact on our communities and on our most vulnerable citizens. Guests enjoyed a lunch provided by the Morgan County Economic Development Corporation, while listening to a lineup of excellent speakers. The entire event is still available for viewing at the Stability First Facebook page.

Dan Moore, Stability First board member, former CEO of Home Bank, and Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, opened by explaining the rationale behind organizing the summit. For several months Moore had been talking with colleagues in the healthcare field, banking, business and not-for-profit leaders. There seemed to be a consensus that while the COVID-19 pandemic had certainly had dramatic and sometimes devastating consequences on the physical health of many, it was also having a far-reaching impact in many other ways. Mental health professionals were and still are seeing a rapid increase in demand for their services. Government sponsored programs such as increased unemployment benefits and restrictions to protect renter households could be masking problems that will eventually emerge. The goal of those who planned the summit was to spark community discussions and begin a planning process to best respond proactively to some of these potential consequences.

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## MAGDALENE HOUSE NOW RECOGNIZED AS A CERTIFIED RECOVERY RESIDENCE

Great news! As of this summer, the Magdalene House has been certified by the Indiana Association of Recovery Residences (INARR) as a Level III Recovery Residence. This means that the Magdalene House has met or exceeded all of the national standards and is in compliance with the code of ethics established by INARR. The goal is to ensure a quality experience for shelter residents who need a sober living environment focused on building a strong foundation for recovery. Certification standards cover administrative operations, the physical facilities & environment, recovery support, and the residence's role as a good neighbor in the community.

A Recovery Residence is described as a "safe and healthy environment in which skills vital for sustaining recovery are learned and practiced in a home-like setting based on Social Models principles". The Social Models philosophy promotes norms that reinforce healthy living skills and the associated values & attitudes, plus strong connections to self and to the community resulting in sustained recovery.

Robin Wonnell, Stability First Operations Director, stated that the certification process has been a huge group effort. She praised Magdalene House Director, Julie VanWinkle and her staff for all of their efforts. She also shared that "We all learned a lot going through this process that we didn't know when the Magdalene House was opened almost 5 years ago. Every step taken has made us a better facility and a stronger program." Board members agree 100% and feel certain that going through the certification process comes at the perfect time and will help Stability First be even better prepared as they plan for the new Foundations House for men.