



for various outreach ministries. One big initiative they're all currently focused on, however, is launching The Potter's House, a recovery house for men in North Vernon.

"These men are dealing with addiction. Many carry felonies on their records or have been turned out by their families," says Denny. "In order to get back on the right path, they need a structured home that has levels of accountability."

The plan is to have the five-bedroom, 2,000-square-foot house up and running in October 2018, with three to four men living in the house initially, plus a life coach who runs the Celebrate Recovery program at North Vernon Church. Each room holds four people.

Residents of The Potter's House must pass a drug test and are required to attend worship somewhere in town, though it doesn't have to be at one of the Pavilion Churches. They also must volunteer community service hours.

A drug interventionist and other strategic partners are coming alongside the Pavilion Churches to help in various ways, including financial support from a local factory.

"The secular side is joining with the spiritual side," says Johnson. "That, to me, is the piece that's unheard of."

Stroud notes that there are roughly 1,200 different denominations and 40,000 church variations across the United States.

"Obviously, we've gotten divided over little things," says Stroud. "This is an opportunity for us to come back together."

And they do so even in the smallest ways. For example, a woman from North Vernon Nazarene's congregation bakes cakes for the men at The Potter's House.

"We celebrate milestones because these guys are so used to the negative things being pointed out in their lives," says Reynolds. "We like to point to the positives."

—Christy Heitger-Ewing
PavilionChurches.com

Beyond Addiction

Churches Work Together to Create a Recovery House

THE CHURCH

The Pavilion Churches in North Vernon, Indiana

THE CHALLENGE

Former addicts struggle to reintegrate into society after addiction.

ONE BIG IDEA

Provide a safe place that offers structure and support.

When Rev. Ken Stroud of North Vernon Wesleyan Church and several other area pastors attempted to do outreach ministry in the most unchurched population in their Indiana community, they received significant pushback.

"We kept hearing that churches fight too much, so we decided to show [the community] something different," he says.

Stroud partnered with five other congregations to form the Pavilion Churches, a ministry focused on evangelism, encouragement and community transformation in the Country Squire Lakes neighborhood.

Stroud, along with Dan Denny from Christ's Way Christian Church, Mitch Harrell from Zenas Baptist, Robert Johnson from Trinity Full Gospel, Tom Long from The Well Ministries and Caleb Reynolds from North Vernon Church of the Nazarene each act as point person