

## Keizer Couple offers hope

BY CHARLES GLENN  
*Of the Keizertimes*

Drug and alcohol addiction ruins people's lives, but that doesn't have to be the end of the story. With the right kind of assistance, at the right time, almost anyone's life can be turned around and put back on track.

Keizer couple Eric Rasor and Victoria Meredith are providing just that kind of assistance to people in Marion County who are recovering from substance addiction. They have been operating Soaring Heights Recovery Homes since 2018, offering transitional housing and peer support to people already in a recovery or treatment program.

"We work with community agencies who can provide the services that we need to bring them in," said Rasor, president of the Soaring Heights non-profit, which operates two homes in Keizer and Salem. "For example, we might have somebody that came from Bridgeway (Recovery Services). So they are doing treatment with Bridgeway in Salem, but they have a safe, secure environment to live in with us."

The Keizer home, which they dubbed the Oriole House, is transitional housing for women. One of the goals is to reunify parents with children who might be in custody or who have been taken away from the parent as a result of their prior conduct.

"I was a mother, a wife, my husband bought a home - we both had careers," said Amy Bauldree, a former resident at Oriole House. "I had a lot of medical issues - I was put on pain management ... that became an addiction, and I began using heroin."

"My addiction just got worse and worse," she said. "We ended up losing our home. I ended up losing my son

to my mother, my husband—we got a divorce, I lost everything."

At the lowest point in her addiction, Bauldree was diagnosed with heart failure as a result of heroin and methamphetamine use, and she nearly died. Then she discovered Soaring Heights and the Oriole House.

"I was able to have the support of

other women in learning how to live again, how to be responsible, and it helped save my life," said Bauldree, who worked as a house leader at Oriole during her own transition. "I got my son back, I live in my own place now, I have a job - I'm a functioning adult in society. It's been a long road to clean all that up but it's been worth it."



Victoria Meredith, left, and Eric Rasor, right.

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