

## TAXPAYER SAVINGS



*“Treatment is an expensive service. You can spend a lot of money on treatment, but if you don’t have supportive housing and a supportive group of people around you, a lot of times people just don’t make it. [Then] there are more costs that show up in other places: more people who are cycling in and out of jails, or emergency departments, or child welfare, and unemployment. That’s where Serenity Grove really makes a difference in terms of offsetting those costs.”*

-Diane Pfaff, Executive Director, Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board

Substance use disorders (SUD) impose a significant financial burden on taxpayers. Individuals with untreated or under-treated SUD frequently rely on emergency departments for healthcare, leading to higher Medicaid and Medicare expenditures. Public resources can be strained further through increased law enforcement, court, and incarceration costs. SUD also leads to reduced workforce participation and increased unemployment, which lowers tax revenues.

# \$1.2-\$1.7M

in healthcare costs, productivity losses, and criminal justice costs have been avoided through Serenity Grove’s work with women in recovery.

# \$500K

in increased Medicaid-funded healthcare costs associated with Hepatitis C have been prevented. Serenity Grove links women to care and provides transportation to appointments.

# SERENITY GROVE SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

2025



Serenity Grove is a Level 2 transitional recovery house for women in Athens, Ohio. At Serenity Grove, women develop the skills to transition back to living an independent, sober, meaningful life. Serenity Grove is the only sober living environment for women in the area.

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a method of estimating the benefits of a program and comparing the value of the benefits to the amount it costs to produce them. The SROI framework includes multiple types of benefits, including improved wellbeing, environmental remediation, and others not traditionally assigned market values. All program impacts are translated into representative monetary values through the use of fiscal proxies (often framed as costs avoided or benefits achieved). By translating the value of a program's impacts into a common unit of analysis (dollars), SROI provides a comprehensive value of the outcomes that are most meaningful to organizations and those they serve.

*This SROI was carried out by analysts from Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service with funding from the Athens County Foundation's John Glazer Impact Fund. The specific calculations behind the SROI model can be found in the Serenity Grove Social Return on Investment Analysis: Technical Appendix available through Serenity Grove or at <https://bit.ly/SerenityGrove>*



**\$1**



Every \$1 invested in Serenity Grove from 2017 onward generated an estimated

**\$5**



worth of social value for the residents of Serenity Grove, their children, and taxpayers.

---

Since 2017, Serenity Grove has created an estimated

**\$5.2m - \$5.9m**

worth of social value, including: overdose prevention; reductions in the healthcare costs, criminal justice costs, and productivity losses associated with Substance Use Disorder (SUD); benefits to children of Serenity Grove residents; increased wellbeing of women recovering from SUD.