

**NBA** Former Cavs coach Fitch dies at 89 **C1**

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Sunset: 5:47

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## Recovery services to expand into Brunswick

Sara Crawford  
The Gazette

BRUNSWICK — Recovery housing is growing throughout the county as Medina-based Cathy's House and Hope Recovery Community expand their reach to Brunswick through the assistance of Brunswick Church of Nazarene.

Cathy's House was founded in 1998 by a local family who lost someone to alcoholism and began as recovery housing for men who were suffering with addiction.

The organization's goal is to provide an affordable housing environment for those suffering from substance abuse disorder or alcoholism. Residents pay around \$100 a week for their rent, utilities and Wi-Fi.

The original house has enough space for 17 people, expanding in 2013 to offer recovery for women.

In July 2021, the organization purchased an additional house in partnership with Heartland Community Church and Medina County ADAMH board. This house allows six people who were farther along in the program to move there to have support, but not at the same level as the original house.

"What we're seeing is that guys want to stay and they like that support," said Jon Robinson, executive director of Cathy's House.



PHOTO PROVIDED

See **RECOVERY**, A4 Mike Turner stands on a ladder as he helps renovate the newest Cathy's House location in Brunswick.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Randy Pierpoint of Pierpoint Renovations volunteered more than a week of labor for renovations at Cathy's House.

## RECOVERY

From A1

At the end of 2021, Cathy's House transitioned back to be men's recovery housing again, partially due to the opening of women's recovery housing at the Discovery Recovery House.

"We still have a massive need for men's recovery housing and that's the direction we headed in," Robinson said.

Even with the transition to being a men-only recovery housing, Cathy's House waiting list is growing.

After an event on Overdose Awareness Day was hosted at the Brunswick Church of Nazarene at the end of August, Robinson began talking with the pastor and found out that the church owns multiple properties, with one of the houses vacant.

Now, Cathy's House is working to renovate the property to provide five beds in Brunswick.

"Medina County ADAMH board has just been so generous to us and provided us additional funding to get us started and help cover our operational costs," Robinson said. "(They) just recently supplied us with funds to increase our staffing because it's far more than a bunch of guys living in a house."

According to Robinson, construction on the house is in full force and the plan is to be done in March.

Robinson said that there are men at the main house who are interested in moving to the Brunswick house once it opens. With this being the first place in Brunswick, Robinson is unsure of what to expect but is excited to see the opportunities for the men involved in Cathy's House.

Cathy's House has an 80 percent successful discharge rate of the men leaving on their own. The program does not have a set limit for how long people can stay and allows them to set their own plans.

"We want that house to have support and structure and opportunity to go to meetings and have other people in the community surround them and build them up," Robinson said.

Cathy's House's annual fundraiser is underway with all funds going toward the expansion into Brunswick.

"The Pathway to Recovery" will be created through commemorative bricks purchased by donors and placed at the main house. To learn more, visit <https://conta.cc/30KoypU>.

"We're really excited for the future and the opportunities we have to create more housing and other living situations," Robinson said. "We're only getting started."

As Cathy's House works on its expansion in Brunswick, Robinson's wife, Stefanie Robinson, executive director of Hope Recovery Community, is also working to expand their services out to the area.

Hope Recovery Community is working to open a satellite office at the Brunswick Church of Nazarene with the goal of starting services in the spring.

"(Just) making more options for people in recovery, making recovery more accessible to people because transportation can really be a barrier," Stefanie Robinson said.

Stefanie Robinson, the Hope Recovery team and the ADAMH Board are still in conversation with the Brunswick Church of Nazarene about what the exact details are regarding the satellite space.

According to Stefanie Robinson, they know that there are challenges for people to reach recovery assistance and the hope is that the satellite office will help solve that.

"A lot of recovery activity kind of tends to land in Medina and so there's not as much going on in the other areas of the county," Stefanie Robinson said.

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