



WAYPOINT MINISTRY

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# Annual Report

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## 2025



### Inside this report:

The stories, numbers, and moments that defined a powerful year of life transformation. Plus, an exciting glimpse into the future of our ministry with the pending purchase of our property.

**Real Men. Real Hope. Real Change.**



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## From the Desk of **Chris Gillhouse**

### *Executive Director of Waypoint Ministry*

This past year, I've been reminded again of the simple truth that God is faithful.

Every man who arrives at Waypoint comes carrying the weight of his past—broken relationships, addiction, shame, and the belief that change may not be possible. But inside these walls, surrounded by a supportive, Christ-centered community, their stories begin to shift.

We've watched men rediscover hope.

We've seen families heal.

We've celebrated graduates who return to mentor others.

**And we've secured the future of our next season of ministry with the purchase of our property.**

Your prayers, generosity, and encouragement make this work possible. When you support Waypoint, you're not just helping men overcome addiction. Really, you're helping restore families, renew faith, and spark lifelong change.

As you read this Annual Report, I hope you see the impact of your partnership and the fingerprints of God in every story and update.

Thank you for believing in this mission and the men we serve. 2026 has some amazing things in store as we embark on a new season of ministry. Make sure to pay special attention to an announcement I've included about the future of the Waypoint campus.

With gratitude,

*Chris Gillhouse*

If you have questions about our upcoming capital campaign, email me at [cgillhouse@waypointministry.com](mailto:cgillhouse@waypointministry.com).



# Year In Review

## Stats & Highlights

Each number below represents a life touched and a family strengthened. This year, Waypoint continued to grow thanks to generous partners who believe in second chances and lasting change.

### By the Numbers: Waypoint Ministry Impact

In 2025, Waypoint served men at every stage of their recovery journey. The results speak to the power of long-term, Christ-centered restoration.



# 25

Men graduated from Waypoint programs.



# 16

Families were restored.



# 80%

of 2025 graduates are confirmed in long-term recovery. Since 2023, 68% of first-year graduates and 84% of SLT graduates have remained in long-term recovery.



# 6

Men earned their GEDs.



# 6

Men entered the Servant Leader Program.

### Context Matters: The Need Beyond Our Walls

Waypoint doesn't exist in isolation. The national landscape of addiction and recovery shows just how critical your support is.



Nationwide, an estimated **48.5 million people** battled substance use disorder this year.



Traditional short-term programs see relapse rates of **40-75%** within the first year.



In Georgia alone, **over 700,000 people** are currently battling substance use disorder.

The gap is wide, but Waypoint is standing in it.

## Meet Thomas

*He's a father, mentor, and a man restored.*

Thomas spent more than three decades caught in the cycle of addiction. After years of pain, failed attempts to get clean, and a season of deep isolation, he found himself alone, convinced his story was over.

But during one phone call, he learned his parents had been attending a church connected to Waypoint. Something in that moment shifted. For the first time, he believed help might still be possible.

When Thomas arrived at Waypoint, he encountered something he hadn't expected: Safety. Real compassion. Space to tell the truth. The consistency and care of the staff helped him reopen parts of his heart he thought were gone forever. Over time, shame gave way to honesty, honesty to healing, and healing to purpose.

Today, Thomas is a devoted husband, a present father, and a leader on our own team, helping welcome the next man who needs a fresh start.



## Meet Mary

*Thomas' wife, a mother, and a believer in new beginnings.*

Before her husband Thomas entered Waypoint, Mary carried a weight that few could see. Life had become a cycle of fear, uncertainty, and heartbreak.

Because addiction doesn't just impact one person, it impacts everyone who loves them. Mary knew that reality all too well.

When her husband found his way to Waypoint, something in Mary began to heal, too. She watched life return to his eyes. She saw joy and faith growing where chaos once lived. And for the first time in a long time...she felt hope.

Mary describes their home now with words she once didn't think she'd ever use again: open, connected, prayerful, filled with love. They go to church together. They show up for family events with courage instead of fear. They love themselves and each other in healthier ways.

For Mary, Waypoint didn't just rebuild her husband. It restored their family and gave them space to breathe again.

**Your support helped turn a life marred by regret into a life marked by purpose.**

# Growth & Expansion

## *Strengthening the Mission*

This year brought meaningful growth that expands Waypoint's capacity and strengthens our foundation for years to come.



**5 new staff members** joined the team, increasing on-site support and mentorship.



**13 new community partnerships** opened doors for job training and collaboration.



**28 new donors joined the mission**, helping sustain our no-man-turned-away commitment.



**Overall giving increased by 29%**, allowing us to plan boldly for 2026.

**Waypoint is growing because the need is growing and the mission matters.**



## Looking Ahead

With continued support, Waypoint is poised to expand its reach through:

*These efforts position Waypoint to meet rising needs with both compassion and sustainability.*

Learn More About Our Waypoint Capital Campaign



➔ Expanded scholarship opportunities for men who are unable to afford care.

➔ Enhanced program quality through upgraded classrooms, living quarters, and recreational spaces.

➔ The purchase of the Waypoint campus and key improvements to ensure long-term stability.



## Volunteer Story

### Meet Jack

*He's a longtime volunteer who has spent 15 years encouraging the men of Waypoint.*

Jack's connection to Waypoint began back in 2008, when a friend introduced him to the ministry. His friend had been volunteering and believed Jack's own story of redemption could offer hope to men walking through addiction and brokenness.

From the moment Jack stepped onto campus, he sensed both the deep need and the extraordinary opportunity.

He saw men at some of the hardest points in their lives. And he felt God stirring something in him: an invitation to come alongside them, listen to their stories, and remind them that restoration is possible.

For more than 15 years, Jack has faithfully served in Gratitude—a Monday morning gathering where men reflect on what God is doing in their lives. Week after week, he's watched men discover a hope they never imagined they could have.

One of the greatest joys for Jack has been witnessing transformation not just in individuals, but in entire families. He often says that seeing Christ change a man from the inside out is one of the clearest evidences of God's power at work.

**Your support helps make volunteers like Jack part of this life-changing work.**



### Meet Mark

#### Story of Transformation

*He's a grandfather, a servant leader, and a man living a life he once thought was impossible.*

Before coming to Waypoint, Mark's world had collapsed. Program after program turned him away. He needed a door of hope. And finally, God opened one. Slowly, everything began to change.

His faith, once uncertain, became the anchor of his life. Over time, as he learned consistency and humility, God began restoring relationships Mark believed were gone forever. The most profound? Being welcomed back into his daughter's life and meeting his grandchildren for the very first time.

Along the way, mentors like Michael (see page 9) stood beside him, reminding him he wasn't alone and his story was far from finished.

Today, Mark feels at home within the Waypoint community. Whether he stops by the thrift store or shares a meal on campus, he knows he is welcomed and valued.

To Mark, Waypoint represents a new way of life and a relationship with Christ that guides every step forward.

**Your support makes redemption possible for men like Mark and for the generations that follow them.**

# Financial Snapshot

*We're Committed to Doing Our Part, Too*

## Donor Dollars Serve More Men

Gifts go directly to ministry efforts, not overhead



## Men Work & Are Restored

Reintegration through Waypoint Thrift Store work builds skills & purpose



**Waypoint  
Ministry Model**  
self-sustaining  
cycle



## Overhead Is Covered

Thrift store income funds staff, benefits, and property-related expenses

## A Ministry Model Built to Multiply

Here at Waypoint, our ministry model is unique in that the restorative work we do for men comes with a reintegration component that also helps fund our work.

The Waypoint ventures (informally known as “industries” to our guys on campus) bring vital income into the ministry, helping to support and fund a significant portion of our overhead.

In 2025, revenue generated from our Thrift Store was enough to cover the salaries and benefits of our staff, and supply vital scholarships to men who simply couldn't afford to enroll here at Waypoint on their own.

This means every dollar you give is stretched farther because it doesn't have to bear the load of covering ministry and all our operational needs. When you partner with Waypoint, your gift is making an outsized impact.

**96.5%**  
of all donations

goes straight to ministry efforts that serve our men.

**56%**  
of our income

is generated through our Waypoint Thrift Store.

**81%**  
total income increase

over the past 5 years (2021–2025), thanks to our generous community of donors and revenue-generating activities, such as our Thrift Store.



# Hope through Regeneration

**Addiction can cost a man everything.** It doesn't simply destroy the individual. It tears apart his family, devastates his children, and fractures entire communities. At his lowest point, he believes he has nowhere to turn.

But we believe there is hope and an opportunity for redemption. We hold fast to the words from Malachi 4:6; *"He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and turn the hearts of the children to their fathers."*

Waypoint Ministry takes in men at their lowest point and journeys with them beyond rehabilitation. We believe these men can be regenerated by God, providing a lasting pathway to transformation and restoration. Through regeneration, men are experiencing who they were created to be by a God who deeply loves them.



## Our Program

### *The Waypoint Approach*

For regeneration to take place, men need to be rooted in the Scriptures and have an environment that allows for spiritual formation. Our program is unlike any other recovery program. It does not seek a quick-fix or intend to provide instantaneous results.

We are a residential program that builds into the lives of these men for a period of 12 months. Our principles and methods have been tested over 20 years.

***In their year at Waypoint, men experience >***



#### **Biblical Discipleship and Spiritual Formation**

Through Scripture, structured teaching, fellowship, and prayer, each man will develop an individual relationship with Jesus Christ. Through that relationship, each man finds healing and discovers God's purpose for his life.



#### **Grace-Based Curriculum in a Healing Environment**

Men experience comprehensive, holistic shepherding through a regenerative curricular process.



#### **Strategic Accountability**

The program builds structure and creates an atmosphere where men hold each other accountable to a higher standard, encouraging trust for speaking truth in love.



#### **Clinical Counseling**

Each resident is mentored by an individual counselor working with them throughout the program to establish goals, and evaluate monthly progress toward the transitional phase of preparing to reintegrate into society.



#### **Job Skills Training**

Working with community partners, area churches, and businesses, the residents learn job skills within our industries and gain needed experience to step into the work environment.

## Meet Michael



*He's a builder of men, a patient teacher, and a voice of unwavering honesty.*

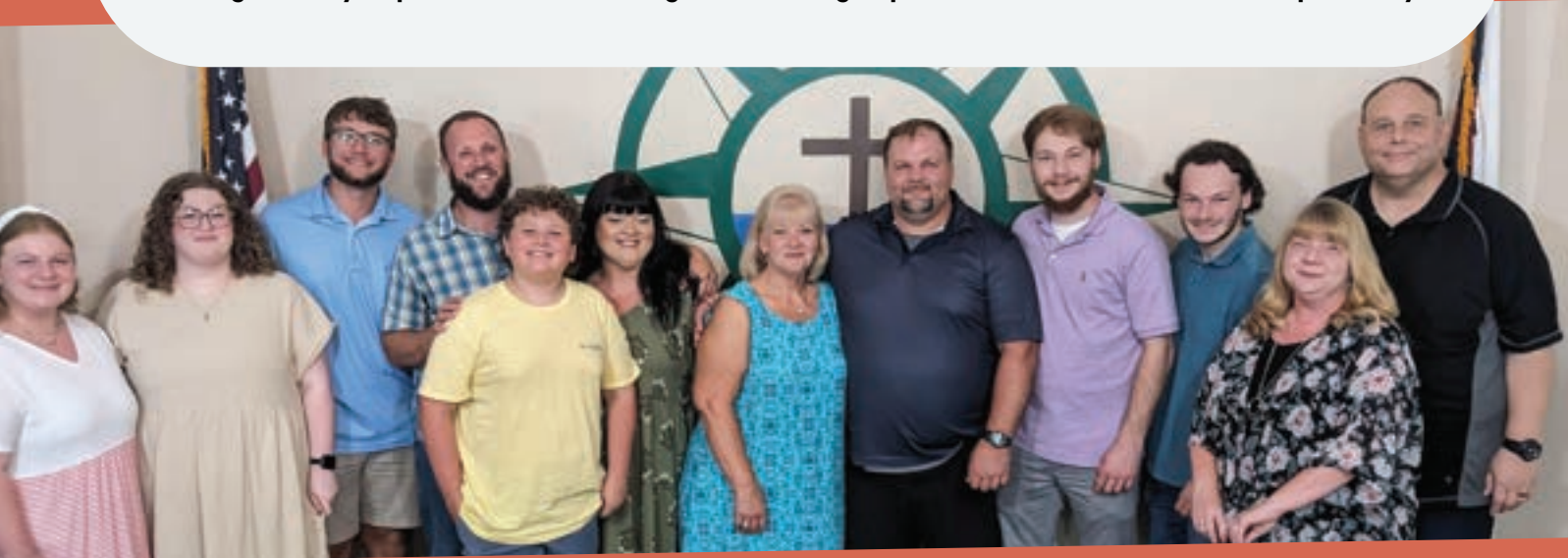
As Waypoint's Program Director, Michael helps men discover confidence and purpose through daily work and real-world responsibility. What makes Michael's leadership remarkable is not just his skill, but his perspective.

Before joining the Waypoint team, he completed the program himself. His time here taught him something he now passes on to the men he leads: growth takes courage, and real change is possible when you stop running from your own reflection.

Michael often tells new residents that Waypoint isn't the easiest path, but it's the path that leads somewhere worth going. He knows, because he's walked it.

Now, he has restored the relationship with his father, married and started a family, and steps confidently into a role that impacts lives every single day.

**Your generosity helps leaders like Michael guide the next group of men toward a future filled with possibility.**



**For men who are caught in the devastating grip of addiction and can find no way out, *there is hope.***

Waypoint Ministry exists to lead men into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, guiding them toward a purpose-filled life, free from the chains of substance abuse. Men experience regeneration and transformation through a Christ-centered residential program.

## Meet Mark & Sam

*They're donors who believe in showing up (and staying) for men rebuilding their lives.*

Mark and Sam's connection to Waypoint began long before they ever made a gift.

Their family had always loved the Waypoint Thrift Store, and every interaction with the staff left a lasting impression. The men were kind. Helpful. Something about the place felt different.

During a season when Mark and Sam were searching for a new church home and praying about where to invest their time and generosity, their close friends invited them to sponsor a Waypoint man for Christmas. That's how they met Kellen.

They expected to quietly purchase items from a wish list. Instead, they were encouraged to attend the Christmas dinner, meet Kellen in person, and spend time with the Waypoint community.

That evening changed everything.

The moment they sat down with Kellen, they sensed God's hand in the connection. They shared similar backgrounds, and conversation flowed easily. As Kellen opened his gifts and told pieces of his story, Mark and Sam felt both joy and clarity: this ministry was shaping good men, and the transformation was real.

Since that first meeting, their friendship with Kellen has only grown. They've witnessed his maturity and commitment to a Christ-centered life. They've watched as the values Waypoint instills—discipline, honesty, faith—take root in his daily choices.

Mark and Sam often say they feel lucky to be part of Kellen's journey and lucky to see firsthand the ripple effect of Waypoint's mission.

They hope more families will experience the healing, reunification, and redemption they've seen through Waypoint.

**Your generosity, like Mark and Sam's, helps open the door for life change that impacts men, their children, and generations to come.**



## Story of Restoration

# Meet Jim & Laura

*They're donors who believe in giving men a real chance at restoration.*

Jim and Laura first learned about Waypoint in the aftermath of their son Russell's arrest. Following years of watching him struggle through the painful cycle of addiction, they were in search of real help and hope. Someone mentioned Waypoint as a place where men in crisis could find structure, healing, and a fresh start.

What began as desperate parents looking for answers quickly grew into a deeper connection. As Jim and Laura spent time on campus, met the staff, and saw firsthand the compassion extended to every man who walked through the doors, they began to understand why so many families spoke highly of Waypoint. The Christ-centered approach and the unwavering commitment to restoring broken lives resonated with them in a profound and personal way.

They knew this wasn't just another program. It was a place where real change was happening. One moment sealed it for them: watching the men worship at church. They participated wholeheartedly and were embracing Christ.

Seeing several men take the step of baptism moved Jim and Laura profoundly. It was the kind of transformation you can't manufacture. Only God can do that. Their hope now is simple: that more men and families will have the chance to experience the same healing, freedom, and faith they've witnessed firsthand.



**Your partnership, like Jim and Laura's, helps fuel the life-changing work happening at Waypoint every single day.**

# Meet Russell

## Story of Transformation

*Russell's journey has taken him from the exhaustion of addiction to the joy of new life.*

Through years of addiction he lost opportunities, strained relationships, and tried desperately to outrun a life that was never meant for him.

Jim and Laura—Russell's mother and stepfather—were the first to point him toward Waypoint after hearing excellent feedback about the program from people they trusted. They shared what they had learned and encouraged Russell to explore it, believing it could be a great fit for him.

Surrounded by love and accountability, he experienced physical, emotional, and spiritual restoration that changed everything.

Today, Russell serves on staff at Waypoint, grateful every day for the place that helped him rebuild his life. He plays guitar on worship teams, has earned an associates degree in Biblical Studies, and is now pursuing certification in addiction counseling so he can help others find freedom just as he did.

Russell's story is a reminder that through Christ hope is real, healing is possible, and no one is beyond redemption.

# Thank You.

*Every story in this report exists because people like you believed in hope and acted on it.*



To our donors, thank you for giving generously and often quietly behind the scenes. Your support ensures every man who walks through our doors is met with a real chance at lasting change.

To our volunteers, thank you for showing up in ways that can't be measured on a spreadsheet. You teach, pray, encourage, and make our campus feel like home. Your presence is part of every changed life.

To our church partners, community partners, and local businesses, thank you for linking arms with us as we help men rebuild their lives. Transformation takes a community, and we are grateful to be part of one that shows up with open hands and hearts.

To the families who trust us with the men they love, thank you for your courage and vulnerability. Your hope fuels ours.

And finally, to every man who entered the program this year, thank you for your bravery. Your willingness to pursue healing is why Waypoint exists.

Because of each of you, Waypoint continues to be a place where freedom is found, relationships are restored, and futures are rewritten.

**We're grateful you're part of this story.**



**WAYPOINT MINISTRY**

Men's Addiction Regeneration Program

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