

# A Brief History of Project Rescue Finances



Recognizing this is a boring subject, let me emphasize how vital the handling of the money is in a drug/alcohol recovery program. It is important for several reasons. Here are just a few:

1. Regular reports are given to the executive committee and board of directors.
2. A yearly tax return must be prepared from daily credit and debits.
3. A program member has a right to see his report upon request.
4. A program member may demand proof since paranoia is common among addicts.

When we first began Project Rescue in 2007, the records were kept on Excel which is just a spread sheet that can be adjusted to fit about any need. The disadvantage was the complicated reports which were time consuming and frustrating.

One of our program members at the time was a computer programmer who wrote a program to exactly fit the needs of Project Rescue. It was great and served us well until our move to Alabama. Of course, that program did not transfer to any of the current programs used by the financial world.

At that time, our books were turned over to one of our elders who was a retired CPA. He set everything up on QuickBooks. After a year of handling the books, he turned them back over to us. It was a major learning process but well worth the effort. Another CPA firm handles the payroll and prepares the 990 which is the yearly tax return for a 501©(3) corporation. I choose NOT to handle the payroll since I'm on the payroll. It is wise to eliminate any hint of impropriety.

The majority of our expenses are handled with credit cards. The people in oversight have PR credit cards and use them to cover the expenses of the program. Then they turn in the receipts which I post on QuickBooks. This may be old fashioned, but I keep the receipts in various folders marked in categories and filed in a filing cabinet. The receipts that apply to the men are filed in a drawer with their names on it. I found this cabinet at Hobby Lobby which serves the purpose quite well.

In QuickBooks, a separate category can be set up for each man which shows their income and expenses as well as keeping a running balance. A man will often question the report since he vividly recalls the pay he earned but doesn't seem to recall any expenses. When that happens, his drawer may be removed from this cabinet to allow him to sift through all the receipts. That's about the only thing that will convince him to accept the bottom line. Sometimes even that doesn't work.

It is necessary to prevent an addict from accessing money in any form since it is the biggest trigger for relapse. If any of the guys are found with cash, that fact itself, is considered a relapse. They understand that when they enter the program, but it is, of course, a frustration to them because it prevents them from pursuing their ultimate goal – which is getting high.



As a result, there is often talk about how we are stealing their money and just getting rich at their expense. They don't understand that we are keeping their money from them to protect them from the drug or alcohol that is destroying them. They also fail to see that the money they pay in program fees only covers about half their expenses to live here at Project Rescue.

For the first three months, we ask their family's congregation to help with the program fees. That helps to involve the congregation in his recovery which will be very important when/if he returns home. Sometimes the family helps pay the fees, but we prefer to get the churches involved since we feel this is a great opportunity for the church to connect with this generation. Addiction is a spiritual sickness which needs to be addressed by the church. Sadly, many elderships see the emergency this has become in our country but don't see it as an opportunity for the church to shine. It is our hope they will begin to see the enormity of the door open to them if they get involved in their corner of the world.

The first month is \$2,000, the second \$1,000 and the third \$1,000. This three-month period is a time of adjustment when the man can assimilate and the brain can heal. After this time, he is hopefully able to start work. The program fee is reduced to \$800 per month, and he supports himself through the rest of his time with us. This amount covers his housing (including bedding, towels, paper products, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, hand soap, etc.), food (a cook who provides supplies for breakfast and lunch and prepares a great dinner), a Bible, a lot of Bible helps along with several Bible classes a day, some professional counseling and local transportation.

In addition to the credit card expenses, the recurring monthly expenses as well as some others are paid on the Bill Pay option of our local bank - electric, water, insurance, phone, etc. QuickBooks also has a check writer which serves to pay workers and various other bills. The expenses need to be posted daily so records can be available and correct upon demand.

All incoming finances should be posted quickly and prepared for deposit. Each check should be copied, endorsed with program stamp and prepared for deposit. When the deposit slip is prepared, make a copy of it to go along with all the copied checks. After the deposit is made, staple the deposit receipt to the other copies and file it so you have complete details of each deposit. On this subject, it is necessary to obtain a third-party agreement with the government so you can deposit the pay checks the guys receive. They must endorse any check made out to them and then I stamp it with the company stamp. You can get information about the third-party agreement from Google. It's just a bunch of government forms that require patience and determination to accomplish.

In addition to the program fees, we are blessed with several congregations who help support the program on a monthly basis. Also, some individuals give monthly to the program as well as some one-time contributors who help so much. Our favorite local supporter comes through a couple times a year and other kind souls contribute generously. We even have an anonymous donor who has been blowing us away for the last few years. May his tribe increase!

**STRUGGLING TO  
MAKE ENDS MEET?**



These situations didn't exist in the beginning. We struggled and prayed with tears as we tried to make ends meet. There were many times when we couldn't see the way ahead. When those brick walls appeared in our path, and we just didn't know what to do, we were often heard to say, "The Lord will provide." And somehow, He always did.

It is the plight of most 501©(3) corporations to forever be in need of funds. There is always so much more we could do with the "canned energy" that comes from financial assistance. Just maintaining the property is a major challenge, but with growth comes the need to build and expand. We need a scholarship fund so we don't have to turn away men who can't come up with support in the program. We need more counselors and workers who are equipped for this special field.

The list could go on and on, but we are so thankful for what we have and how far we have come. With time, patience and the help of a mighty God, great things can be accomplished for His cause.



*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season  
we shall reap, if we faint not.  
Galatians 6:9*