

The Freedom Flyer

Newfound Freedom's Monthly Newsletter



HEY, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

The NFF Alumni Check-in

Rob at The Garden Center at Kleen Kut LCC,

Robert Kobash: *Taking it One Lawn at a Time*

Robert Kobash, better known in the NFF community as Pops, has been very busy since he officially became a Newfound Freedom alumnus in 2018. Over the last 3 years, Rob has acted as the NFF Men's General Manager while also growing his own company, The Garden Center at Kleen Kut LLC, into a successful business. He always wanted a garden center, and now not only does he have one, but he is currently expanding, taking over a second store front. Rob is seeing his dreams come true, but he will tell you it isn't something that just happened. He did the necessary work, focused on recovery first, and looked to those around him for guidance. And he still works his 12-step program daily and "continue[s] to apply the principles to all areas of [his] life".

When Rob came to Newfound Freedom in 2014, he saw evidence of successful recovery in the ever-present active alumni that NFF is blessed with.

"I [got to see those] who came before me. It was the opportunity to meet these guys, and to see that they put some days together and their life got better, and they have their own businesses, and they employ people from NFF. [And I thought,] 'If they can do it, I can do it.'"

And he did. In 2018, Rob moved out of the sober house and stepped into the role of General Manager, bringing with him his own unique set of experiences. Having a background

in gardening and landscaping, Rob saw an opportunity to do something he loved while at the same time giving back to Newfound Freedom and the community at large. Thus was born Kleen Kut Lawn Service, a venture with many objectives.

"I wanted to groom our properties, to make our properties nicer than everyone else in the neighborhood, so that we could try to start breaking these barriers down. [To show people that] we do recover, we do become pillars of society, we do help others."

As someone in recovery who came through the houses, Rob understands how they are more often perceived by others as troublesome and unfavorable.

"WE DO RECOVER.
WE DO BECOME PILLARS
OF SOCIETY. WE DO HELP
OTHERS."

"We get a bad rap along the way," Rob said. "They get a bad outlook on us." Kleen Kut is a way to allow the neighbors to see that NFF is different, and to give the guys purpose. We started off taking care of all NFF properties and helping our neighbors near each one of our recovery houses, doing lawn care for free, just trying to build better relationships with our neighbors, while at the same time, teaching guys a trade- teaching them landscaping."

Rob and Scott funded the project. All of the workers were residents who volunteered. The neighbors were very grateful for the free service, and NFF began to build valuable and relationships

"It was a win-win for Newfound Freedom, but it was more of a win for the residents. I wanted to show these guys how we can break the stigma [and change] how people look at us. The only people who can break the stigma of alcoholism and addiction, is [us]. [It starts with]

how our residents perceive themselves and [that affects] how the community perceives us.”

In May of 2020, Rob opened his Garden Center and continued to provide opportunities to NFF residents and other alumni.

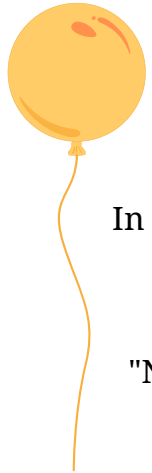
“[The staff] is all recovering alcoholics and addicts. I just think it’s an opportunity for me to give back and it gives everybody a good shot.” The job helps the guys to become more self-sufficient and they are able to feel like they are part of something. “Part of the recovery process is to be free, to be whoever you want, do whatever you want. I try to teach them that they can’t let their past define their future. Alcoholics and addicts, when they get clean and sober, are some of the most intelligent, hard-working people that I know.”

Rob gets emotional when he talks about it, he said. His passion for the process shines through when he describes what it’s all about.

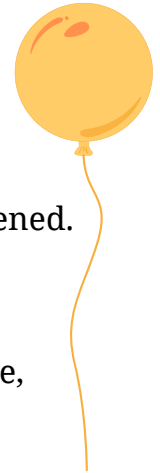


The Garden Center, located at 5721 Bristol-Emilie Rd, is a one-stop-shop for plants, produce, and other household staples.

"This isn't about Kleet Kut or NFF in the end. It's about giving these guys a purpose. And watching the people's faces when you cut their lawn for free. It's not about the money. People always think it's about the money. But we have an opportunity to really change things. One day at a time. One lawn at a time." ♦



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Newfound Freedom Turned 18!

In April 2003 the doors of the very first recovery house, 712 Old Orchard, opened. Now, NFF is old enough to vote! Though it was the brainchild of Scott F, he is quick to share the credit for success:

"Newfound Freedom has been created by every single person that lived here, worked here, and volunteered here," he said. "It has been an honor to serve what I know is my life's work for these past 18 years."

Happy Birthday, NFF!!!

Join us every week for the **Newfound Freedom Recovery Meeting**

Tri-Fellowship

Hybrid-Style Meeting

A live meeting at one house and a live Zoom for the rest.

Open to all NFF

Monday nights ~ 7pm-8pm

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