

COUPLE,

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Meredith, who has 13 years of experience as a drug and alcohol counselor and certified recovery mentor, said the work she's doing with Soaring Heights is part of her own, on-going recovery.

"It's absolutely part of my recovery," she said. "That's part of how you do it."

"When you have people in your life who support and advocate for you, you begin to believe in yourself once again and can accomplish what seems to be impossible," said Meredith.

"One of the biggest turning points in my life was when my daughter was born," said Rasor. "That's when I chose to change my life. We both know how much better life can be, free from drugs and alcohol. We understand the challenges - what we're trying to do is walk



Kitchen interior and living area at Oriole House, in Keizer. PHOTO COURTESY ERIC RASOR

beside these individuals and help them navigate the barriers."

Meredith was forced to retire for medical reasons but continues to help oversee the two homes. Rasor has a full-time job as an estimator and project manager for a local civil engineering company, which means he's splitting time between that and managing the full-fledged 501c(3).

"We have a board (of directors) and everything now," said Rasor. "Right now, we're just trying to get the support and funding to open our third house. When this all started, we funded the opening of these houses with our own money."

Soaring Heights operates on a fee-based model.

"So if you move into the house, you're going to pay shared living expenses," said Rasor.

"They have to be on food stamps or have a job," added Meredith. "If they're not working, they have to go

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