



# PROVIDENCE HOME

*Helping Men Celebrate Victory in Christ*

## U.S. Senator Tim Scott Visits Providence Home

By Tommy Mann, Providence Home Vice Chairman



South Carolina U.S. Senator Tim Scott paid a visit to Providence Home in February, recognizing the many veterans who reside here and encouraging them with his testimony as a follower of Christ.

Scott thanked the veterans for their service and sacrifice to our country saying he can relate to their background. Scott says that his father served in the Air Force, his younger brother attended the Air Force Academy and is currently an Air Force colonel, and his older brother is a sergeant major in the army.

### His Background

Scott was born in North Charleston, South Carolina to parents who divorced when he was seven years old. He described his early life in

the phrase “Got it wrong, before I got it right!” something the Providence Home residents agreed was their situation, as well. Scott recounted a traffic accident, in which he miraculously survived with only slight injuries. Even knowing that God had preserved his life, Scott was not moved to seriously seek God. But he said God got his attention by using a close friend, who for three years encouraged him to “come to Christ.”

Scott attended Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina on a partial football scholarship, but graduated from Charleston Southern University in 1988 with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science.

Scott later owned and operated an insurance agency in the Charleston area. As a matter of fact, one of the Providence Home residents who had conducted business with Scott said he showed care and concern for his customers.

### Mr. Scott Goes to Washington

Scott was first elected to public office in 1995, and served at the local and state level until his election to Congress in 2010. He told the Providence Home residents that there are plenty of temptations in The Nation’s Capital.

Consequently, before going to Washington, he made plans in

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## Providence Home

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advance to honor God with all his actions. He has an accountability partner in Upstate South Carolina Congressman Trey Gowdy. Scott says when they attend the many “party” functions in Washington they go as a team, so neither of them drinks, smokes, nor stays “too” long.

## Just like us

The Providence Home residents made clear they were honored to meet the Senator, and to know that he is as “real” as they are, that he struggles with temptations as they do, and that he is a Brother in Christ serving God in Washington.

## Meet Providence Home Board Member J.W. Hayes

J.W. Hayes was once in the same situation as many of the Providence Home residents. Hayes, who grew up in Columbia, became a drug addict who lived on the streets in extreme poverty. But through the faithful witness of a woman who took compassion on him, Hayes became a follower of Christ, and everything changed. He has been a board member of Providence Home for 14 years, and serves as postmaster at the post office on the Columbia International University campus. He answers questions about his life in the following exchange.

*In what ways did substance abuse affect your life?*

My addiction would not allow me to hold a job because I was always looking for more drugs. It takes over your life and you only think about yourself.

I kept my shoes and sox on all the time while sleeping in abandoned houses because I never knew when I would have to run from the police or other homeless men. At one point, I was involuntarily committed to a mental health facility where my feet had to be soaked in a solution to get my socks off. My socks actually

became intermingled with the skin of my feet.

*How did your struggles with substance abuse affect your family life?*

I neglected my wife and children and eventually walked out on them. About a year later, my wife had a breakdown and tried to kill the children. She was sentenced to a mental institution and the Department of Social Services placed my four children in foster care.

*What made you turn your life around?*

I used to beg for food outside the back door of Zesto’s Restaurant on North Main Street. A Zesto’s employee, Mary Shirley told me about Jesus and how He paid the price for my sins, and that I could start again with a clean slate if I would go to Him and repent and talk to Him about it. This went on for about a year and a half. I cursed and spit at her, but she never gave up on me.

I was eventually granted custody of my children, and raised them as a single parent. They are godly



J.W. Hayes

men and women today. I have their utmost respect. I don’t deserve it, but I serve a loving God.

*What do you tell people about Providence Home?*

Providence Home is based on Mathew 25:40  
**“The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’**

Mary Shirley saw me as I was, “the least of them” and she did what she was called to do. She helped me. So I tell the men at Providence Home that I came to trust God. He can do everything that He says He can.

# New Opportunities

Greetings. While many changes have taken place at Providence Home over the past 53 years, we know the only constant is Jesus Christ. And while our worldly orientation makes most of us avoid change if possible, a new period of transformation is underway. But we are relying on our Heavenly Father's grace, wisdom, and guidance to help us make the necessary changes. In summary:



- **Our chairman for the past four years, Bill Cogdill, reached the mandatory year that required him to rotate off of our board. Bill did a wonderful job of setting in motion the physical campus changes that we are undertaking, while never losing sight of the spiritual aspect of our ministry. We will miss his service.**
- **We are reorganizing the financial relationship between our private pay residents and Providence Home to better reflect the true cost of the services that are provided. The difference between the cost of services and the amount that the resident is able to pay is going to be offered as a sponsorship opportunity so that individuals, organizations, and churches can directly assist residents in paying for their individual residency costs.**
- **We are planning to renovate our campus to improve the enjoyment and utilization of our facility especially regarding parking and walking.**
- **We are planning to relocate and replace our oldest residence building with the hope of also adding a chapel.**

The board and staff believe that these changes are essential to Providence Home's long-term health and that the changes will improve our ability to deliver services to our residents. You, your organization, and your church can be directly involved in the ministry to men at Providence Home by joining us with a building fund contribution. If you are inspired to help the men individually, sponsorships are available for \$22/day per resident.

Would you prayerfully consider joining us in this life-changing ministry? You could be an answered prayer for a Providence Home resident. May our Father in heaven richly bless your obedience. Please lift up Providence Home in prayer whenever the Holy Spirit puts us on your heart. To God be the Glory!  
Best regards,

O. Stanley "Chip" Smith III  
Chairman

# Around the Providence Home Campus



Local radio personality Kelly Nash (center) recently shared his testimony with the men. He reminded us that it is only in Christ that we find our true identity and hope!



## Meet Michael Rhodes

Providence Home resident Michael Rhodes is a navy veteran who oversees laundry services at the Home. He says:

"Upon my arrival to Providence Home I was mentally, emotionally, and spiritually broken. During my time here I have healed and grown beyond what I could ever have imagined.

Today I have a sound foundation on which to build my new-found life. Every day, as I walk with Christ, my purpose in life and my relationship with the Lord continues to prosper as a result of what Providence Home has provided."



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3421 N. Main Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29203

[providencehomecolumbia.org](http://providencehomecolumbia.org)

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# Out with the Old, In with the New

The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is "A time to tear down and a time to build up." At Providence Home, it's time for both. And we hope you'll consider being a part of this exciting phase of our development.

Very soon, we will be tearing down

some of our aging buildings to make way for attractive, modern facilities that will assist us in meeting the spiritual and physical needs of our residents. More than just "housing" displaced men, our desire is to develop Providence Home into a dynamic ministry for God's glory as our residents realize

their full potential through the power of Jesus Christ.

prayerfully consider partnering with us in the construction of **new buildings**, as we disciple men to become **new in Christ**.

Contact the Providence Home Office today at (803) 779-2927 or email [provhome@bellsouth.net](mailto:provhome@bellsouth.net) for more information on how you can play a major role in seeing men overcome alcohol and drug abuse through the power of Jesus Christ.



To the left is the architect's drawing of the thrilling next chapter of Providence Home. Please

## MISSION STATEMENT

PROVIDENCE HOME STABILIZES THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF DISLOCATED MEN AND ENCOURAGES THE REALIZATION OF THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH THE POWER OF

# JESUS CHRIST.