



KIER UNPLUGGED

Three Steps in Six Years



It takes a special set of eyes accompanied by a compassionate and charitable soul to envision a dilapidated office building with a "Home Sweet

Home" sign hanging on the front door. That was the beginning of a six-year journey that included three First Steps for KIER Construction.

Since 1958, the First Step organization has been a specialized behavioral treatment and housing provider. They boldly pursue space and innovative ideas when it comes to helping people build lives of meaning, purpose and recovery. Since 1986 KIER has been in the business of "enhancing communities and improving the quality of life - one project at a time." The two companies joining forces began as a win-win partnership.

In the winter of 2014 Michael Tolman won the bid for the 20,000 sq ft addition to the existing 1960's office building on 5th East in downtown Salt Lake City. Andrew Smith led the team as the Project Manager, Kevin Barlow (now retired) filled the role of Superintendent and Ben Garrett was our Project Engineer.



Phase I, **First Step House**, is a 3-story, 70-bed residential treatment facility for adult males experiencing homelessness and behavioral issues.

This home is comprised of dorm rooms, single rooms, group counseling spaces and administrative offices. There is also a commercial kitchen with staff

who provide meals for the residents. The project started in January of 2015 and was completed one year later in January of 2016 with savings that were shared with the Owner.



After two years of fund raising the First Step organization selected KIER from a short list of contractors to provide preconstruction and construction services for Phase II of the First Step Project. Construction began for the **5th East Apartments**,

(now known as the **Central City Apartments**) in February of 2019.

This new 7-story, 75-unit facility is the command center for the First Step trio with the entire second floor dedicated to round-the-clock support staff; including counselors, nurses, case workers, maintenance personnel, etc. The targeted clientele are those who are ready to transition from homelessness to independent living.



Superintendent, John Brixey, and Project Manager, Andrew Smith, "bantered" (my observation) their way through 18 months of construction with the

technical and emotional support of PE, Sam Maurer and PA Casie Coggins most likely in that order. Linda Shepherd kept the numbers straight as the Job Cost Accountant.

John did his best to keep the targeted residential population from moving in before the project was completed. One morning he arrived to a burned down port-a-potty due to one cold individual trying to stay warm through the night.

Toward the end of 2019 our happy customer brought us back for round three. The 7-story,

Three Steps in Six Years continued...

40-unit **426 Apartments** (now called **Medina Place**) was led by Project Manager Paul West and Superintendent Carson Kier. Sam, Casie and Linda juggled both projects. Andrew kept everyone in line.

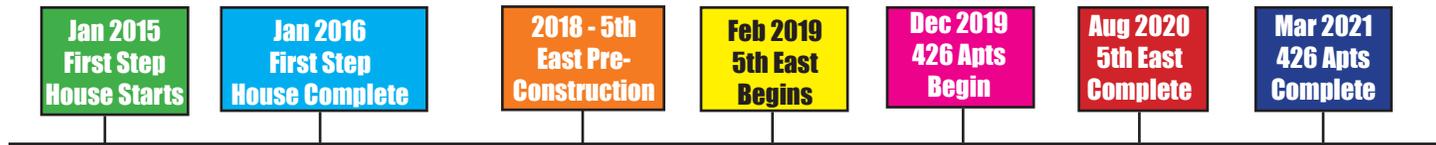
After removing the existing Victorian style home/office building located on the 426 site, the teams played a side-by-side construction symphony...or frenzy depending on the day.



The **426 Apartments** practically kiss the **5th East** facility to the south as well as the existing apartment building located directly west of the site. Carson had his hands full directing materials, cranes, workers, pedestrians, deliveries, etc. His site could be claustrophobic at times.

5th East was delivered to the Owners at the end of August in 2020. In March of 2021 the **426** team packed their gear and checked another project off of their list. All the participants in the First Step trilogy have closed their project manuals and moved on to new adventures.

Where our story ends a new story is starting for a group of individuals who would like to use their tent for camping instead of surviving. These individuals will find most, if not all of the resources they need inside these walls to enable them to graduate into independent living. **GREAT JOB First Step teams!**



Russ Ingram	April 12th
Victor Sanchez	April 13th
Mitch Adamson	April 16th
Brent Openshaw	April 17th
Jason Kier	April 21st
Colleen Wilkinson	April 27th
Jake Bird	April 28th



CENTER STAGE

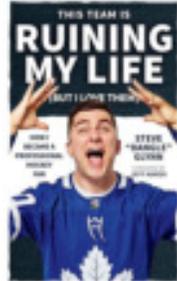


Stunt Double

RYAN BLANCH

Ryan is and will remain a mystery. What I do know is that he hates talking about himself and runs from the camera...unless spirits and dancing unite (I have seen footage). Getting him to say yes to this made my year.

LAST THING YOU READ:



MOTTO YOU LIVE BY:

WHY NOT ?

BUCKET LIST ITEM:



Riding the Tail of the Dragon.
318 Curves in 11 Miles.

WHAT DO YOU DO DURING YOUR WORK COMMUTE?

I ponder every life decision I have made which takes up a lot of my time on I-15 - or I sing and dance. It depends on the day.

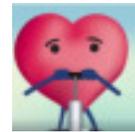
LAST TIME YOU CRIED:



DO YOU BELIEVE IN
second chances?
ABSOLUTELY!
IF YOU CAN LEARN
AND GROW FROM IT -
MOVE FORWARD

Living to work or working to live?
I'm struggling to figure this out right now.

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH WORK STRESS?



Snowboarding, motorcycles, hockey and anything really that will get the blood pumping.

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS YOU CONSIDER FAMILY?

Friends are the family you choose. There are no others.



CALEB PRESTON

I was raised in New Zealand and America, so I have dual citizenship. I was married in November of 2020. I am working towards a Construction Mgmt degree at UVU. I am fluent in English and Tagalog. I love to travel.

COOK OR ORDER IN?



COOK!

FAVORITE BOARD GAME:



FIRST JOB YOU WANTED WHEN YOU GREW UP:

I WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR.



CAMPING OR BEACH:



Beach!

WHO INFLUENCED YOUR CAREER CHOICE?

myself

IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE:

FLORIDA OR HAWAII

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS:

Achieve

When you **achieve** what you've been seeking.