

Way to go! Way to give!

waytogive.holston.org

Holston Conference

Recovery Ministries



**“God wanted the lost.
That would be me!”**
~ Ceci R.

“Get your life back.” Ceci R. drove past the message on the vinyl banner several times before she got up the courage to walk into Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

Ceci struggled with alcohol, drugs, codependency and “many other character defects” since her teens. For 20 years, she was in and out of jail and treatment centers – injuring herself, harming her health, losing jobs, and scaring her family.

The banner at Cokesbury, visible from the busy highway traveled by Ceci each day, called her to change. “I didn’t think it was possible,” she says, “but I had exhausted all other options.”

“Recovery at Cokesbury” is a network of ministries that helps people overcome addictions, eating disorders, relationship issues, and grief. Cokesbury is the founding church, but the network has extended to include other Holston Conference congregations in Maryville, Bristol, Powell, and Kingsport, Tenn., and Lebanon, Va.

Funding from Holston Conference helped to develop and connect some of these recovery ministries so people like Ceci could find their way to new lives through Jesus Christ. Your financial gifts to your local church helped make that happen.

Continued on back

Way to go! Way to give!

waytogive.holston.org

Holston Conference

Recovery Ministries



**“God wanted the lost.
That would be me!”**
~ Ceci R.

“Get your life back.” Ceci R. drove past the message on the vinyl banner several times before she got up the courage to walk into Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

Ceci struggled with alcohol, drugs, codependency and “many other character defects” since her teens. For 20 years, she was in and out of jail and treatment centers – injuring herself, harming her health, losing jobs, and scaring her family.

The banner at Cokesbury, visible from the busy highway traveled by Ceci each day, called her to change. “I didn’t think it was possible,” she says, “but I had exhausted all other options.”

“Recovery at Cokesbury” is a network of ministries that helps people overcome addictions, eating disorders, relationship issues, and grief. Cokesbury is the founding church, but the network has extended to include other Holston Conference congregations in Maryville, Bristol, Powell, and Kingsport, Tenn., and Lebanon, Va.

Funding from Holston Conference helped to develop and connect some of these recovery ministries so people like Ceci could find their way to new lives through Jesus Christ. Your financial gifts to your local church helped make that happen.

Continued on back

“When I grew up in church, God was a fearful God,” she says. “I gave up on God because of my sins.”

At Cokesbury, Ceci heard a different kind of message through Luke 1:48: “For he has looked with favor on the lowest of his servants.”



Lebanon UMC offers Recovery every Thursday night.

“The least, the last, and the lost,” Ceci says. “God wanted the lost. That would be me! God wanted me, and I wanted him. But I wasn’t quite finished with my pain yet.”

After two years of attending Cokesbury’s Thursday-night worship and support groups – and two years of sobriety – Ceci had an argument with her then-boyfriend. She binged on alcohol and had a car accident. With five drunk-driving charges in her past, Ceci was sentenced to five months in Knox County Jail.

On the night before she surrendered, Ceci gave her testimony to the Cokesbury community she had come to love. It was the first time she really knew she was going to “get her life back.”

“I was finally ready,” she said. “I was lucky I didn’t kill somebody, lucky I didn’t kill myself.”

Ceci served her time, then began working through the recommended scripture-based, 12-step program. She set up ways to be accountable, such as moving in with her parents. She shared her testimony with many others and began leading a support group at Cokesbury.

Today, Ceci is 51 years old and happily married to a man she met at church. She’s been sober for eight years.

“There are recovery programs all over town, but God showed me where I needed to be,” she says. “In our ‘serenity prayer,’ we talk about ‘pain being a pathway to peace.’ I have experienced a whole lot of what seemed like unbearable pain in my life, but the peace I experience today is unbelievable.”

Thank you, Holston Conference.
You’ll never know how many lives you’ve changed.

Way to go! Way to give!



Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 850 • Alcoa, TN 37701-0850 • 865/690-4080
waytogive.holston.org

“When I grew up in church, God was a fearful God,” she says. “I gave up on God because of my sins.”

At Cokesbury, Ceci heard a different kind of message through Luke 1:48: “For he has looked with favor on the lowest of his servants.”



Lebanon UMC offers Recovery every Thursday night.

“The least, the last, and the lost,” Ceci says. “God wanted the lost. That would be me! God wanted me, and I wanted him. But I wasn’t quite finished with my pain yet.”

After two years of attending Cokesbury’s Thursday-night worship and support groups – and two years of sobriety – Ceci had an argument with her then-boyfriend. She binged on alcohol and had a car accident. With five drunk-driving charges in her past, Ceci was sentenced to five months in Knox County Jail.

On the night before she surrendered, Ceci gave her testimony to the Cokesbury community she had come to love. It was the first time she really knew she was going to “get her life back.”

“I was finally ready,” she said. “I was lucky I didn’t kill somebody, lucky I didn’t kill myself.”

Ceci served her time, then began working through the recommended scripture-based, 12-step program. She set up ways to be accountable, such as moving in with her parents. She shared her testimony with many others and began leading a support group at Cokesbury.

Today, Ceci is 51 years old and happily married to a man she met at church. She’s been sober for eight years.

“There are recovery programs all over town, but God showed me where I needed to be,” she says. “In our ‘serenity prayer,’ we talk about ‘pain being a pathway to peace.’ I have experienced a whole lot of what seemed like unbearable pain in my life, but the peace I experience today is unbelievable.”

Thank you, Holston Conference.
You’ll never know how many lives you’ve changed.

Way to go! Way to give!



Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 850 • Alcoa, TN 37701-0850 • 865/690-4080
waytogive.holston.org