

Oxford House World Services

Oxford House World Services is the central service arm of Oxford House, Inc. – the nonprofit umbrella organization of all individual Oxford Houses. It is located in Silver Spring, Maryland near the spot where the first Oxford House began in 1975.

The services the World Services Office provides are varied but have a singular purpose of helping recovering alcoholics and drug addicts establish and maintain individual self-help Oxford Houses. The services include organization, training, public education, publications, overall management assistance, issue resolution, research and on-site field workers to expand the network of houses sufficiently to meet the needs for thousands of drug addicts and alcoholics.

Protecting the good name and reputation of Oxford House™ is at the core of World Services. Charters are granted – at no cost – to six or more recovering individuals to establish a new Oxford House™. Each charter has conditions and World Services is the group that evaluates whether a temporary charter should be made permanent. It is also the sole authority for revoking a charter if a group fails to meet the three basic conditions.

World Services also manages start-up revolving loan funds for a number of states and philanthropic organizations. Such management includes loan approval and collection of repayments so that such funds can continue to help start other houses.

World Services maintains an active program to make certain that legal rights of all Oxford Houses are protected. These matters include vigilance against discrimination in zoning or landlord insurance. At the time it provides a knowledge base of Oxford House internal development to enable it to respond to practical questions involving the day-to-day operations of a self-run, self-supported recovery home.

Above all World Services is the balance wheel that has guided the growth of Oxford House™ from 13 houses in 1987 to more than 1,250 houses in 2008.

Oxford House, Inc. Questions and Answers

Q. What is Oxford House™?

A. Oxford House™ is self-help supportive housing for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts. Each house is chartered by Oxford House, Inc. the nonprofit umbrella organization for the network of Oxford Houses. Each house follows standardized operations developed through 33 years of Oxford House experience.

Q. What is an Oxford House™ charter?

A. It is a document and authorization from Oxford House, Inc. – the umbrella non-profit organization of the national network of Oxford Houses – that is issued without charge and has three conditions.

Q. What are the three conditions of an Oxford House™ charter?

A. The three conditions of a charter are: [1] the group must be democratically run; [2] the group must be financially self-supported, and [3] the group must expel any resident who uses alcohol or drugs in or out of the house. There is no charge for a charter.

Q. Are there minimum charter requirements?

A. Yes, the group must be for recovering alcoholics and/or drug addicts. The house the group rents must be suitable for a minimum of six individuals. All the individuals in the group must be of the same sex.

Q. How does a group get a charter?

A. An existing group, a potential group or a treatment provider helping to form a group can apply to Oxford House, Inc. – the umbrella non-profit organization – at the address listed below.

Oxford House, Inc.
1010 Wayne Ave., Suite 300
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Telephone (301) 587-2916
Facsimile (301) 589-0302
Internet: www.oxfordhouse.org

Oxford House™

Each Oxford House should be autonomous except in matters affecting other Oxford Houses or Oxford House, Inc., as a whole.

1975 Tradition Five
Oxford House Traditions



Oxford House World Services

Serving the men and women of Oxford House in their quest for recovery, responsibility and replication of Oxford Houses throughout the world.

*Oxford House—Time for Recovery
World Convention New Orleans 2008*

The primary purpose of Oxford House, Inc. – the nonprofit national umbrella organization – is to establish self-run, self-supported recovery houses to provide an opportunity for every recovering individual to learn a clean and sober way of life – forever.

Contributions, grants and contract income are used to expand the network of Oxford Houses by providing trained outreach workers to establish new houses and to provide central service support to existing houses.

This pamphlet, “Oxford House World Services” discusses the services provided individual Oxford Houses by the umbrella organization of the international network of individual Oxford Houses.

Internet Address:
www.oxfordhouse.org

Ongoing Services

Oxford House World Services Group

The service provided individual Oxford Houses by World Services takes place every day in just about every way. The following listing explains a few of the services provided to make the national network of Oxford Houses a safe, secure and supportive place for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts to gain a life-long, comfortable sobriety without relapse.

Bottom-Up Democracy

The national Oxford House movement is a bottom-up democracy – all the power comes from the individual houses. This means that the Board of Oxford House, Inc. works for the individual houses and so does World Services. To make “bottom-up” democracy work requires careful organization and annual elections. The World Services Office makes sure that each house in the Network of Oxford Houses is kept informed and given an opportunity to nominate candidates for the World Council and vote for them at the annual convention. The most important role of World Services is to make sure Oxford House™ will always be governed from the bottom up. Oxford House™ belongs to the residents and alumni of individual houses.

The Oxford House Concept

The Oxford house™ concept of self-help is a simple one but because it is unique it requires frequent explanation and public education. Even today many exclaim, “What? The inmates run the asylum?” Day in, day out, the World Services group patiently explains that recovering alcoholics and drug addicts operate Oxford House democratically, assume financial responsibility for the houses and keep the houses clean and sober places to live by expelling any resident who drinks alcohol or uses drugs. Oxford house™ takes the proven concepts of democracy and self-help and applies them as a practical way to provide a living environment supportive of life-long recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction.



Standard Operating System

The disciplined standard system for operating an individual Oxford House™ evolved over the years to make it possible to replicate Oxford Houses throughout the world. Learning the standard system of operations is an on-going experience.

The Oxford House Manual® provides the blueprint for understanding the standardized system of operations, but only a blueprint. Sometimes situations arise that require discussion and advice from those who have traveled the Oxford House® path of recovery before. Each day dozens of call are made from officers in individual Oxford House to the World Services group to get advice about dealing with a particular situation.

Any resident of an Oxford House™ can call World Services to get advice and counsel about the disciplined standard system of operation. “What do we do?” some ask, “The president of our house has relapsed.” “Kick him or her out and elect a new president,” is the answer. The standardized system of operation covers it but it is a crisis for the individual house and it certainly helps to have advice from the World Services group.

Keeping In Touch

World Services helps keep the entire Oxford House family in touch with each other. The newsletters, *The Oxford Grape*® and *Pathways*® are two of the many ways that World Services keeps the network of Oxford Houses connected and informed. It also works with the World Council to promote the Alumni Association and local Tradition Nine Clubs where local alumni get together on a regular basis.

World Services produces pamphlets, manuals, forms and videos so that every Oxford House can stay on track and continue to a respected member of the community. Some material helps keep houses on track; some material helps give treatment providers the confidence they need to refer clients to Oxford Houses.

World Services acts as a clearinghouse between individual houses and treatment providers by taking their telephone calls to find or fill a vacant bed in an Oxford House™ for someone just getting out of treatment. It also keeps the central Web site up-to-date and monitors local or state Oxford House™ affiliated web sites to make certain that no misinformation is circulated that could harm the 33-year record of success and respect earned by Oxford House™.



Legal Advice

Of necessity, the World Services has become one of the nation’s leading experts on the 1988 Amendments to the Federal Fair Housing Act and the American’s with Disabilities Act. Many houses are faced with neighborhood or community opposition to groups of unrelated individuals living together in a nice house in a good neighborhood. To face community rejection alone causes panic. Knowing that the resources of World Services can help provide the support for Oxford Houses to educate their communities about the law can make the difference between establishing a house or not. In the process Oxford Houses become examples for the community to treat everyone fairly.

Help with zoning, however, is only one of the legal services World Services provides to the Oxford House family. What about the terms of a lease just being entered into or up for renewal? Again, the expertise of World Services can provide a helping hand. The same helping hand has been used to work with utility companies, insurance companies and other who must deal with Oxford Houses just as they would an ordinary family.

Embezzlement of funds from an Oxford House is always painful but it is helpful to have the advice and counsel of World Services. The office helps the victimized house file a criminal complaint against the wrongdoer and sometimes finds that the bank erroneously approved a forged check.

When an individual in an Oxford House™ relapses, the group immediately votes him or her out of the house. Sometimes an individual who has relapsed can be difficult to evict. World Services is there to help by talking to the relapsed individual and, if necessary, the police to get them to help keep Oxford House a place for only clean and sober individuals.

For more information contact:

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