

**The Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations**  
**Julie Bond, Executive Director**  
**Good Samaritan Haven**

Vermont lacks dedicated housing options for individuals experiencing homelessness who enter treatment programs and want to continue their recovery. Too often, they are forced to return to the same environments that contributed to their addiction, undermining their progress and increasing the risk of relapse.

To address this gap, Good Samaritan Haven established a recovery-oriented shelter—Vermont’s only certified hybrid shelter-recovery residence. Our model provides individuals experiencing both homelessness and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) with a stable, supportive environment where they can focus on recovery without the immediate burden of rent. We serve those who:

1. Are already in recovery but need stable housing,
2. Are leaving a substance use treatment facility with nowhere to go, or
3. Are not yet in recovery but wish to begin the process in a safe and structured setting.

Our program has been highly successful, demonstrating that stable housing without financial barriers significantly improves recovery outcomes. However, we know that many individuals in recovery do not have access to a shelter like ours. Instead, they must rely on certified recovery residences that require rent—an expense that too often prevents them from maintaining stable housing and completing their recovery journey.

We urge you to increase funding for Vermont’s certified recovery residences and restore the \$325,000 in Opioid special funds to support scholarships for individuals entering a recovery residence. These funds would allow more people in early recovery to remain in stable housing, breaking the cycle of addiction and homelessness.

We support the Department of Health’s recommendation to move the \$1.2million for recovery residences from the Opioid Abatement Special Fund to a general fund base budget. Vermont’s certified recovery residences have identified a serious need for an additional \$660,000 in the budget, \$300,000 of which would be used specifically for startup costs of new residences.

As Vermont’s only hybrid recovery-oriented shelter, we have seen firsthand the life-changing impact of removing financial barriers in early recovery. Extending this model through additional funding would strengthen Vermont’s recovery network and give more people the opportunity to achieve long-term sobriety and housing stability.

Substance Use Disorder rehabilitation options for low- and middle-income individuals are often limited to just two weeks—far too short to establish lasting recovery. Without stable housing, many are at risk of relapse and returning to homelessness. By funding recovery residence scholarships, Vermont can ensure that financial hardship is not a barrier to recovery.

We ask for your support in expanding access to recovery housing—because no one should have to choose between affording shelter and sustaining their recovery.