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Nic Cochran, new director of Youth Services System Recovery Homes

■ WHEELING

## Recovery Homes Get New Director

By ALAN OLSON  
Staff Writer

Youth Services System’s Recovery Homes will see a passing of a torch Saturday, as Nic Cochran is stepping in as the new director to take over from longtime director Pat Condran.

Condran started the first recovery home, Lazarus House, in 2005, followed by Mary & Martha House for women opened in 2009, and Mark’s House opened in September. All three homes serve adults in recovery from substance or alcohol use disorder.

Cochran said he’s been associated with YSS in several capacities over the years, from the Winter Freeze Shelter to the homeless outreach program, and since September with the recovery homes.

“It’s an organization that I just love and support, and I’m excited to be a part of,” he said.

Looking ahead, Cochran’s most immediate concern is “making sure it doesn’t fall apart as soon as Pat leaves,” but has clear goals for how he’d like to see the program grow. In particular, Cochran said he would like to see an expansion in the space available to those in recovery.

“I see a huge need for expansion in recovery housing, not just in Wheeling but the Northern Panhandle,” he said. “We’re really the only place, other than the Oxford Houses, that provides sober living for people.

“I get calls just about every day from people who need a place to go, and I hate to turn them away,” he added. “The biggest need I see right now is housing for pregnant women and single mothers; I would like to see that eventually. (My goal is) to create a place where people can be loved, know that they’re safe, and start new lives in recovery.”

YSS Recovery Homes will be holding a meet-and-greet fundraiser with the incoming director from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Youth Services System, 87 15th St., Wheeling.