

CEO Corner

My, my 2025, seems like it passed with a blur. Approximately 750 people were admitted to Willingway in 2025. 750 people whose lives were unmanageable came to Willingway seeking help and restoration. In total over 30,000 have crossed our path and lives have been touched by our dedicated staff. The impact Willingway has had on so many is humbling yet staggering. Our mission is to “Improve the lives we touch.” How many miracles have occurred since 1974? Countless individual lives have saved and families have been unified since our doors opened to those in need.

We have a saying that the name Willingway implies that where there is a will, there is a way. Thousands entered our quiet oasis. They’ve left families and jobs to seek healing. We have answered those calls time and again.

We have grown over the years to provide treatment and support. We’ve opened outpatient clinics in Statesboro, Augusta and Jacksonville. We’ve offered sober living for men and women in need of continued support and treatment. We’ve started continuing care groups all over the southeast to offer free support for our graduates and their families. We have an alumni program that helps keep those who have left our care connected and supported throughout their recovery journey.

It has been said that the most important thing you can look for in a relationship is more of the same. When I reflect on 2025 and look towards 2026 this is my hope. More of the same. More compassionate care offered by our talented staff. More opportunities to help those in need begin their recovery journeys to restore meaningful and purposeful lives.

On behalf of our staff, we wish you a safe and happy new year. If you are struggling, please contact our admissions department at: 912-207-7227 or our Alumni Coordinator Dakota Ulmen at dakota.ulmen@willingway.com or call her at 912-515-7103. Together, we can make 2026 the best year ever.

December Alumni Event Recap!

Willingway Alumni take on the Ghost Pirates in Savannah! Lot's of laughs were had, a little disappointed as we didn't see a fight (what's a hockey game without a fight?) Can't wait for the next one!



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?

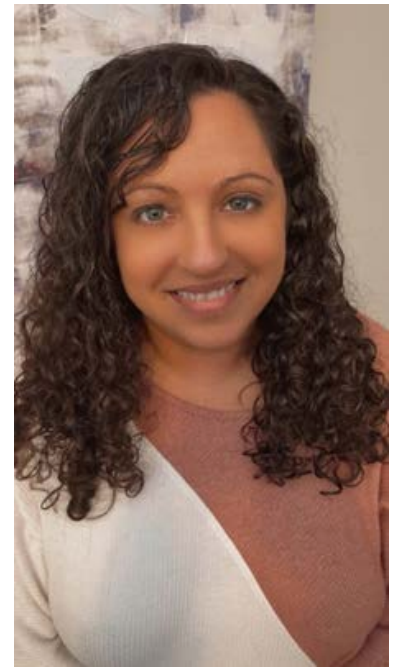
- A **FREE Willingway Ambassador T-shirt!**
- A chance to **support and uplift** the alumni community (you have to give it away to keep it!)
- A way to **enhance your own recovery** through service and 12-Step work
- An **AMBASSADOR badge** next to your name on the app

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



HR Highlights

Name: Melissa Gwinnett
Position: Counselor (OP)
Start Date: 7/16/2025



How would you summarize what you do?

I am an outpatient counselor. My main role is conducting intakes, groups, and individual sessions for PHP clients that are residing in the SLE programs or community. My extended role is anything else that needs to be done for any of the clients in outpatient treatment to include crisis intervention, working with my favorite case manager (Wanda), or coordinating care with outpatient staff.

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

It would have to be seeing the changes that occur in the lives of our clients when they really start to grasp what recovery has to offer them.

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

You can't pour from an empty cup; working in any helping profession can cause burnout. Take care of yourself so that you can be there for others.

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

It is always a challenge when someone leaves treatment before completion, and you do not know if they will make it back.

What's your secret talent no one knows about?

I was told secrets keep you sick. I'm always singing a song in my head.

What do you like to do in your own time?

I like to nap, take trips with my children, watch tv, take walks, and go to concerts.

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

I love chocolate chip cookies from Chic-fil-a.



January Birthdays:

- JuWan W. (EOC Manager) 1/5
- Jai B. (BHA) 1/11
- Chelsea W. (Counselor OP) 1/11
- Dakota U. (Alumni Coordinator) 1/15
- Brandy G. (Admissions) 1/17
- De'Ja B. (LPN) 1/18
- Holly F. (Admin Assistant) 1/27
- Rebecca B (BHA) 1/31

Quarter 4 2025

Spirit of Willingway Award

Our valued employees go above and beyond for our patients every day. Each quarter, we take time to recognize those rare individuals whose actions rise to an extraordinary level—those who truly capture the essence of Willingway and exemplify who we are as an organization that lives and breathes our mission to “Improve the lives we touch.”


Congratulations to our Spirit of Willingway Award Winner, Kyle Burnsed.

Kyle was nominated by his supervisor, Tracie Smith. He was nominated for his outstanding efforts to ensure a client of ours was able to get to see his dying family member and was able to call the client’s pastor to come and support the family during their very difficult time.

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**

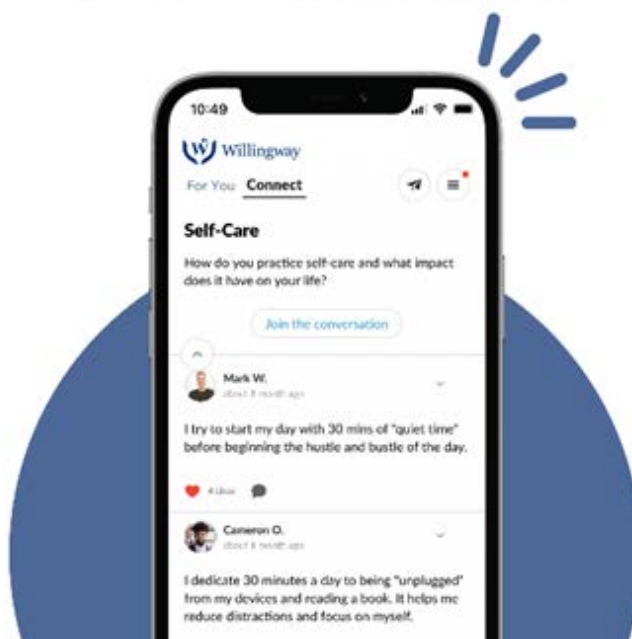


Ready to get started? Scan here >



We're all in this together

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





Continuing Care Community Support Groups

Statesboro Group:

Contact: Catherine Tootle
Phone: 912-764-8283
Email: cmtootle@freedomthroughrecovery.org
When: Wednesdays at 3:00pm
Where: Freedom Through Recovery
226 S. Zetterower Ave.
Statesboro, GA 30458
Zoom Meeting ID: 876 23985668
Password: 203757

St. Simons Group:

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

Atlanta Group:

Contacts: Desiree Garrett and
Jocelyn Wallace
Phone: Desiree 678-231-6777
Jocelyn 404-747-6482
Email: desiree.g@neveralonech.org
jocelyn@neveralonech.org
When: Thursdays at 3pm
Where: Never Alone Clubhouse
8380 Grady St., Douglasville, GA 30134
Zoom Meeting ID: 868 1749 3228
Password: 834476

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

Augusta, GA Group:

Contact: Paula Wood
Phone: 706-664-9672
When: Saturdays at 10am
Where: Covenant Presbyterian Church
3131 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30904
Zoom Meeting ID: 893 8465 3063
Password: 038521

Charleston Group:

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

Raleigh Group:

Contact: Charlie Wagner
Phone: 919-349-6269
Email: mail4youcw@gmail.com
When: Mondays 7:30pm
Where: 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: 478-960-4574
Email: tracytmiller58@gmail.com
When: Mondays at 6:30pm
Where: Centenary Church
1290 College St., Macon, GA 31201
Zoom Meeting ID: 858 8774 8270
Passcode: Recovery

Jacksonville/Jacksonville Beach Group:

Contacts: John Roberts and Cathy Roberts
Phone: John 904-463-1246
Cathy 904-463-5200
When: Mondays at 6pm (Zoom)
Zoom meeting ID: 996 758 129
Password: 1234

When: Tuesdays at 6:00pm
Palms Presbyterian Church
Where: 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.*