

Stay in touch! Willingway CaredFor app

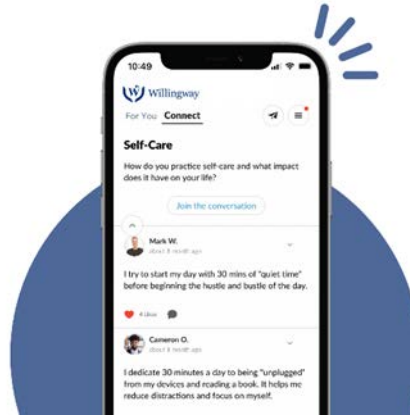
MAY 2026

Ready to get started? Scan here >



We're all in this together

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



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

Zoom Meeting

TOGETHER WE RISE

Every Thursday | 9:00am

MEETING ID: 821 5803 9785
PASSWORD: RECOVERY



April Alumni Event Recap!

Our annual Homecoming was one for the books! 🎉
A record-breaking 362 alums, staff, families, and community members came together for two unforgettable days of celebrating recovery, connection, and the gift of fellowship. The energy was incredible, the stories were powerful, and the memories will last a lifetime. Already counting down to next year!



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: David Gerber

Position: CEO

Start Date: July 2023

How would you summarize what you do?

I oversee all of Willingway's programs. But when you have great people around you, I mostly take the advice of others. I kind of do a little of everything. I've done the job of a tech (not as well, just a serviceable backup). I've helped serve meals. I've cleaned out drains in storms. I run groups. There's almost nothing I'm not willing to do.

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

Friday Encouragement Group. I love interacting with our patients and providing an uplifting message that sobriety is open and available to everyone.

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

Whatever job or role you have at Willingway, look at it like it's your own business. Everyone's role has equal importance. You can either contribute to our mission to "Improve the lives we touch" or you can take away from that mission. If this were your own business, which path would you choose?

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

In my office is a print that says "People need encouragement like plants need water. The ones who need it the most are the ones who get it the least." We have faced many challenges over the years. We've overcome virtually all of them TOGETHER. I try to create a work environment where people want to come to work every day. In the moment of challenges it can be difficult to break through with words of encouragement.

What's your secret talent no one knows about?

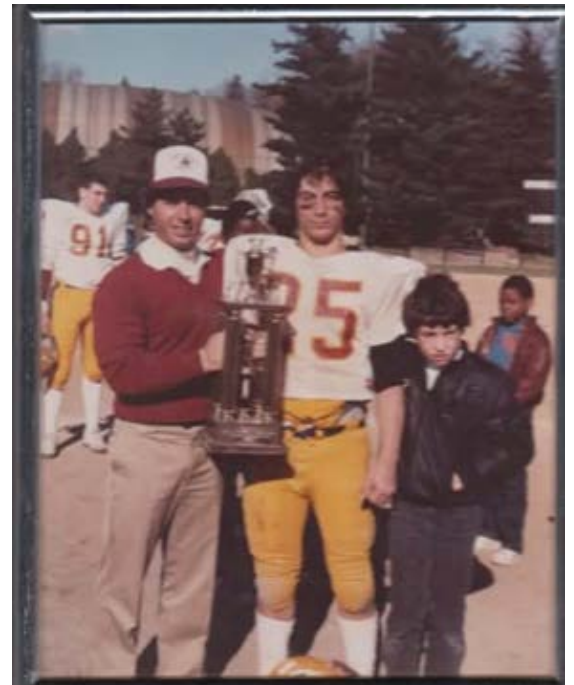
I can fly. No seriously. I love to coach baseball, softball and football. I love teaching and have not gotten to do any of those things in a long time. I also am comfortable doing public speaking and have been on local, state and national news educating people about substance use disorders. I've even done podcasts and have a secret plan to revive that here to give Willingway further exposure.

What do you like to do in your own time?

Spend time with my family. Take naps. Root for my favorite sports teams. Go Dawgs!

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

I am extroverted when I need to be but introverted in my home life. But I can be goofy and can rock family karaoke night. I have literally run programs at every level of care including starting a jail-based program





May Birthdays:

- Melissa G. (OP Counselor) - 5/1
- Brandi S. (Housekeeping) - 5/13
- Mylene S. (DON) - 5/16
- Samantha T. (Cook) - 5/19
- Dawn N. (Housekeeping) - 5/22
- Lanita R. (BHT) - 5/24
- Heather M. (Driver) - 5/26

CEO Corner By David Gerber

“The Afterglow of Homecoming”

Willingway closed out April with our annual Homecoming weekend. Homecoming is our most special time of year where staff, current clients, alumni and their families come together to celebrate recovery. Over 300 people joined in the celebration over the Homecoming weekend. To our alumni and families—thank you for coming back. Your return and sharing of your stories not only reinforces the message about life in sobriety, and how life has changed for the better, but it also reminds our staff why we do the work we do. We at Willingway know that the work we do saves lives. However, your return for this special weekend reminds us of why we do the work we do.

On Saturday, I have the opportunity to share a meal with leaders of our Continuing Care groups around the Southeast. Thank you for taking the time to return to Willingway, and the work you do. Your dedication helps to cement a lifestyle of sobriety beyond the tools we provide our clients in active treatment. Later in the day we passed around the microphone and various people shared their reasons for gratitude. Simple words and messages serve to remind everyone that we do more than save lives. We help to restore lives of meaning and purpose. We help to restore reunification of families. Quite simply, your messages remind us that we restore lives worth living in sobriety.

Saturday night over a hundred people got to hear the inspiring story of Lorraine R. It was moving and you could hear a pin drop as she shared her life in both addiction and recovery. The evening was capped off by a dance party that was just plain fun.

Being a part of Homecoming is among the greatest pleasures and humbling experiences I have in my role here at Willingway. Special thanks to Dakota Ulmen for your leadership of the Homecoming committee, and all of the volunteers who made the event special.

When the 12-step message of “Work it your worth it” is shared, it does not specify who is worth it. We are all worth it. Homecoming demonstrates the transformation from lives of despair to lives that thrive. I can’t wait until next year.

David



Continuing Care Community Support Groups

Statesboro Group:

Contact: Catherine Tootle
Phone: 912-764-8283
Email: cmtootle@freedomthroughrecovery.org
When: Wednesdays at 3 PM
Where: Freedom Through Recovery
226 S. Zetterower Ave.
Statesboro, GA 30458
Zoom Meeting ID: 876-2398-5668
Password: 203757

St. Simons Group:

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

Atlanta Group:

Contact: Candi Florence and
Jocelyn Wallace
Phone: Jocelyn 404-747-6482
Email: jocelyn@neveralonech.org

When: Thursdays at 3 PM
Where: Never Alone Clubhouse
8380 Grady St., Douglasville, GA 30134
Zoom Meeting ID: 868 1749 3228
Password: 834476

When: Thursdays at 7 PM
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 10 AM
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 6:30 PM
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 7:30 PM
Where: St John's Baptist Church
1615A Oberlin Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27608
Zoom Meeting ID: 885 4336 3501
Passcode: Willingway

Macon Group:

Contact: Tracy Miller
Phone: 478-960-4574
Email: tracytmiller58@gmail.com
When: Mondays at 6:30 PM
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
Email: jtrinterventions@gmail.com
Cathy: cmroberts109@gmail.com
When: Mondays at 6 PM
Zoom meeting ID: 996 758 129
Password: 1234

When: Tuesdays at 6:00 PM
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.



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