Community Member Survey 2021

Results

In the Fall of 2021, Men's Second Chance Living conducted a survey to assess the community's understanding of MSCL House programs and services, strengths, and potential areas of improvement. Participants of the survey included individuals involved in the judicial system, probation, city and county personnel, MSCL House Board of Directors and staff, and MSCL House residents. The surveys were analyzed and these are the outcomes.

Programs
All those surveyed recognized Men's Second Chance Living for our main program: safe and sober living for men with substance use disorder. Residents cited accountability practices and "living in a clean environment" as crucial aspects of the program's success. Others stated the tuition assistance for higher education and the financial education and Matched Savings program as essential. Funding for medical, dental, and mental health services was cited as helpful; one resident stated, "They put me in touch with my fabulous counselor, that has helped me tremendously." Another resident shared, "The programs have made it possible for me to go back to school, and I have built better opportunities for myself through continuing my education." Overall, programs support the ongoing sobriety of residents during and after their stay at MSCL House.

Staff
MSCL House works diligently to connect with outside agencies and organizations to assist residents in pursuing health and wellbeing. Community connections are at the center of what staff do day in and day out. Community members spoke highly of those involved in the managing of the house. Comments included, "it's run by people who care" and "it has good leadership." All community members surveyed reported having positive contact with staff members. One member of the community states, "Staff are well-intentioned and a tremendous asset to our community. [They] go above and beyond for the residents." Results confirm MSCL House's focus on strength in connection.

Strengths
Many strengths of the house were recognized by staff, residents, and the broader community, one of which is the residence being free from drugs and alcohol. Another strength is that the house offers affordable living, which enables the residents to become financially stable while addressing the underlying issues related to addiction. One resident shared, "It's a safe place within the community and has a strong sober culture."
MSCL House focuses on neighborly interactions and creating community with those surrounding the house. This effort has led those with homes near MSCL House to report the benefits; One neighbor shared that the impact on the block has been positive overall. MSCL House residents shovel snow for neighbors, keep the yard and garden looking nice, and greet those that pass the house. Residents also volunteer in the neighborhood and the broader community. They were recognized for their volunteer work by those surveyed.

Areas of Improvement
Results from the survey demonstrate that MSCL House has areas needing improvement. For example, community members and residents alike cite a lack of bed availability and crowdedness in the house. To address areas this, MSCL House has a capital campaign to purchase a second home to increase our capacity and address the community's need for sober housing.

Some residents would like more input on roommates and flexibility in rules. In 2022, MSCL House staff and Board of Directors will review our Policies and Procedures, considering input on roommates within that review. Although some residents would like more flexible rules, we believe the program's structure is critical to the success and continued sobriety of the residents.

All those surveyed cited a need for support to transition out of sober living. As housing prices increase in the Wood River Valley, we have seen the length of stay increase from 5.1 to 6.6 months on average. MSCL House continues to connect with local housing authorities and private community members to place residents outside our programs. We plan to continue fostering community partners to address the needs of our residents, as independent living and re-integration into the community are necessary for our resident's future success.

If you did not get the opportunity to partake in this survey, please do so now by clicking this link. Thank you for your feedback!