

**CEO Corner****The Best Time to Plant a Tree... 🌱**

There's a classic saying: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is today." At Willingway, we've been planting seeds of recovery for over 50 years—and what a garden we've grown!

Thousands of individuals have walked through our doors and found fertile ground for new beginnings. And here's the best part: when one person plants their seed of recovery, it doesn't just benefit them—it uplifts families, strengthens friendships, boosts workplaces, and sends positive ripples through the entire community. That's the power of one brave decision.

Not long ago, I spoke with a patient who told me this was the first time she had stayed in treatment long enough to face her challenges without bolting for the door. Why? Because she felt safe at Willingway. And that kind of safety? That's the sunlight and water that help recovery grow strong.

If you're in the early days of recovery, navigating a relapse, or just starting to wonder if help is out there—good news: it is. Hope isn't some rare flower. It's a seed that grows every day at Willingway, and we're here to help you plant it. Whether you're a current patient, a curious family member, or a proud alum, we've got ways to connect and grow:

- Not sure where to start? Our **Admissions team** is here to talk: 912-207-7227
- Family member looking for support? Check out our **free Continuing Care Community Groups** throughout the Southeast: [Continuing Care Community Groups | Willingway](#)
- Willingway alum? Download the **Willingway Cared For App** and reach out to **Dakota Ulmen**, our Alumni Coordinator, at **912-515-7103** to stay connected.

Recovery is real. Growth is possible. And today? It's a pretty great day to plant something new.

Enjoy your summer,  
**David Gerber, CEO**

# Ways to Give Back!

If you're looking for a way to be of service, look no further! We have just the program for you!

## Become a Willingway Alumni Ambassador!

Are you a member of our alumni community with **1+ years of continuous sobriety** and actively working a recovery program? If so, we'd love for you to become a **Willingway Alumni Ambassador!**

This is a meaningful opportunity to give back, support others on their recovery journey, and represent Willingway in a positive light.



## What is a Willingway Alumni Ambassador?

A **trusted leader** in our alumni community who:

- Serves as a contact for newer alumni returning home, helping them get connected to local recovery resources
- Stays engaged and supportive through our alumni network

## What does a Willingway Alumni Ambassador do?

- **Engages regularly** on the Willingway App (AMBASSADOR will be added to your name)
- **Represents Willingway** in a positive light (through word of mouth, Google reviews, etc.)
- **Visits campus**, when possible, to share their story with current clients
- **Refers individuals** struggling with addiction to Willingway

## What's in it for you?

- A **FREE Willingway Ambassador T-shirt!**
- A chance to **support and uplift** the alumni community (you have to give it away to keep it!)
- A way to **enhance your own recovery** through service and 12-Step work
- An **AMBASSADOR badge** next to your name on the app

**Interested?** Reach out to: *Dakota Ulmen, Alumni Coordinator*  
Office: 912-489-7211 Cell: 912-515-7103



## HR Highlights

**Name:** Melissa Bennett

**Position:** Patient Account Representative

**Start Date:** 5/15/2024



### How would you summarize what you do?

I work in the business office where I edit the census and discharge calendar daily, I meet with patients for financial counseling before they discharge, put together SLE welcome kits, and much more.

### Can you tell us a few details about your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is working closely with Holly and Mark.

### What is the best advice you would give to someone just starting out at Willingway?

Ask questions, don't assume, and be as positive as possible.

### What are the toughest challenges you've had at work?

I think the toughest challenge for me was learning how things work from the business side. Changing positions from a tech to the business office was a big change for me.

### What's your secret talent no one knows about?

I love to bake!

### What do you like to do in your own time?

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and watching my grandbabies grow.

### Tell us something about you that we would not normally know?

My childhood nickname is Zadie, after my great aunt. And yes, my family still calls me Zadie.



## July Birthdays:

- Susan H. (Supervisor RN) 7/6
- Megan G. (OP Counselor) 7/7
- Autumn A. (OP Counselor) 7/9
- Mary M. (Case Manager) 7/12
- Patricia S. (Housekeeper) 7/12
- Vance R. (Medical Director) 7/14



# Alumni Meetings:

373 Savannah Ave. Statesboro, GA 30458

## WILLINGWAY ALUMNI MEETING AT THE FORK



**Thursdays @ 6:45pm. Join us for fellowship and an alumni meeting (located in the fork, address listed above!)**

Zoom Meeting ID: 815 1227 6359

**For questions text or call  
912-515-7103**

## Together We Rise



**Weekly alumni Zoom meetings Thursdays  
at 7:30am**



**Morning Meditation  
Meeting ID: 821 5803 9785  
Password: Recovery**

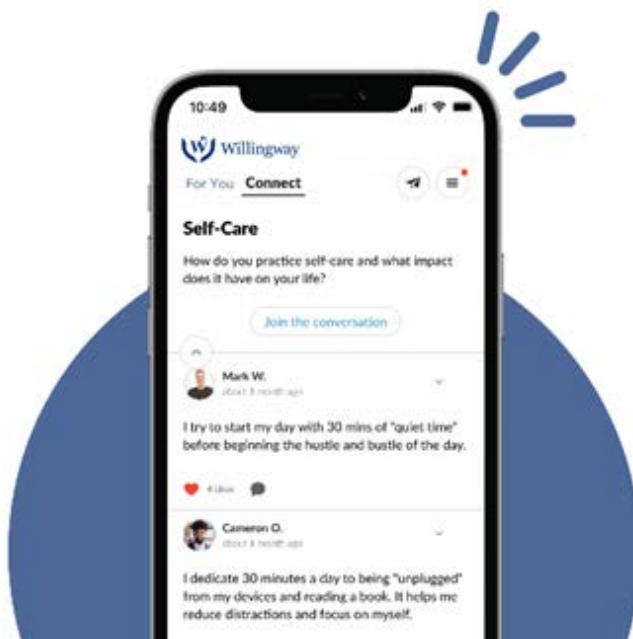


Ready to get started? Scan here >



## We're all in this together

Join fellow alumni & staff on the  
Willingway Alumni Community app today!





## Continuing Care Community Support Groups

Continuing Care provides a supportive and welcoming community to people in recovery from addiction, their family members, and their close friends. It is a safe place to land, to talk about your experiences, and to find ways to become connected to 12-step recovery. Continuing Care support groups are not a substitute for AA, NA, or Al-Anon, but they offer a point of connection designed to give the returning client direction for finding and engaging in local recovery organizations.

### **St. Simons Group:**

Name: Joel Mills  
Phone number: 912-617-6385  
Email: jvmssi@me.com  
Saturday at 6:30pm  
The Club House  
1501 Demere Road  
St Simons Island, GA 31522

### **Atlanta Group:**

Name: Desiree Garrett and  
Jocelyn Wallace  
Phone number: Desiree (678-231-6777)  
Jocelyn (404-747-6482)  
Email: Desiree  
(desiree.G@neveralonech.org)  
Jocelyn (jocelyn@neveralonech.org)

Thursday at 3:00pm  
Never Alone Clubhouse  
8380 Grady St.  
Douglasville, GA 30134  
Zoom Meeting ID: 868 1749 3228  
Password: 834476

Never Alone Clubhouse  
8380 Grady St.  
Douglasville, GA 30134  
Thursday at 7:00pm  
Zoom Meeting ID: 827 6468 4073  
Password: 832161

### **Augusta, GA:**

Name: Paula Wood  
Phone number: 706-664-9672  
Email: pmw\_1950@comcast.net  
Saturday at 10am  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
3131 Walton Way  
Augusta, GA 30904  
Zoom Meeting ID: 893 8465 3063  
Password: 038521

### **Charleston Group:**

Name: Rhett Crull  
Phone number: 843-323-7111  
Email: crull.rhett@gmail.com  
Monday at 6:30pm  
Church of the Holy Spirit  
299 Seven Farms Rd.  
Daniel Island, SC 29492

### **Raleigh Group:**

Name: Charlie Wagner  
Phone number: 919-349-6269  
Email: mail4youcw@gmail.com  
Mondays 7:30pm  
St John's Baptist Church  
1615A Oberlin Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27608  
Zoom Meeting ID: 885 4336 3501  
Passcode: Willingway

### **Macon Group:**

Name: Tracy Miller  
Phone number: 478-960-4574  
Email: tracytmiller58@gmail.com  
Monday at 6:30pm  
Centenary Church  
1290 College St.  
Macon, GA 31201  
Zoom Meeting ID: 858 8774 8270  
Passcode: Recovery

### **Jacksonville / Jacksonville Beach Group:**

Name: John Roberts and Cathy Roberts  
Phone number: John (904-463-1246)  
Cathy (904-463-5200)  
Email: John (jtrinterventions@gmail.com)  
Cathy (cmroberts109@gmail.com)  
Monday at 6:00pm  
Zoom meeting ID: 996 758 129  
Password: 1234

Tuesday at 6:00pm  
Palms Presbyterian Church  
3410 Third Street South  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250  
Education/Office Bldg. (north side of campus)  
Room 202

*For more information about continuing care,  
please contact [alumni@willingway.com](mailto:alumni@willingway.com).*