

SPOTLIGHT: PATHWAY FROM BOYS TO MEN HELPS HALT PATTERN OF ABUSE GROUP PROVIDES LIFELINE

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THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

James Randolph of Fontana runs the Pathway From Boys to Men, an organization that provides mentoring, job-search assistance and sober living for men who abuse drugs and alcohol and for those out of prison.

Growing up in Waco, Texas, Randolph moved to California in 1974, weaving in and out of jobs until he found permanence working for San Bernardino County in 1978 as a clerk.

After a promotion to supervisor of public service at the San Bernardino County assessor's office, he said, he felt a void.

"My thing is helping people more so than being a supervisor, so I still had a dream of being able to help people," Randolph said. "My passion wasn't really there but I still had to take care of my family, put food on the table and pay the house note."

To fill the void, Randolph, 54, started the Pathway From Boys to Men program in the fall of 2005 and, in 2006, opened the first sober-living home as part of the organization in San Ber-



James Randolph



Sonny Darrell Williams

nardino.

At the Pathway home, as many as six young men get a chance to take back their lives by living in a sober environment with a support system to get jobs or schooling.

Randolph, who has remained sober from alcohol for nearly 20 years, said, "If we want to stay where we are, we have to help men who want to be sober."

"When they're talking to me about the challenges and they're drinking or smoking, then I tell my story. ...I've done some of the same things that they've done. ...I'm not any better than them. And it's just like a second chance," said Randolph. "And that's what I'm trying to do now, give them a

second chance, a third chance and a fourth chance."

Five men live at the three-bedroom house.

Sonny Darrell Williams, of Los Angeles, who has lived at the Pathway house for two months, said it's a place for people to retake control of their lives and start over.

"It's a really positive place to be," Williams said.

Williams, 26, said he has gone through drug rehab and receives a Social Security check that enables him to live in the home. He said he plans to enroll in the nursing program at San Bernardino Valley College.

"I still get that check, but I don't want to get that check; I want to have a career," Williams said.

At the home, Randolph said, residents are required to go to at least three Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, church or other self-help meetings per week and are required to look for jobs. The residents also have a curfew and chores for upkeep of the home.

"We stand for a clean envi-

ronment where you can stay sober and achieve whatever it is you are trying to achieve," Randolph said.

Randolph said his goal is to have more homes and provide help for women who abuse drugs and alcohol and families displaced by substance abuse.

"We got a lot of families here that need housing. But I'm starting with one...one at a time," said Randolph. "One step at a time, and we just try to do the right thing and help others."

A barbecue and yard sale fundraiser is planned for Pathway From Boys to Men from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Save the Babies home at 2316 Valencia Ave. in San Bernardino. Save the Babies, which helps pregnant and postpartum mothers get their lives together, is run by Miracles in Recovery, a San Bernardino nonprofit that serves as fiscal sponsor for Pathway From Boys to Men.

For information about Pathway From Boys to Men, call 909-884-6151 or 909-838-5623 or visit www.pathwayfromboystomen.com