

## Go ReEntry Specialists Newsletter, July 2023

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# We have great news!



*Kelsea Miller, Sydney Trinca, and Shawna Miller recently completed the Certified Recovery Family Specialist (CRFS) program through Blair Drug & Alcohol. Kelsea, Sydney and Shawna are all part of the Go ReEntry family and we are incredibly proud of them for taking this next step.*

*The CRFS program includes 78 instructional hours and 12 hours of written assignments. A CRFS is an individual with lived experience of their own recovery who acts as role model, mentor, advocate, and motivator. Family Recovery Specialists advocate to eliminate barriers, increase natural supports and build community.*

*Kelsea* was part of the Go ReEntry program early on in her recovery. Currently, she works full time at *Out of the Cold* where daily she is helping people who are in a difficult situation. She has a heart for others. Kelsea also volunteers with Go ReEntry and helps at the Willow Tree Inn. We are blessed to have her as part of our Go ReEntry family.

*Sydney* plays a very active role with Go ReEntry. Sydney recorded a video several years ago outlining her struggle with addiction and her journey in recovery. This video has been played in every ReEntry Strategies Class, well over 150 inmates have been inspired by her story. Some inmates have started crying during her video and say, "That's me". Sydney is engaged and has 3 children.

*Shawna* is our Go ReEntry Case Manager. Her recovery story is remarkable. She meets one on one with those participating in Go ReEntry and those who are living in the Willow Tree Inn. If you were to ask those she is helping they would tell you that she is "no nonsense", she tells you the truth whether you want to hear it or not. Go ReEntry is fortunate to have Shawna as our case manager. Shawna has 2 children.

*The past few months have been an emotional roller coaster for me. We have had tragedy and triumph.*



It is with great sadness that we had to say good-bye to a member of the Go ReEntry Family.

Amber Henney, age 29 and a resident of The Willow Tree Inn, was active in Go ReEntry. She had struggled with cocaine and fentanyl. Amber was employed, going to 12 step meetings, Life Recovery Meetings, participating in our support group and attending church. She was doing all the right things! Amber was excited to be a part of her 10 year old daughter's life this summer. She had not seen her in person for 2 years (daughter lived out of state).

On June 3, Amber was found at a previous boyfriend's house deceased from an overdose; *A true tragedy!* This hit me hard and left me with a lot of questions. Questions like...

could we have done things better? Or did we miss anything? Why? I had, and continue to have a wide range of emotions; emotions that range from deep sorrow to anger. In a recent Gant newspaper article called *Addiction Life*, they look at addiction or Substance Abuse Disorder. They write, "There is a common misconception that drug addiction is a result of moral weakness or a lack of willpower. This type of thinking leads many to believe that quitting drugs is as simple as making a choice to stop. In reality, addiction is a chronic disease that alters the brain, making it difficult to quit even for those who desire to do so."

At first, Amber's story made me want to throw in the towel and give up, but in the end, her story has motivated me to do more and to try harder. People in recovery need support and help finding resources as well as structure and guidance. It's a struggle, a long battle. Go ReEntry helps those leaving incarceration. Amber came to Willow Tree Inn directly from incarceration. The barriers that incarceration creates to individuals re-entering society are monumental and that is why 65-70% of those released are behind bars again within 3 years. When you add past drug/alcohol issues to the equation, it becomes even more difficult to succeed. Go ReEntry is committed to doing all we can to help those reentering society from incarceration and to help those in recovery.

*So, many have asked...*

What can be done to help! First, please pray for Amber's 10 year old daughter, Aubree. And then, please pray for those individuals that Go ReEntry is currently helping. It's a challenge to adequately explain but, it's not easy to walk out of prison doors and be successful. Lastly, you can pray for Shawna and me, our volunteers, and our Board of Directors. Pray that we can be used to impact the lives of those God has entrusted to our care.

Our *story of triumph* happened on July 2.

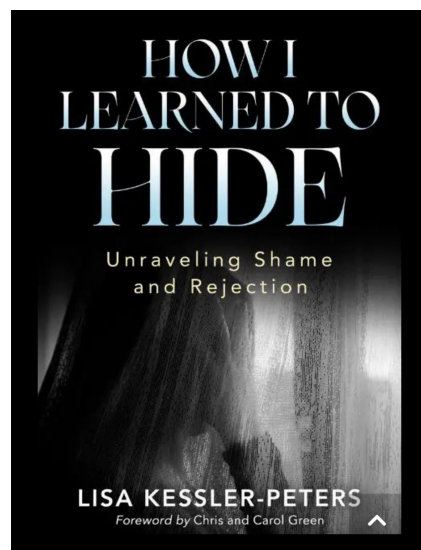


**Lexi Lingle** has been a part of Go ReEntry for several years. She has spent time in State prison and is in recovery. Lexi is the mother of 2 awesome children that keep her busy, to say the least. Lexi works for Housing Transitions in State College. On July 2, as a way of showing her faith in Jesus, she was baptized. It's a big thing! It's a great thing! We are very proud of Lexi and her obedience to believe and be baptized. If you have the opportunity, please let her know how proud you are of her.

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## More great news to share...

If you did not already know, the President of Go ReEntry has a new book coming out as we speak!



You can pre-order her new by clicking on the following link:

[Pre-Order now](#)

Congratulations Lisa!

# The Willow Tree Inn

The **WILLOW TREE INN (WTI)** is relatively new to Go ReEntry. For years I have been praying for a sober living home for women in our area. There is already a sober living home for men in State College. I don't know why I was shocked when a home became available for us to use as a sober living home. When I prayed, I was very specific as to location; specifically that it was within walking distance of things residents would need (shopping, counseling, 12 step meetings, employment opportunities) and that it be on a bus route. Well, that's exactly what God provided.

At the Willow Tree Inn there are strict rules and expectations for each resident. The WTI is NOT for everyone.

The first house of this kind I find in Luke 10:34 Jesus says, "He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an *inn* and took care of him." The man he took to the inn was robbed and beaten up, left to die along the road. He was clearly in need, in need of a safe place, in need of a place where he could be cared for. Well, this describes the purpose and mission of the Willow Tree Inn. It's a safe place that is alcohol and drug free. It's a place where healing can take place. It's a place where someone can prepare for the future.

Please pray for the WTI and the ladies that live there.



<b>Helping Returning Citizens</b>
<b>Helping Families</b>
<b>Helping Communities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Find housing</li><li>✓ Find adequate employment</li><li>✓ With the basics like food, water, clothing, and medication</li><li>✓ With education and life skills</li><li>✓ With broken relationships, support, belonging, and hope</li></ul>

**GoReEntry continues to need your support.**

Without your prayers, our volunteers and your donations we cannot continue to support

returning citizens to become successful and productive members of society. We thank all of our monthly donors as well as those who donate when they can. We are all in this thing called "Life" together. Let's help each other in this long, and sometimes difficult journey.

**Please click the link below to donate today!**

[Donate to Go ReEntry](#)

**[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)**

# *You Won't Want To Miss Out!*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

August 13	10am Go ReEntry at Nanty Glo Alliance Church
Sept 12	5pm Clearfield Remembrance Service
October 6	8am Happier Free Breakfast Blue Course Comm. Church 5pm Happier Free Festival at Centre Peace
October 8	10am Happier Free Church Service - Access Church
December 19	6pm Go ReEntry Kid's Christmas party - Centre County
December 21	Go ReEntry Christmas Party

**Every other Sunday is our Go ReEntry Support Group. It starts at 12:15. Access Church.. Please join us!**

