

Kevin and Donna Chapman are financing and running the Chapman House in Eustace as a result of Mr. Chapman's own amazing recovery.

# Getting

By Toni Garrard Clay

# Clean and Sober

**Kevin Chapman's life story** begs to be made into a movie. Today, he lives with his vivacious wife, Donna, in a home on Cedar Creek Lake. But during the darkest time of his life, the closest thing Chapman had to a home was a place under a bridge.

Chapman once owned and operated, very successfully, four different car dealerships in Minneapolis.

"I had a perfect life," he said, "a wife, three kids. And I was just a jerk. I started doing all the things a person with a drug and alcohol addiction does."

Chapman checked into a well-respected rehab facility, but his heart wasn't in the recovery process. The experience failed, as did his marriage and, eventually, his businesses.

He lost everything.

"I took a long time trying to get sober," said Chapman. "I ended up living under a bridge in San Francisco... Finally, I used my car skills to begin brokering high-end cars, like limos. I kept moving up to the next level of success.

"I had also avoided the 12-step recovery method until I was out of options. When I finally did it, I became sober."

After totally rebuilding his life, Chapman met his now-wife, Donna, in Chicago. The two moved to a home on Cedar Creek Lake just over a year ago, though Chapman continues his work as a car broker with many clients in Chicago.

Despite the physical beauty of the area and the many friendly people they met, it wasn't long before the couple began to see evidence of a serious drug problem among many residents of the county.

"Drug and alcohol addiction leads to increased domestic violence; it leads to overtaxed food pantries; it results in higher crime rates and, in turn, more prisoners," said Chapman. "We have to get to the root of the problem: addiction."

Acting out of a deep need to do something to alleviate the problem he knows firsthand, Kevin and Donna purchased a 10,000-square-foot building in Eustace. Thus was born the largest facility of its kind in Northeast Texas: The Chapman House.

"Our goal is to help restore families and make our community a better place to live," said Chapman. His wife added: "I'm on board with this mission because I believe in what Kevin's doing."

The Chapman House is a non-profit, Christian-based, transitional living facility/halfway house that uses a 12-step recovery program to teach men with alcohol and drug addiction problems how to build healthy relationships.

In addition to the Chapmans, two house managers oversee a fluctuating number of men at the home. At this writing, there are 20 residents, though the home can accommodate up to 50. Remodeling work on the facility is ongoing and costly.

The Chapman House works with area law enforcement and court systems, which has begun directing men to the facility where residents must commit to stay for at least six months or up to two years, as needed.

In exchange for a stunningly low \$100/week — which covers everything from food to washer and dryer use — residents are provided with a recovery program, GED assistance, counseling referrals, alcohol and drug addiction treatment programs, mentoring, medical treatment referrals, assistance with food and clothing and “weekly spirituality,” among other things.

Resident Noah Silva said he heard about Chapman House and transitioned there from in-patient care.

“They’re real fair here,” he said. “We have several meetings a week, and they give you the opportunity to be part of your own recovery.”

Silva heads up a group that performs community service.

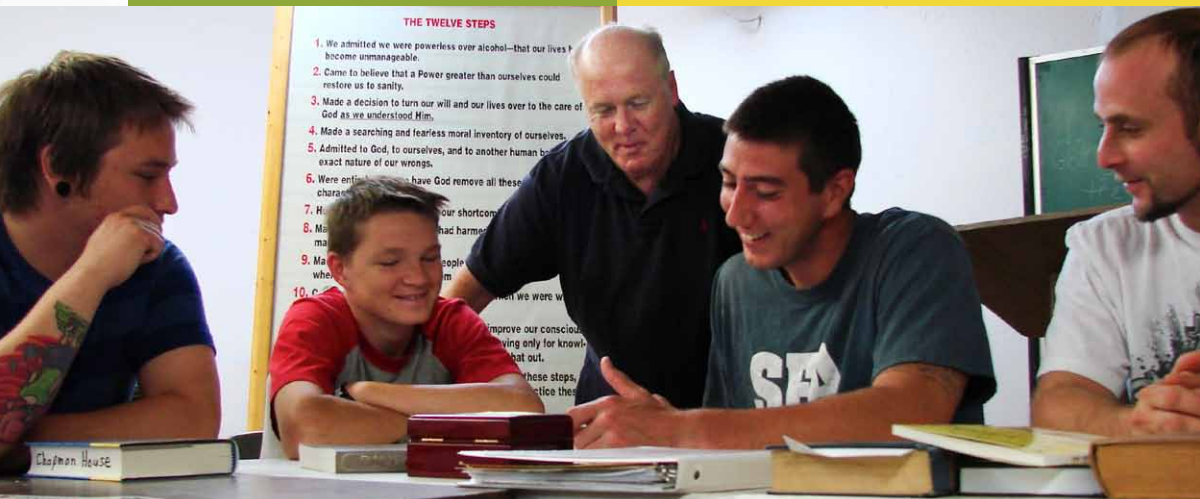
“We like to teach them it’s good to give back because, through our addiction, we’ve taken away so much,” he said.

There are, of course, house rules which range from finding gainful employment to a curfew, chores and mandatory meetings.

“Men who come here are broken,” said Chapman, “and they’re ready for a new beginning.”

The Chapmans have made it their personal goal to help write new stories in the lives of men who might otherwise find little or no help. It’s an effort that, if successful, can only help us all. 🇺🇸

If you believe in what the Chapman House is doing, you can assist through a tax-deductible donation or by volunteering. Send donations to 308 Oak Street, Eustace, TX 75124. For more information, call 903-802-5168. You can also visit online at [chapmanhouseeustace.com](http://chapmanhouseeustace.com).



Residents of Chapman House (above) participate in a 12-step program as part of their recovery. Meetings are also held in the Henderson County Jail as part of the facility’s outreach effort.

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