

## OUR MISSION

“Anchor House is a Christian residence for boys, that seeks to provide reconciliation, social assimilation, and independence to promote a brighter future.”

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## LOCK IN

My name is Daniel, and I am an Anchor House resident. A few weeks ago, my roommate Matt and I went to a lock in at a church, where there was paintball, worship, and lots of pizza. The event was called pizza paintball and purity.

We went up to the church at 6:30 and got changed in to our suits to go. We dressed in suits to be funny, thinking that no one had ever played paintball in a suit before. Then at around 7:30 we left for the paint ball field. We played till they closed at 10:30, and I got shot more by my own teammates then by the other team, but it was a lot of fun. I was very glad that I was wearing a face mask because I took a couple to the face and back of the head.

When we returned from paintball we had more pizza, and then entered our purity chapter of the night. We talked about all the things that we do on a daily basis that makes us impure, like listening to the wrong music, or watching porn or bad TV and movies. We talked about how hard habits are to break, kind of like an acorn that when left unchecked would turn into an oak tree and put our life in disarray. After our purity session we watched the movie I Am Legend with Will Smith. I fell asleep because that would have been the 8<sup>th</sup> time I would have seen that movie but it is a very good movie. We woke up and ate donuts played some basketball and went home.



**Daniel and Matt, Anchor House Residents**

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## Anchor House Receives Gift for Independent Living Program

Anchor House recently received a \$20,000 grant through Impact Lakeland to fund the Independent Living Program that will be run out of Sigler Hall. The program, “Changing Lives, Changing Futures” aims to take kids for whom chaos has been the norm, and teach, train and mentor them the basic life skills, and also, to prepare them to be a success.



Impact Lakeland is run by the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland, and matches donor interests with the needs of the community. For more information, visit [www.cfl.org](http://www.cfl.org).

## Executive Director's Desk

**Dear Friends, prayer partners and supporters,**



*"The one thing we want to leave with these boys is that they are loved. They are eternally loved by God and here, they are loved by His people and those of us called to strengthen and support these boys."*

Someone recently asked me about Anchor House and from the depth of my heart, I poured out "I really love Anchor House and I really love these boys." In essence this is one thing we want to leave with these boys is that they are loved. They are eternally loved by God and here, they are loved by His people and those of us called to strengthen and support these boys. This makes all the difference.

This may be why so many former residents call us or come by for a visit as one former resident recently did to share in chapel. Another former resident came by to assist with some painting and other duties. We are always so glad to see the boys return and tell us how well they are doing.

March is the closing month of our Fiscal Year. We are finishing off this year with one of the strongest years ever! Praise the Lord! I must however clarify that \$250,000 was a designated gift toward mortgage reduction.

It was still a strong year but is never enough to meet the growing needs of our community. It saddens me at times to have to decline acceptance to a boy because their family cannot provide the tuition necessary to care for him and we don't have sufficient scholarship funds on hand. This is where the gifts and contributions of God's people help us to accept more children.

As we prepare to begin our next fiscal year, would you kindly consider a scholarship to one of our boys? Bronze scholarships are \$300, silver scholarships are \$500, gold scholarships are \$800, diamond

scholarships are \$1000 and platinum scholarships are \$1200.

One of the great joys in serving Anchor House is to work with so many fine volunteers and groups who help and encourage in so many ways. Each month there are so many who help make this happen that we cannot adequately express appreciation to all them. One such lady, Gerry Millford gave us a cow and a pig yet again this year. This is something she does every year and helps us supply meat to our boys. What an unbelievable blessing! Thanks to Citrus Woods who hosts our boys for activities there at the park and Mike Smith who comes out to volunteer.

Thanks to everyone who wants to have an impact, make a contribution and be a difference maker.

In Christ,

*Michael Staples*

# Happy Birthday!

Randy - March 23

Jacob - April 17

# Spiritual Life at Anchor House

Anchor House is a Christian residential group home. All residents and their parents/guardians whether placed by private families or placed by Community Base Organizations contracted with the Department of Children and Families are made aware of the Christian nature of Anchor House. Residents must agree to attend both our Thursday evening chapel service and Sunday morning worship at a local church to remain at Anchor House.

We currently have two volunteers who assist me with our Thursday night chapels. Brother Randy has been volunteering at Anchor House for several years. He has developed a strong connection with our young men. Although Randy is a layman, he often brings the chapel message. He also invests time in prayer and discipleship. Brother Mike started volunteering earlier this year. Mike has already built a connection with the boys. Mike has organized a group of seniors at Citrus Woods to host our youth several Saturdays a month.

Anchor House is not tied to one church or one denomination. Many churches from different denominations support the ministry of Anchor House. During any given month, residents and weekend staff may attend together at an Episcopal Church, a Non-Denominational Church, a Presbyterian Church, a Baptist Church, or any other church that shares our faith in Jesus Christ.

Our youth are also involved in several different church youth groups. Youth group attendance is considered optional but highly encouraged. Some of our young men may attend a youth service on Wednesday night, Friday night, and Sunday night at three different churches.

Call me if your church or youth group would like to host an event for the young men at Anchor House. Yes, Anchor House is a Christian residential group home.

**Pastor Don Cox**  
Program Director/Chaplain

**April is the last month to send in gifts to be matched by the Feinstein Fund!  
Monetary and food donations must be sent in by April 30 to qualify.  
Please mark "Feinstein Fund" on your gift. For more information, call 863-665-1916.**

## Special Needs

Anchor House is always in need of items to keep the residence running. To learn more about how you can help, contact Esther Wadley at 863.665.1916 or [esther.wadley@anchor-house.org](mailto:esther.wadley@anchor-house.org).

### Needed items include:

- ◆ Paper Towels
- ◆ Garden Tools
- ◆ Large Yard Trash Bags
- ◆ Flour (10 lb bags or smaller)
- ◆ Cooking Oil
- ◆ Pepperoni
- ◆ Mozzarella Cheese
- ◆ Meat - Fresh or Frozen
- ◆ Tomato Sauce
- ◆ Milk
- ◆ Pillow Cases
- ◆ Twin Sheets (white)
- ◆ Writable CD/DVDs



# Anchor House Snapshots

