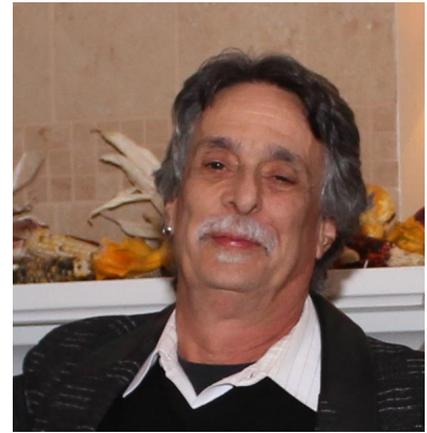




Serenity Recovery Network

help save a life, a family, community...

Ivan Faske is the visionary, co-founder and Program Director of Serenity Recovery Network's Serenity House for Men. He will retire on March 31, 2015.



Ivan has been working in the field of recovery for the past 32 years:

- He assisted with the development of an adolescent inpatient treatment program, as well as prevention, education and intervention programming in ten school districts;
- He designed, implemented, and directed an intensive outpatient program for adults with an array of addictive behaviors;
- From 1985-1995, Ivan was involved in the structure and development of World Service Recovery;
- Ivan has worked part-time at the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) in Blue Ash, Ohio;
- He has twice opened a recovery home for men based on the Spiritual Principles of Twelve-Steps and Twelve-Traditions of Anonymous Fellowships.
- Ivan recently became the part-time Executive Director of the Greater Cincinnati Recovery Resource Collaborative;
- Ivan is also an initiating Committee Member of the new Statewide Organization called Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH);
- In addition, Ivan attends and sits on several local community based heroin epidemic reduction committees.

An enduring priority for Ivan is his extended family of a wife, two sons and three step-children (all grown) and two grandchildren. Although there are times when a work/life balance is difficult to maintain, Ivan believes there is something about attending to spiritual principles as a basis for life, which ultimately brings peace, joy and happiness - rejuvenating lives back together again.

In early January 2015, Ivan was suffering with debilitating back pain and sought medical help. An MRI revealed several spots on his spine, lung and in his skull indicating cancer. Ivan underwent several more tests to determine the origin of the cancer.

It was determined that Ivan needed immediate surgery to remove a tumor in his back that was causing pressure on his spine. The surgeon removed the tumor successfully - they removed the tumor in T3 of his thoracic spine and installed a titanium cage. This was major back surgery and will require 3-4 months recovery.

Ivan is now out of the hospital and is unable to do much on his own right now as he recovers from his recent back surgery. Anytime he is out of bed, Ivan must be in a spine brace up to the back of his neck. He is taking medicine to treat the cancer right now (hormone pills and shots). When he is recovered from his back surgery, he will begin chemotherapy. He will receive 6 treatments, one every 3 weeks. The total amount of time for entire procedure and recovery is expected to be 8-10 months.