

Join the Bob Coté Legacy Fund!

AT STEP DENVER we would like to acknowledge and recognize the people who have shared with us that they have made a gift that will benefit and ensure Step Denver's mission and Bob Coté's legacy in perpetuity. Planned gifts make use of legal and/or tax strategies, which often produce a result that is very worthwhile. We will work with you to find a charitable plan that lets you provide for your family and support Step Denver.

Planned gifts include charitable bequests, IRA charitable rollovers, beneficiary designations, charitable remainder trusts, contributions to Step Denver's endowment fund as well as memorials and tribute gifts.

To become a member of the Bob Coté Legacy Fund or for more information about planned giving please contact Jordan Fouts, Director of Marketing and Development, at 720-439-8487 or jfouts@stepdenver.org. Or visit our website at stepdenver.org/bobcotelegacyfund.

StepDenver
A Hand Up Not a Hand Out

2029 Larimer Street
Denver, CO 80205
StepDenver.org

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Please use the enclosed donation envelope to provide vital support for our men.

StepDenver
A Hand Up Not a Hand Out

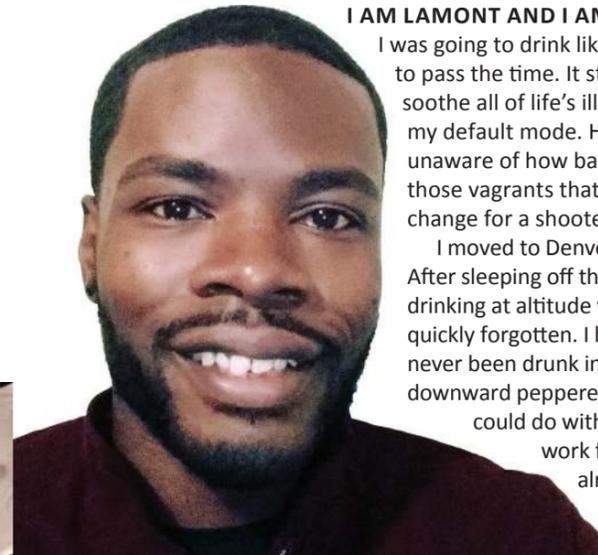
Step Denver
Sober Living Homes
are Open!

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Autumn 2017

Step Inside Step Denver:

Meet Lamont E., Graduate of Step Denver



I AM LAMONT AND I AM AN ALCOHOLIC. Of course that was not the plan when I had my first drink. I was going to drink like everyone else. I would only partake to celebrate, to mourn, to relax, to excite or to pass the time. It started out as a social activity. Over time I learned to use marijuana and alcohol to soothe all of life's ills. And I needed it to make any celebration complete. Drunk and high had become my default mode. Happy? Drink. Sad? Drink. Not feeling anything at all? Drink. I was completely unaware of how bad my habit was becoming. I still had my own place, and a job. I was not one of those vagrants that I saw daily sleeping at bus stops, speaking with a perpetual slur and begging for change for a shooter. I was not that. Not yet. But I was on my way.

I moved to Denver in February 2012 with the intention of getting myself back on the proper path. After sleeping off the jet lag my first move was to find the nearest liquor store. That day I learned that drinking at altitude was very different. I took it as a challenge. My motivations for my migration were quickly forgotten. I began to drink with renewed vigor, because I had been drunk before but I had never been drunk in Colorado so maybe this time I would be different. It would be a four year slide downward peppered along the way with half-hearted or brief attempts at sobriety. The only thing I could do with any consistency was lower my standards. Eventually I was not able to make it into work fully sober. People couldn't rely on me to show up for anything, and if I did I had already started drinking before I arrived. My family got into the habit of hiding their purses, wallets and piggy banks. I remember once my mother looking at me with

Lamont E., Graduate, Step Denver

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Car Donations

YOU PROBABLY KNOW that you can donate your car or truck to Step Denver and receive a tax deduction for the gross amount it sells for. But do you know that you can also donate your motorcycles, RV's, and even boats? Our expanded warehouse and dedicated team make it easier than ever for you to make a big impact and benefit from the tax deduction.

We make it easy! Give us your title and the keys and we take care of the rest! We arrange pick-up or drop-off. We try to maximize your donation to benefit our program in the most impactful way.



To donate today go to StepDenver.org or call 303-296-9020.

Eat at Chili's on November 13th and Donate to Step for Free!



WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE an exciting partnership with Chili's Restaurants across the state of Colorado! On Monday, November 13th eat at any Chili's restaurant in Colorado and 15% of your bill will go directly to Step Denver at no extra cost to you! Plus Chili's is offering free chips and salsa to all Step Denver supporters on November 13th. How great is that?!? Be sure to bring the inserted Chili's coupon or let the hostess know you are there for the "Step Denver Give Back" event.

Plus you can also get the unique opportunity to meet two of our radio personalities, Mandy Connell from KOA and Bo Jaxon from The Wolf. They will each be at a specific Chili's restaurant during a

set time so look for updates on our website stepdenver.org and our Facebook and Twitter accounts to learn more!

Step Denver's Executive Director Paul Scudo stated, "This is a dynamic partnership and proves the power of strong community and what's possible when we make a commitment

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Step Denver and Willie B Step Up for Hurricane Harvey

STEP DENVER BELIEVES SERVICE AND COMMUNITY are two vital components to overcoming the disease of addiction. While living in active addiction, an addict takes from others and the community at large. Thus in contrast, we teach our men that becoming contributing members of the community and reintegrating into society are key components for them to learn and experience the power of service work for restoring dignity and self-respect. So when longtime Step supporter, KBPI radio personality

Willie B, announced that he was going to “drive some help to Houston” after Hurricane Harvey swept through the gulf coast, we knew we wanted to help him and those suffering in Texas.

The disastrous effects of Hurricane Harvey are relevant to what we do here at Step. As America’s fourth largest city, Houston already had roughly 3,600 homeless individuals before the storm, and in the aftermath, now has as many as one million additional displaced persons.

Willie B announced his mission to collect items at the iHeart radio station in Englewood the following Wednesday, September 6th, and then would personally drive the items down to Houston. Given Step’s central location in downtown Denver, we knew we could contribute to the efforts by offering to be a drop-off point, so that people wanting to give would be able to leave their items with us in the week leading up to Willie B’s departure. So that is what we did!

Beginning Saturday, September 2nd, through Tuesday, September 5th, we opened our facility to the public to serve as a place for people in the community to bring their items that they would not have initially been able to get to Willie B in time. We then transported these donation items to the radio station for Willie B and his crew to drive down to Houston. We collected a good amount of items ranging from clothing and shoes to gallons of water, amounting to a trailer and a truck load full of goods. Willie B reflected, “Working with Step Denver means world to me, how they help others, contribute to a cause, I can’t thank them enough. The guys from Step always have an amazing sense of responsibility when they show up, helping with any and all aspects for nothing other than that feeling they get from it. I look up to them as much as they could ever look up to me. I’m thankful, honored and humbled by their effort and achievements. Big Fan and Big Thanks to all the guys at Step Denver!”

Since 2014 Willie B has been a supporter and good friend to Step Denver. He is actively engaged with the Step community and often takes time out of his busy schedule to engage with our men and support our mission. We are so grateful for our partnership with Willie B and we are constantly amazed by his big heart and all the ways he contributes to our men, organization and community. Something we regularly say at Step is, “We can do more together than we can do alone,” and we full-heartedly believe our opportunity to help those in Houston, as well as our ongoing partnership with Willie B, exemplifies this.

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this expression of someone looking at something alien. She asked me “Why do you have to be drunk all the time?” I told her I did not know. I knew I was an alcoholic. I knew I would become a vagrant sleeping at bus stops, speaking with a perpetual slur and begging for change for a shooter. I saw this as my fate and it was as unchangeable as my date of birth.

I couldn’t see a way out. I couldn’t imagine being mostly sober for longer than the 8 hours it required for me to complete a day labor job. I found comfort in my situation in the form of a bottle. I would sleep and eat at the mission when I could, sometimes work at day labor and of course drink daily.

One morning after leaving the shelter I wandered past Step Denver. It was early morning so the gates were still closed, but someone was smoking a cigarette on the other side. Perhaps because I wanted a cigarette or just because of the name on the building I asked the smoker “What is this place?” He said, “It is a men’s recovery facility and with a smile he added that I should come back in a few hours to speak with the intake coordinator.” I thanked him and despite him not giving me a cigarette I decided I would. I returned later that morning and the intake coordinator, Brad, explained the program to me. He told me about the peer support model and how it was a group of men trying to develop sober lifestyles. He explained the principle of personal accountability, how I would work full time and pay my way, as well as save money. He shared some of his story with me and he identified with me the way only another addict can. He said what do you have to lose? He shared that if I wanted what they had to offer it only required a desire and willingness to follow directions. I WAS HOOKED. I was a drowning man that was thrown a line.

On Monday March 14, 2016 I started my first day at Step. Upon entering I was afraid and insecure, not knowing what to expect or if I could even live a life without alcohol or weed. My peers at Step welcomed me as a brother. They showed me that I am enough. They shared their struggles and successes with me. Sixty different men with sixty different stories from sixty different places, and yet I found so many commonalities among us. The staff, who are also in recovery, showed me perseverance and that a fulfilling life was possible through their care for the men and Step as a whole. I took that attitude of acceptance and hope and extended it to those who came in after me. During my time at Step I got to be the weekend facility coordinator which allowed me to stay close to the program even after I graduated. More importantly it gave me an opportunity to share my experiences with the newcomer who was struggling. I graduated from Step as an alumni in November of 2016.

Today I live in an Oxford house where I am the house treasurer. Every week I get to bring two recovery meetings to my fellows in hospitals and institutions, including one at Step. My relationship with my family is great. I have a meaningful relationship with someone I love. I get to show up for work every day and because I have demonstrated my work ethic and responsibility, I am being groomed for management. I have actual friends who aren’t just waiting for me to buy them a drink. I am now in my 18th month of sobriety. It has not been easy all the time. I have lost friends to overdoses or relapses. I found out I was HIV positive in sobriety. But at Step I learned how to show up for the good times as well as the bad times. I also learned that it would not be easy but that it would be worth it. I learned that I am not alone, that recovery is possible and for that I am forever grateful.

Step Denver Sober Living Homes Are Open!

IN OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER, we shared that Step Denver would be opening two new Sober Living Homes for residents of the Larimer facility to have an opportunity to take the ‘next step’ in our Peer Recovery Community model. The homes are geared toward providing affordable, sober housing with structure and accountability, additional privileges and freedom, and the responsibility of taking care of their own living environment. Our goal is to help our men to reintegrate into their communities in a safe and successful manner that will provide them with the tools and experience to help ensure a smooth transition. We are happy

to report that as of July 15th, 2017, we opened the houses and they are now home to ten Step residents!

Our men made the move together as a group and were instrumental in coordinating the house chores, accountability measures, support systems and recreational activities. They will continue to participate in peer recovery meetings, maintain full time, tax-paying employment

and meet with their Recovery Support Managers to create and refine plans for their eventual transition from the sober living environment to independent living situations. The residents have expressed a genuine appreciation for the opportunity to live in these brand-new houses, the additional trust and responsibility provided them, as well as the access to the support of Step resources.

We have gotten great feedback from the residents on their experience with the homes and what the opportunity means to them. Resident Mitch S. stated: “Step Denver Sober Homes are a safe place where I will be held accountable for my actions while transitioning into a place to live on my own.” “Step Denver means absolute sobriety. I think that it is a second chance at life, an opportunity, and also hope!!” says Resident Philip D.

The houses themselves are exquisite—well laid out with new furniture and furnishings. They look and feel like homes, offering the beautiful reality of a stable and permanent residence. The men are able to continue their employment and recovery goal processes while not having their living environment feel institutional. The support the men provide each other is paramount



Step Denver Sober Living Home



Step Denver Sober Living Home Residents

to their personal growth process. Resident Ryan K. communicated that “Step Denver Sober Living means stability, sobriety and Peer Recovery.” That sentiment was echoed by Resident Nathan E. who also said that the program was “A chance at building a platform from which to move forward in life and recovery.”

Step Denver is excited about this next phase in its mission to help men to recover from the consequences of addiction and take personal responsibility for their lives and their actions. Resident Rick F. shared that “Step Denver Sober Living is the next step in a well-rounded program, sustainable for life.” We couldn’t agree more. And we are proud of our men and how they have helped to make this program, and their personal growth, successful.

We would also like to acknowledge a very special member of the Step Denver family, Ralph Nagel, without whom our Sober Living Homes would not have been possible. Ralph’s vision for affordable living in our community and his generous financial assistance made it possible for Step Denver to move forward with its Sober Home program. A huge thank you to Ralph and the Nagel Foundation!

Chili’s from page 1

to take care of one another and join forces between profit and nonprofit organizations. We want to express our most heartfelt appreciation to Step supporter Kelly Tynan for introducing us to this amazing organization, Chili’s Director of Operations Trey Hornaday and the Chili’s corporate family for making this give back event possible.” Trey Hornaday remarked, “Chili’s is delighted to expand our relationships in Colorado, helping those in need while continuing our organization’s legacy of caring for

the communities in which we operate.” We couldn’t be more grateful for this opportunity!

So if you want to support Step Denver by enjoying a tasty meal at your neighborhood Chili’s be sure to do so on Monday, November 13th and spread the word! The more people eating at Chili’s, the more money we receive, thus helping us serve more men to overcome addiction and homelessness. For more information about this event please visit stepdenver.org or contact Jordan Fouts, Director of Marketing and Development, at 720-439-8487 or jfouts@stepdenver.org.