

# Start Healing Now

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## A Year of Growth, Impact & Community

As 2025 comes to a close, we're reflecting with sincere gratitude on a year filled with powerful partnerships, school outreach, community engagement, and expanded overdose-prevention efforts across Wisconsin. Thank you for being part of our mission to support individuals and families impacted by addiction.

**Expanding Support for Schools & Youth:** This year, Start Healing Now expanded our work with schools and youth. The Oshkosh Area School District installed Overdose Aid Kits (O.A.K.s) in every middle and high school, with staff trained district-wide in overdose response. In addition, we supported a county-wide initiative to place O.A.K.s in all public schools in Chippewa County — ensuring that rural and urban communities alike gain access to lifesaving tools. Horizon High School, Dane County's only recovery high school, received a new O.A.K. following a successful student-led fundraiser. We also took part in the Marine Credit Union Back to School event, where we shared free NARCAN® and resources with families preparing for a safe school year.

## Building a Presence on College Campuses:

Our outreach extended to college and university campuses as well. At Marquette University's annual Recovery Day Fair, Start Healing Now provided recovery information and student naloxone training. Our team also traveled to Minnesota for Mobilize Recovery's #CampusSurge event at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law, connecting with recovery advocates from across the country.

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**Start Healing Now**

### Contact Us

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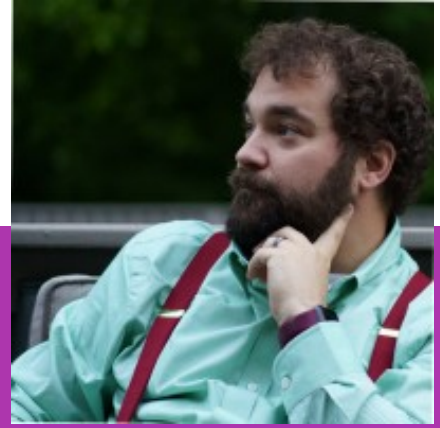
## Overdose Aid Kits in our Schools



# Get to Know the Board

## Tim Kohler - Fundraising Chair

Tim is the Fundraising Chair for Start Healing Now and a substance use professional.



Tim Kohler brings a unique blend of professional expertise, creativity, and lived experience to his work in addressing the opioid overdose crisis. A substance use professional, seasoned event planner, and dedicated recovery advocate, Tim is also celebrating nearly ten years in long-term recovery. His personal journey fuels his passion for service and drives his growing leadership in the nonprofit sector.

As a member of the Clinton Global Initiative's Overdose Response Network (ORN), Tim helped launch Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia—the first state-focused, campaign-style bus tour for recovery. In September 2023, the tour reached nearly 50 Georgia communities, hosting rallies and municipal proclamations that united people in recovery with local resources, community leaders, elected officials, and supporters.

Currently, Tim is studying to become a Certified Addiction Counselor in the state of Georgia via the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association. He is currently working as a Counselor-In-Training at Tangu Recovery and Wellness in Atlanta.

Outside of his advocacy work, Tim is an accomplished musician, songwriter, and music educator, with several solo releases available on all major streaming platforms. He is a strong believer in multiple pathways to recovery and a dedicated champion for harm-reduction strategies. Tim lives in Dallas, Georgia, just outside Atlanta, with his wife, Cat, and their four wonderful children.



### Our History

Start Healing Now began in 2013 when Linda Lenz founded Stop Heroin Now after losing her son Tony to an accidental overdose. Hoping to support other grieving parents, she created a space for connection and healing. In 2015, Jessica Geschke stepped into leadership and, with a dedicated volunteer team, expanded the organization's work by providing treatment resources and sober living support.

As opioid overdoses surged across Wisconsin, SHN shifted its focus in 2020 to prevention efforts, launching the Overdose Aid Kits (O.A.K.) Program in partnership with Serve You Rx. This lifesaving initiative inspired a full rebrand, and in 2022 the organization became Start Healing Now. Today, Start Healing Now supports individuals and families throughout their recovery journey, striving to be a strong and reliable part of the continuum of care.

## A Year of Growth, Impact & Community (cont.)

**Connecting with Communities Across Wisconsin:** Beyond schools and campuses, 2025 was a year of community connection. Our team staffed more than a dozen resource tables at local events, including mental-health resource fairs, community nights out, Overdose Awareness Day events, and recovery-focused gatherings across Madison, Milwaukee, Appleton, Oshkosh, and beyond. These tables allowed us to meet families where they are, offer NARCAN®, explain the contents of the O.A.K., and share compassionate guidance with community members seeking help for themselves or a loved one.

**Strengthening Public Partnerships & Advocacy:** This year also strengthened our relationships with lawmakers and public leaders committed to addressing addiction and overdose in Wisconsin. Members of our team met with State Senator Jesse James in Altoona, where we discussed recovery efforts, legislative progress, and the growing impact of O.A.K.s in his district. Conversations like these reaffirm the importance of multisector collaboration in saving lives and creating safer communities.

**Elevating Wisconsin's Voice on State & National Stages:** Our President was honored to participate in state and national conferences, including the DHS Mental Health & Substance Use Conference in Wisconsin Dells, the ARHE in New Orleans, Mobilize Recovery in New Jersey, and the Rise for Recovery Advocacy Summit in Pennsylvania. These events allowed SHN to both learn from and contribute to broader conversations about harm reduction, treatment access, and recovery-support innovation.



**Fundraising That Fuels Our Mission:** Fundraisers throughout the year, including brat frys, the Terry Fritz golf outing, and Bingo at Brother Town Nation, helped raise essential funding to support O.A.K. installations, family assistance, sober living, and community education. These events not only strengthened Start Healing Now's impact but also brought local supporters together around shared purpose and hope.

**Celebrating Recovery & Honoring Hope:** Throughout the year, we continued to bring people together through recovery-centered events, including the 7th Annual Lights of Hope Recovery Walk, Recovery Nights at both the Brewers and Admirals games, and the Just Listen "Let's Tackle This" event — all powerful gatherings of remembrance, resilience, and community support. These events celebrated connection and shared hope, reinforcing the message that recovery is something to cheer for.

**Expanding Access to Lifesaving Tools:** From classrooms to college campuses to conferences, fundraisers, and community events, 2025 marked another great year of expanding access to Overdose Aid Kits and naloxone training. This growth means more families equipped, more students protected, and more lives saved.

**Thank You!** Your support is helping save lives, strengthen families, and bring hope to communities across Wisconsin. We can't wait to build on this work in 2026—**together.**



November kept us moving—in the best way. Our president engaged with partners through Mobilize Recovery; SHN supported Recovery Day at the Admirals game and joined Verona HS for both the Parent Night with Song for Charlie and their Lunch Resource Fair. We also installed an OAK in memory of Jenna Razner at Zacherl Funeral Home and led a naloxone training at Alarus Health Care.



**START HEALING NOW**  
<https://starthealingnow.org/>

# Happy Holidays

Wishing you peace, hope, love,  
and the strength of recovery  
this holiday season.



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