

Christians in Recovery® Executive Director's Annual Report for the Year 2010

I am pleased to report that 2010 was a very exciting year for Christians in Recovery[®], Inc. Many changes and improvements were made while at the same time maintaining the Vision for CIR.

The Vision of CIR

It is the vision of the Board of Directors and Members of CIR to continue to use the latest technology, in addition to conventional means, to reach those who would normally not seek help--to catch those who fall through the cracks of traditional recovery groups and organizations --and to further spread Christian hope, healing and fellowship to those in need of recovery. Our vision is not just recovery but to go well beyond recovery so people can fully discover, explore and magnify all possibilities God intends for them as individuals.

The Problem

Many do not seek recovery from compulsive behaviors, eating disorders, codependency, abuse, depression and/or addictions to drugs, sex, alcohol, pornography, etc. because they may be too embarrassed or ashamed. Others who are successful professionals or prominent in their communities do not seek help for fear of professional or social repercussions. Many live in rural areas where no recovery resources are available. Others live in countries where Christianity is frowned upon or even banned and recovery is unknown.

The Solution

Christians in Recovery® is a different type of ministry. It provides a safe haven on the Internet for people with a wide variety of disorders. Through CIR they find the non-judgmental encouragement, support and resources they need while at the same time protecting their anonymity.

Importance of CIR's Volunteers

CIR can operate so effectively only because of the dedication and hard work of its volunteers. CIR's volunteers are all over the world. They contribute in countless ways both obvious and not so obvious. Without the ongoing commitment of our dedicated volunteers CIR could not function. They serve as Meeting Hosts, Co-hosts, Message Board Forum Moderators, Links System Maintainers, Web Site Contributors and Editors, Sponsors, Recovery Buddies, Chat Room Greeters, Secretaries and Assistants. Our volunteers make a difference by translating recovery information to languages other than English, represent CIR at conferences and events, distribute CIR brochures to their churches and recovery groups, serve on committees and much more. You can become involved too! The full range of volunteer opportunities are posted on the web site here: <u>http://christians-in-recovery.org/Members_Volunteer</u>

Overview of Accomplishments in 2010

This year was a very busy and productive one for CIR as we rose to the challenge of meeting our mission. The following improvements and changes were made in the year 2010. Note that it is impossible to list everything accomplished.

January

The Board of Directors met and elected the officers for 2010: President: Jim Springer Vice President: Jan Coates Secretary: Cindy Baldwin Treasurer: Ruth Cunningham, RN Board Member: Dr. Clara Thore

The Annual Meeting of Christians in Recovery was held January 16th at 12:00 Noon Eastern Time. The Executive Director presented the Annual Report for 2009.

The January Issue of CIR's Magazine "The Gabriel" Was published. The focus was Emotional Recovery. It may be found online: http://christians-in-recovery.org/system/files/Gabriel Winter2010.pdf

February

We have many new contributors to the CIR web site content. Rich Dixon is a constant contributor to CIR's blog. Robin O'Hare writes Bible studies for the CIR site. James Aquila, Rev. Michael Liimatta, Angie Lewis, Rev. Dr. A. Philip Parham, Laurie Glass and Rev. Joseph Rivera are also writing Bible based recovery articles. In addition, Kathi Machias, Jan Coates and Yvonne Ortega LPC, LSATP, CCDVC are writing devotionals on a regular basis. Overall, we now have more than 30 recovery professionals writing informational content for the web site. This helps us to provide fresh content every day for the web site. These pieces are well researched and very meaty. It is not the fluff so often found on other recovery sites. All of these articles and Bible Studies are provided free of charge to the general public when they are first put on the web site and placed in archives for our dues paying members.

The chat rooms were upgraded and now twice as much logged data that has scrolled by can be reviewed by the end users.

April

The Board of Directors met on April 24th.

The April edition of CIR's Magazine "The Gabriel" was published. The focus was Growth in Recovery. This may be found online: http://christians-in-recovery.org/system/files/Gabriel_Spring2010_1.pdf Many changes were made to the web site. Most notable overall is the vastly improved quality of the information we are providing to the general public as well as our members in the form of the blog, daily article, CIR News, daily Recovery Thoughts, workshops and posts in the Message Boards. We should be thankful that the Lord has provided us with the resources to do these things.

Over the years many have asked for CIR t-shirts, hats, etc. and we have never been able to offer them. We now have a store section that offers customized CIR T-shirts, Totes, Polo Shirts, Hats and more. There is no overhead to do this.

Below is an overview of the new site which we plan on building.

- 1) Same Message Board System. This will have all the same features as our current system and people will not have to log in to the Message Boards (in addition to their main member's log in). This will streamline the experience for the end user and make things much less confusing.
- 2) Members will have ability to have their own journals with extensive editing features. They will have the choice to make these journals public or private.
- Personal Account Management. Members will be able to update their own UserIDs, Passwords, email addresses, personal information, etc. All changes will take effect immediately. (Currently this is done manually by CIR staff and there is a delay)
- 4) Members will be able to instantly access their payment history without having to contact CIR staff.
- 5) eCommerce technology for instant ordering and buying of CIR items. This will have full integration with QuickBooks and should cut down on manual entry of transactions. All credit card transactions will be automatically processed in real time. (Currently this is done manually by CIR staff)
- 6) All Bible verse references on the site will link directly to the Bible translation of the user's choice (currently the end user has to look up references in their own Bibles)
- 7) New Photo Gallery with increased features
- 8) Web site Polls and Surveys (will enable better communication between CIR staff and members as well as member to member. This will build a better sense of community.
- 9) More sophisticated search engine to help people find what they are looking for
- 10) Improved site maps to assist visitors
- 11) All new Chat calendar visible on all pages
- 12) Rebuilt database of Christian recovery ministries, organizations and local meetings. This will be easier for people to use.
- 13) Improved security for the web site
- 14) Better control of member privileges
- 15) All updated technology with seamless integration of modules
- 16) New banner ad system
- 17) New mailing system for membership and account notices
- 18) All new forms
- 19) News aggregator
- 20) CIR RSS feeds

- 21) Wiki. This enables documents to be written collaboratively. CIR members can contribute to articles on the site and they can be edited as time goes on. Much like Wikipedia.
- 22) All new Mailing System for daily mails and CIR News

Features that will remain from the old site:

- 1) Chat Rooms http://christians-in-recovery.org/members/chat/chatnow.html
- 2) CIR Blog http://christians-in-recovery.org/wp
- 3) CIR Store <u>http://christians-in-recovery.org/store</u> (This is separate from eCommerce and operated in conjunction with a vendor)
- 4) All articles, faq, knowledgebases, Bible studies, worksheets, checklists, etc.
- 5) Daily Article
- 6) Daily Recovery Thought, Scripture and Prayer delivery via email
- 7) Monthly CIR News delivery via email
- 8) Daily Recovery News
- 9) All classic articles and information
- 10) Message Boards

A workshop was conducted by Rich Dixon on February 21st

"God's Plan and Adversity -- How do we reconcile the will of a loving God with tragedy in the world?" It was excellent! If you missed the workshop the transcript is online: <u>http://christians-in-recovery.org/Tools_Transcripts</u>

Kathy Fish, a CIR member, has started to work on writing grants for CIR.

On April 1st the Chat Rooms were upgraded.

We currently have sixteen meetings a week with 15 volunteers hosting and co hosting.

May

On May 28th the Message Boards were upgraded again.

July

The Board of Directors met on July 31st. Yvonne Ortega was voted onto the Board of Directors. Her resume follows:

EDUCATION

The College of William & Mary Master of Education in Counseling United States International University, San Diego, California Master of Arts in Education with a Specialization in Spanish Marygrove College, Detroit, Michigan Bachelor of Arts in Spanish

COUNSELING EXPERIENCE

Rapha Group facilitator for Emotionally and Sexually Abused Women-14 weeks Rapha Group facilitator for a 12-Step Women's Codependency Group-9 months Rapha Group facilitator for a Father-Adult Child Relationships Co-Ed Group-7 months Group facilitator for Christian Women in Domestic Violence Relationships-2 yrs. 6 mos.

Group Facilitator for Co-Ed Group of Victims of Domestic Violence-2 years Group Facilitator for an Anger Management Group-2 years and ongoing Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault Companion Duty-4 months Internship in Family Counseling-College of William & Mary Summer Session 1998 Internship at Partners in Hope in Norfolk working with Response, the Consortium, Norfolk Case Review, and the Norfolk Family Violence Alliance-Summer Session 1998

Internship in Addictions Counseling-College of William & Mary, Summer Session 1999, Fall Semester 1999, Spring Semester 2000

Individual and Group Counseling

Marriage and Family Counseling

Group Facilitator for a Batterer Intervention Program at the City Prison Farm-July 29, 2000-July 2001 for inmates in the substance abuse program

Group Facilitator for Victims of Domestic Violence and for a Batterer Intervention Program at the Newport News City Jail- August 15, 2000-June 2001 for inmates in the Addictions Cellblock

Resident Counselor at Eden Counseling Center-November 1998-December 2001 Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board Jail-Based Substance Abuse Counselor at the Newport News City Prison Farm-August 29, 2001-June 11, 2004 Colonial Services Board Jail-Based Substance Abuse Counselor at the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail-June 14, 2004-January 14, 2005

Colonial Services Board Bilingual Substance Abuse Counselor at Colonial Services Board-January 14, 2005-September 30, 2009

EXPERIENCE IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

more than 20 years experience in curriculum design/implementation and adult training designed Spanish curriculum which resulted in an invitation to set up a similar program at another university

created a comprehensive training manual for the counselor of the battered woman produced a substance abuse prevention program for women with consideration for the Hispanic woman

devised a ten-week personal growth group for battered women of faith established guidelines for developmental counseling of victims of dating or domestic violence

drew up a list of resources for the battered woman

wrote autobiographical piece: Hope for the Hurting Woman

compiled transparencies, jokes, sayings, and inspirational stories for counseling presentations, workshops, training sessions, conferences, group sessions, and retreats drew up an Anger Management curriculum and a Batterer Intervention Program curriculum set up a curriculum on the Family Disease of Addiction set up an 18 month Substance Abuse Treatment Program for Chemically Dependent Criminal Offenders set up a sixteen-week program for women in substance abuse treatment

HONORS

South Carolina State Foreign Language Teachers' Professional Growth Award 1987 Outstanding Spanish Teacher for the State of South Carolina 1988 Certificate of Recognition for Contributions in Teaching from the University of Richmond January 8, 1996 Induction into Kappa Delta Pi, An International Honor Society in Education, College of William & Mary Alpha XI Chapter April 14, 1996 Induction into Chi Sigma Iota, An International Honor Society in Counseling, College of William & Mary Omega Mu Chapter May 7, 1998 Who's Who Among America's Teachers 1992, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002 Employee of the Month at the Newport News City Prison Farm April 2003

PUBLICATIONS/LITERARY AWARDS

Publication of one article, three poems, and nine devotions in the Maine Fellowship of Christian Writers Anthology in 2000, 2001, and 2002 Literary Awards in August 2002 and April 2003 One article in Believe in 2003 Two devotions in the 2004 Fall Issue of The Secret Place Article Why Don't the Chemically Dependent Criminal Offenders Change? in the Virginia Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors VAADAC VIEWS Winter 2005 Contributing Author to The Embrace of a Father, Bethany 2006 Seven devotions in the June-August 2006 issue of The Quiet Hour Seven devotions in the March 2007 issue of The Quiet Hour Publication of the book: Hope for the Journey through Cancer, Revell May 1, 2007 Article in Spirit-Led Writer September-October issue 2007 Two articles on CBN.com May 2008 and one article in 2009 Two articles, Tilling Concrete? And Reflections on VSIAS, in the Virginia Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors VAADAC VIEWS Fall 2008

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors Virginia Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors The Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault The Center for Therapeutic Justice Board Member of the Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies in 2004 Virginia Board of Counseling Member June 30, 2005-June 30, 2009 Board Member of the Virginia Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors 2010-2011 Associate Member of the Advanced Speakers & Writers Association (AWSA) Associate Member of the VA Chapter of the National Speakers Association (NSA) The July issue of CIR's Magazine "The Gabriel" was published. The focus was Conflict. This may be found online:

http://christians-in-recovery.org/system/files/Gabriel Summer2010 2.pdf

CIR's web site was moved to a VPS (virtual private server). This will provide the increased bandwidth and features we need. The cost per year will increase accordingly. It was felt by our IT director that this move is needed prior to taking the new site live. Therefor we have an added two month delay for the new web site.

Two computers and the server were completely reloaded. Information on the building of the new server is here (quick 8 page presentation): http://www.lueckdatasystems.com/pub/presentations/iccm2010tfm.pdf

The Chat rooms were upgraded as follows:

New chat client features were implemented

- Guest Auto Log-in feature
- Java Chat Preview Pane
- Configure non-transparent toolbar buttons
- Mobile menu added to provide users with mobile access information
- Roam menu removed
- Room creation icon added to Room List
- User search icon added to Room List
- Voice Chat/AV menu moved under Action menu
- Admin Console and Moderator Console icons added to Action menu

- Parameter added to enable Block All Private Messages by default New mobile chat client features:

- White Label iPhone App add your own brand to our iPhone App
- Use iPhone app to connect to your chat rooms
- Mobile device user interface (WAP) supports emoticons
- Mobile device user interface (WAP) supports branding
- Mobile device user interface (WAP) supports HTTP authentication
- Mobile device user interface (WAP) supports SSL encryption
- iPhone app supports HTTP authentication
- Configure access controls for WAP user interface
- Configure access controls for iPhone app

The email system was updated to a new MySQL based platform.

Ads have been placed in the Blog to notify users of resources available to them and to generate more income for CIR.

We have been working hard:

- ** Transferring the entire new site to a Virtual Private Server,
- ** Upgrading to Apache 2.0+
- ** Updating to PHP 5.2.1
- ** Upgrading to MySQL 5.0.x+

- ** Updating from Drupal 5 to Drupal 6 and eventually to Drupal 7
- ** Upgrading CiviCRM from v. 3.0 to 3.1 to 3.2

Kathy Fish has been working on grants for CIR. This has required countless hours. She also is going to followup on lapsed donors.

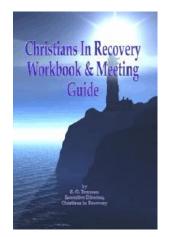
November

The Board of Directors met on November 2nd. CIR's IT Director, Michael Lueck made a full report on the progress of the web site and technical updates.

The proposed budget for 2011 was presented, discussed and approved by unanimous vote.

The blog software was updated.

David Dickens and Clara Thore have been instrumental in the publication of the "Christians in Recovery Workbook and Meeting Guide" book. This was written by S. O. Brennan, the Executive Director of CIR. This has previously been published as software. It is now available in book form on the web site: http://christians-in-recovery.org/Workbook



It is also being carried by Amazon.com and ChristianBook.com http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?event=AFF&p=1015079&item_no=758526 http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=1453758526/christiansinreco

We are also working on a 12 Step Bible Study Book that should become available in coming months. This also was previously published as software. More books will be in the offering next year. Hopefully, these will help raise more funds for CIR. S. O. Brennan is licensing the books to CIR so all proceeds go directly to the ministry. On Sunday October 3rd Rich Dixon lead a workshop entitled "Excuses." This was very well attended and as always, Rich did a splendid job.

In October CIR's Magazine "The Gabriel" was published. The focus was Being a Christian in Today's World. It may be found online: http://christians-in-recovery.org/system/files/2010_Fall_Gabriel_0.pdf

On November 18th the annual mailing for solicitation of contributions was made to all people who either paid dues, made a donation or made a purchase from CIR over the past two years.

December

On Sunday December 5th the "Rebuilding Relationships in Recovery" workshop was given by Michael Clark (chaplain, counselor and speaker). On Sunday December 12th Yvonne Oretega (teacher, counselor and speaker) lead a workshop "Surviving the Holidays with a Dysfunctional Family." Both workshops were enthusiastically received and we look forward to more educational workshops by these talented individuals.

Much work goes on behind the scenes that our members never see or hear about. In addition to our over 50 volunteers, CIR has 3 contract workers and several who work in an advisory capacity.

Financial Report for 2010

Income is down substantially from last year. The ongoing recession has really taken its toll on CIR. The following is from a Forbes article published July 8_{th} , 2010:

"How The Recession Has Changed America's Spending"

A new study by Pew Research entitled "How the Great Recession Has Changed Life in America" does a great job of showing just how severe and widespread the damage has been. It also does something of great interest to me by measuring lifestyle changes we have made in response to the recession. My view is that some of these behavioral modifications began prior to the recession for reasons that are based as much in new cultural and social norms as they are on economic imperatives--and that these will be long-term norms.

The biggest news out of the Pew study was that "more than half of the adults in U.S. labor force (55%) have experienced some work-related hardship--be it a spell of unemployment, a cut in pay, a reduction in hours or an involuntary move to part-time work. In addition, the bursting of the pre-recession housing and stock market bubbles has shrunk the wealth of the average American household by an estimated 20%, the deepest such decline in the post-World War II era, according to government data."

Other data points about economic optimism were similar to what we have found in our Zogby Interactive polls. Americans see the recession lingering, and many are doubtful their children will be better off than they have been. ...

Pew also states: "Americans have changed their lifestyles in many different ways to make ends meet during this recession."

To be sure, the recession has forced increased frugality. By 2008, when I published The Way

We'll Be, the data showed "the percentage of people in this country who earn less than they once did has almost doubled--from approximately one in seven of all adults in 1990 to more than one in four" by 2008 and has since more than doubled, up to 35% today. Indeed, many Americans are in their second or third generations of jobs that earn less than the one they had before.

Among these downwardly mobile, millions have come to the realization that they will never return to where they were before.

By John Zogby , president and CEO of Zogby International and the author of The Way We'll Be: The Zogby Report on the Transformation of the American Dream .

Our sales of software and books have plummeted. Membership is down as are donations. When people either have lost their jobs or are in grave fear of losing them, they have to take drastic measure to reduce their expenditures. CIR has cut all expenses so we are operating at a bare bones level. All staff and contract workers are receiving half pay.

The CIR Network

Three separate and comprehensive web sites are maintained by CIR:

http://christians-in-recovery.org http://RecoveryBooks.com http://Self-helpSoftware.com

These sites now contain over 14 Gigabytes of information and 1,800 files filled with information and resources for Christians, recovery professionals, recovering people and their families. The amount of information and resources available grew from 15 MB in 1998 to over 14,000MB today! Each year hundreds of pages of quality content are added.

The web sites maintained by CIR had a quarter of a million Unique Visitors in 2010. Over 1,000 formal online meetings were held at CIR this year (This does not count informal chats). It is obvious that CIR is a much needed and much used ministry! People from all over the world were ministered to. CIR is truly global in its reach!

In the past year Christians in Recovery® provided information, referral and resources for anyone who was in recovery or who desired to recover from abuse, family dysfunction, depression, anxiety, grief, stress, etc. and/or addictions to alcohol, drugs, food, gambling, pornography, etc.

On average, over 50 requests per day for recovery information, referrals and resources were received via telephone, the Internet, fax, e-mail and the US Postal Service. These requests were filled immediately and at no charge. It is estimated in the past year CIR has assisted well over 250,000 people.

We were available online to help people who needed assistance from 8:00AM until 11:00PM Eastern Time every day, 7 days a week <u>with no down time</u>. CIR continues to serve those who fall through the cracks of traditional recovery groups and organizations. This includes those who:

- Want to have Jesus Christ and their faith as an integral part of their recovery.
- Are too afraid or ashamed to go to a face-to-face meeting.
- Fear revealing their identity because of possible professional or social consequences.
- Have irregular schedules but need regular support.
- Are unable to access recovery resources because of poor health, lack of transportation, remote location, disability, etc.

- Live in remote areas or countries where Christianity or recovery resources simply are not available.
- Serve in the armed forces.

CIR administers and maintains the following for those who visit our Online Recovery Community:

(Items marked ** are available free of charge to the general public by the ministry).

Message Boards (also called Forums or BBS) Chat Rooms

- ** Thousands of Pages of online information and resources
- ** Database of recovery ministries, organizations, groups and meetings
- ** RecoveryBooks.com, an online bookstore offers the best of ChristianBook.com,Hazelden and Amazon.com.
- ** Daily Article
- ** Self-helpSoftware.com which offers the only Bible based recovery software available. This remains a distribution point for our own CIR Recovery and Bible related software,which continues to be written and revised
- ** Monthly CIR News with recovery news, helpful tips, what is new at CIR and more. LiveHelp in the Chat Rooms Ongoing Workshops
- ** Daily Blog with RSS Feed
 Online Live Advisor Support
 Member's Photo Gallery
 Topic of the Week Discussion
 Member's Online Journals and Journaling Tips
- ** RSS Feeds for Recovery News Daily Recovery Meetings with follow ups in the Message Boards Member's Library Instant Messaging (through the Message Boards System) Tests & Worksheets to Aid in Recovery
- ** Daily Recovery Thought, Scripture & Prayer
- ** Distribution of free ESV New Testaments to those in need

All of the above are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

This is made possible by the dues and donations of our members and supporters! Without your financial support and volunteer efforts, CIR could not exist. Christians in Recovery®, Inc. continues to work in conjunction with other nonprofit Recovery and Christian groups and organizations on a daily basis to assist people who are in recovery or seeking to recover. We also help recovery professionals, caregivers, pastors etc.

Looking forward to the year 2011

The entire website is being rebuilt with the newest technology available. Members and guests will see many new features and tools to help them with their recovery, while at the same time the site will become much easier to use and navigate. We hope to make it public in the Spring of 2011.

The ministry needs more members to join the Barnabas Team, Foundations Team and Leadership Society to fund the ministry. Members of the Barnabas and Foundations Teams provide scholarships to CIR for those who are experiencing hardship and help meet the needs of the ministry. Members of the Leadership Society provide seed money to build and maintain the infrastructure that enables CIR to operate at the highest level. Your support of CIR saves lives, changes lives and impacts lives. You can upgrade your membership online here: http://christians-in-recovery.org/Join

CIR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. More CIR members need to use both iGive.com for their online shopping and GoodSearch.com for their Internet searches. Both generate donations for CIR. These can be powerful generators of donation income. Go to <u>http://iGive.com</u>, sign up and tell them you want to support Christians in Recovery. The importance of members using these resources cannot be stressed enough. Every member needs to use these services and must encourage their friends to use them too. CIR cannot afford to neglect these important revenue sources.

It is clear that Christians in Recovery® is filling a desperate need in the recovery community. This has become evident by the letters and emails of thanks we receive from those we have served, the results of our surveys, testimonies and the support of membership and contributions received in 2010.

Just as recovering Christians have great potential, Christians in Recovery has great potential.

There are many directions in which CIR could move. The Board of Directors remains committed to its Statement of Purpose and its Vision (see above). With this in mind, CIR plans to expand on and improve all activities and services it currently provides. Technology and the Internet environment are rapidly and dramatically changing. CIR pledges to keep up with these changes and to use them to the benefit of the recovery community. Christians in Recovery® is a very exciting and vibrant ministry that serves people all over the world. It is only though the cooperation and support of our many members and friends that CIR can continue with this most important mission. Your investment in CIR matters. Together we make a difference!

What You Can Do in 2011

Link your web site to Christians in Recovery http://christians-in-recovery.org/AboutCIR LinkToUs

Invite a friend or loved one to CIR and give them a free trial <u>http://christians-in-recovery.org/phpliterecommend/forminc.php</u>

Volunteer for CIR. You can see the volunteer opportunities here: <u>http://christians-in-recovery.org/Members_Volunteer</u>

Take PSA CDs to your local radio station

Local Christian Radio Stations are required to air public service announcements (PSAs). CIR has CDs with the PSAs available to any member for free. You are encouraged to take them to your local radio station and ask them to play it on the air. Let them know how CIR has changed your life. You can listen to the radio PSAs online here: <u>http://christians-in-recovery.org/AboutCIR_Audio_PSAs</u> You can order them online here: <u>http://christians-in-recovery.org/Products_PSA-CD</u>

All Supporting Members of CIR are invited to email their questions and comments: <u>http://christians-in-recovery.org/Contact</u>

Respectfully Submitted,

S. O. Brennan (Aka Obie) Executive Director