5 benefits the Good News Recovery House brings to Backus

1. Drastic Reductions in Relapse Rates

In a small town, a lack of supportive infrastructure means individuals leaving detox or rehab often return to the exact same environments that triggered their addiction. Recovery houses break this cycle by offering mutual accountability.

- **The Statistics:** A landmark randomized controlled study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) compared individuals entering an Oxford House (a peer-run recovery home model) to those receiving standard community aftercare. At a two-year follow-up, **only 31% of recovery home residents had relapsed, compared to 65% of the control group.**

2. Economic Revitalization and Higher Employment

Addiction drains a small town's economy through lost productivity, unemployment, and unpaid local medical bills. Recovery homes actively require or encourage residents to work, transitioning them from utilizing public benefits to contributing to the local tax base.

- **The Statistics:** In the same NIH-funded longitudinal study, recovery home residents achieved significantly higher employment rates and financial independence, earning an average monthly income of **$989 compared to just $440** in the control group.

3. Preserving (and Boosting) Local Property Values

A common fear in small towns is that a recovery home will tank neighboring property values due to stigma. Real-world real estate data directly contradicts this narrative.

- **The Statistics:** A comprehensive study examining 6,523 census tracts found **no evidence that recovery residences lower surrounding property values.** In fact, depending on the comparison metrics used, areas with a recovery residence had median home values **$12,000 to $39,000 higher** than similar tracts without one.

4. Decreased Crime and Enhanced Community Safety

Because residents are strictly required to remain sober and participate in house operations, recovery houses often serve as a natural deterrent to neighborhood crime.

- **The Statistics:** Long-term studies published in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* show that residents make massive, sustained improvements over 12 to 18 months, leading to **significantly fewer arrests, lower rates of criminal behavior, and fewer legal problems.** Additionally, regression analyses indicate that larger recovery house sizes actually predict *less* aggressive and criminal behavior because residents fiercely protect their sober environment.

5. Relief on Overburdened Rural Healthcare Systems

Small-town emergency rooms and first responders are frequently overwhelmed by overdose calls and substance-related emergencies.

- **The Statistics:** Systematic reviews tracking recovery house outcomes over 6 to 24 months consistently show that recovery housing is **highly cost-effective** compared to traditional care. By providing stable housing and peer-led interventions, it prevents the revolving-door cycle of emergency room visits, saving local governments thousands of dollars per individual in emergency services.

> **The Takeaway:** Instead of acting as a liability, data proves that recovery houses provide small towns with a self-sustaining infrastructure that reduces crime, improves the local economy, protects property values, and gives struggling neighbors a statistically proven shot at long-term health.

Pine Mountain Gospel Church is deeply committed to sharing Christ's love with this community. We are certain that true transformation is found through a relationship with Christ. We see this as a profound opportunity to strengthen our bonds, practice transparency, and hold one another accountable in our journey together.
— Pastor Kenny