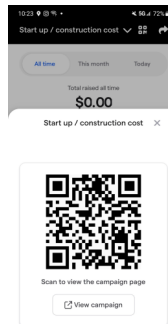


How Can I Support The Branches?

Donations

The Branches is a ministry and relies primarily on donations from individuals, churches, businesses and various organizations. If God is leading you to donate financially, you can give through a link on our web site, or Facebook page, or send a check to:

The Branches
PO Box 51
Mora, MN 55051



Volunteering & Prayer

Please add this ministry to your prayers list and consider volunteering. There are many volunteer opportunities. Contact the Executive Director for volunteer opportunities.

Spread The Word

Consider attending one of our events at which the mission and progress of this ministry will be shared.

Hire Our Men / Advocate

Consider hiring one or more of the men who graduate the program with a good track record. You can be a part of helping others gain a new lease on life.



The Branches

We provide faith-based rehabilitation and support to individuals struggling with addiction and life controlling issues

A 501C3 involving many churches and community partners

Physical Address

114 Maple Ave. Mora, MN 55051

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 51 Mora, MN 55051

715-661-3254 (Exec Dir) (text is best)

Executive Director

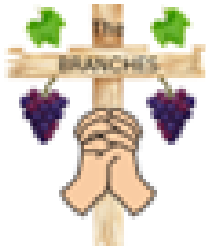
Mike Thompson

Board Member

Ryan Reller

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 11:28-30



What is The Branches?

The Branches is a rehabilitation ministry that helps men overcome life controlling issues in a residential setting.

The Branches is an answer to prayer. For many years people have been praying that God would raise up a ministry to assist men with their addiction and homelessness issues in a Christ centered environment.

On March 21st, 2024, a Lead Team gathered to discuss forming a board and starting this ministry. Shortly after a board was formed, and countless hours were donated in the effort to incorporate, write programming, organize teams, and purchase a property.

This ministry is possible because of the generous donation of many hours of volunteer work. Individuals, businesses, organizations, and church donations provide our funding. Without a collaborative effort none of this is possible.

On October 14th, 2025 we closed on a property. Our goal is to open the doors to receive men into the program in late 2025 or early 2026.



Our Partners

Local Churches: Prayer Financial Support & Volunteers

Non-Profit Organizations

Businesses: Job skills training

Clinics/Hospitals: Resources and referrals for homelessness, addiction support, and physical and mental wellbeing

Other resources and referral sources include:

Colleges/Trade Schools

Local Government Agencies

DOC

County Jail

County Health and Human Services

County Health Department

Tribal Entities

Area Law Enforcement

Vocational Rehabilitation services in the area

Addiction and Homelessness Statistics

What is the need

“Drug poisoning deaths are the leading cause of injury death in the United States; they are currently at their highest ever recorded level and, every year since 2011, have outnumbered deaths by firearms, motor vehicle crashes, suicide, and homicide.” (US Dept of Justice – DEA)

“The opioid threat has reached epidemic levels and currently shows no signs of abating, affecting large portions of the United States.” (US Dept of Justice – DEA)

Drug related **death statistics** for Minnesota reveal that **73%** involve **opioids** (including **fentanyl**), and **38%** involve **psychostimulants**, (including **methamphetamine**).

From 2019 to 2024, Kanabec County, with a population of 16,476, had **179 drug arrests**.

In Kanabec County, over the past year, there were **52 alcohol related auto crashes or DWIs** issued.

There are multiple organizations that provide safe housing for homeless women and children in Kanabec County and the surrounding area. The Branches is a new 501c3 residential recovery program that will provide transitional housing for up to 6 men from and surrounding areas who struggle with addiction and/or past incarceration. They will provide basic needs such as food, shelter, heat, clothes, and transportation. They will provide faith-based and evidence-based addiction rehabilitation, life skills, vocational rehabilitation, professional development, personal and family wellness, and support groups. This program will be a benefit to help homeless men get into schooling they may need for professional and personal development which would also break the generational trend of no higher education in their families.

With these faith-based and evidence-based programs and support that The Branches will provide, there will be less drug addiction related homelessness, more education, increase in taxes paid, and less tax dollars paid out to justice systems to house offenders or repeat offenders.

Program Phases

Phase One (3 Months)

Phase one is an intense, focused program designed to assist participants in conquering the mindset and patterns related to their addiction. In this phase residents do not work outside The Branches. They spend time in class room instruction and participating with other residents in workshop activities.

Phase Two (3 Months)

Upon graduating from phase one, participants will move into phase two, which is designed to assist them with vocational skills and personal development. Resident continue to participate in morning classroom activities, but begin to search for employment in the afternoons or weekends.

Phase 3 (6 months)

Phase 3 is a residential ministry designed to help participants transition from recovery program graduation to independent living. Phase 3 ministry also assists individuals who desire a sober and safe environment while facing short term housing challenges.

Program Dynamics and Scope

Christ Centered Dynamic

This is a Christ-centered program. In **Christ-centered** programs, the desire is that Christ receives the glory as He provides the spiritual resources to program participants.

The first problem all people have is slavery to sin. The bible says; *all have sinned and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23)* Jesus said; ³⁴*Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. "*

Addiction is no worse than other sins. But it can be more life altering than many other sins. The answer to sin-slavery is found in Jesus Christ, who has the power and resources to set us free. ³⁶*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:34-36)*

Many who suffer long-term addiction issues are weighed down with the burden of guilt and shame. The answer to guilt and shame is forgiveness.

The Apostle Paul wrote: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)*

God offers forgiveness and a brand-new start to the new life offered by Christ. We can start over because of Jesus! The choice residents must make is whether they will walk in the new life offered by Christ, or walk in a way that leads to slavery to sin, and the short-term and eternal consequences.

Program Scope

There are many factors that lead to a person's success in overcoming homelessness and addiction. Our program is designed to affect the whole person.

Academic Mentoring

Receiving a GED drastically increases vocational opportunities. Investing in ongoing education leads to increased motivation, confidence and opportunities.

Addiction Counseling and Support

For those suffering long-term addiction, the answer to a new life of freedom involves a community comprised of counselors and fellow overcomers who can reinforce new, healthy patterns of sober living.

Basic Life and Financial Skills

With life lived in survival mode, many participants have not invested in life strategies that will help them meet their life goals. For example; shopping and budgeting wisely can save individuals hundreds of hard-earned dollars each month.

Mental and Medical Health

Some addicts have used substances to medicate unresolved mental health issues. Long-term substance abuse and homelessness can lead to medical problems. Our goal is to partner with counselors and medical providers to increase the mental and medical health of program participants.

Spiritual Mentoring

Spiritual mentors are important in people's walk with God. Spiritual mentors help us live our lives through the prism of a Christian worldview. The world tells us to do what is right for us. But the Scriptures call us to live our lives to the glory of Jesus Christ. By doing so, Jesus promised us a life of freedom and joy. We experience increased joy as we find our greatest delight in the Lord.

- Visitation is only allowed on Saturday on or off premises and is based on the progress of the resident. Visitations must have House Parent or Director's approval.
- Visitors are not allowed in bedrooms. Visitors may only be present in the primary lounge area or meeting room. All visitors will be approved by the House Parent.

Acceptance into The Branches Residency

Those accepted into The Branches will be required to meet the following criteria:

Must be interviewed by The Branches leaders

Must be a male (biological and gender)

Must be at least 18 years old

Must acknowledge this is a Christian-based program

Must read and acknowledge the necessary commitments of the program

Must comply with all the requirements of the program

Must complete and sign the application form, including the medical portion

Must complete a background check

House Rules

Participants must follow the daily schedule as laid out and adhere to the following policies.

Zero tolerance policies:

- No smoking inside the house
- No chewing tobacco inside the house
- No alcohol consumption at any time
- No non-prescribed substances of any kind. Prescription medications will be distributed by The Branches personnel.
- All mail will be checked by The Branches personnel.
- Any participant who is under the influence of alcohol and / or drugs will be dismissed from The Branches. (random breathalyzers and drug tests will be issued)
- No computer use during the week unless authorized by the House Parent.
- No TV during day hours M-F unless authorized by the House Parent
- Phase 1 participants are not allowed to leave the premises without specific House Parent approval.
- Participants must attend church and group meetings weekly.
- All participants must practice good hygiene, such as a daily shower and brushing teeth.
- Loud noise or loud talk that is disruptive will be avoided.
- Participants will wash their clothing and bed linens weekly.
- All participants will do their assigned clean up duties daily.
- Non-residents are not allowed in the resident quarters without approval of the House Parent.
- Participants must sign out when leaving the center on weekends.
- Participants will not borrow money from other residents.
- Any movies watched during the allowed times will be approved by the House Parent.
- No cell phone use Monday – Friday during The Branches activities

Vocational / Career Support

People are designed by God to be productive. The benefit of finding a suitable career is that we become producers rather than individuals who drain community resources. Productive lives increase our sense of confidence, purpose and meaning. And an increase in income helps us meet obligations and invest in things we enjoy. Our business partners help men learn necessary skills and then transition into good jobs upon graduation.

Living in The House

The Branches center's daily schedule is a healthy blend of prayer & devotions, chores, work, Bible classes, volunteer work, and making outside appointments. In phase one, participants will spend most of their time supervised. In phase two, residents will gain privileges and be encouraged to secure and maintain outside employment.

Personal Commitments

The work of finding freedom from addiction depends on following through with one's commitments. If staff and volunteers are working harder than the participants, there will be no success. The Branches sets the stage for participants to take responsibility for their lives. Here are commitments each resident must follow to continue in the program.

Commitment to Personal and Spiritual Growth

Cultivating our new identity in Christ is vital to our spiritual well-being. Like any area of our life, intentionality brings success and growth.

Our growth as a person requires learning and consistently applying personal practices that lead to success and mutual respect.

Personal Attitude Commitment

Life can be frustrating, and this program will at times feel restrictive. However, holding to a positive attitude and counting our blessings (rather than focusing on what we don't have) will open doors of opportunity. No one wants to invest in someone with a bad attitude. Participants will be coached to stop and think before reacting. With practice, a new positive attitude becomes our new normal, and leads to a more joyful life.

Academic Commitment

Academic achievement and lifelong learning exercises our brains and leads to advancement in many areas of life. The Branches will seek partnerships with institutions that assist participants in growing academically and achieving desired degrees or expertise.

Physical and Mental Fitness Commitment

Participants must commit themselves to physical and mental well-being. Many problems result from long-term addiction, including problems with physical and mental health. Often, physical and mental health problems are masked, temporarily, with substances, on which addicts increasingly rely.

Addressing underlying mental and physical health issues will increase the likelihood of freedom from addictions and homelessness. Our aim is to partner with agencies that will address the mental and physical health of participants.

Reconciliation Commitment

As a part of every reputable recovery program, reconciliation is a necessary part of our program. Reconciling with those who we have hurt, or who have hurt us, is a vital step in securing a new life. Haunted by the past, many people turn to addictions to medicate the pain of broken relationships. The scripture calls us to be reconciled with all people, just as God reconciled us to himself in Christ.

Vocational Commitment

Participants will be able to experience long-term success only if there is a commitment to vocational productivity.

Practical Requirements

Transition Back into The Community

Each participant must develop a plan for independent living (after phase one and phase two) to transition back into the community. Such a plan should address the following issues:

Living arrangements, housing, transportation, phone access, insurance, groceries, etc.

Reconciliation of past relationships and building new, healthy relationships that will encourage your new, healthy lifestyle.

Social and recreational activities in order to bring balance to life and avoid the destructiveness of boredom.

Recognition of personal ministry and personal calling to serve others in love as a way of life.

Commitment to No Tolerance

The Branches is run under a 100% no tolerance of alcohol and non-prescribed drugs. Violations result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Vocational Commitment

The first 60 days of the program is a time of acclimating to the schedule of The Branches. There will be no working outside of the daily work schedule of The Branches. After 60 day participants are encouraged to begin to look at vocational opportunities. Vocational mentorship will be available from a pool of volunteers.

In Phase Two, participants will begin working outside the program as employment is available. This will be allowed under the supervision of The Branches' leadership.

Financial Commitment

The cost for each participants is 400. per month. Participants should be prepared to contribute to the cost of their program when they secure employment as part of this program. Money earned will be used to pay debts and save for living needs participants will have upon graduation. Participants will have limited access to funds during Phase One and Phase Two.