

NEVER BEYOND HOPE

Can alcoholics overcome their addiction? Seattle's Downtown Emergency Services Center doesn't seem to think so. It's spending 11 million dollars on permanent housing for homeless alcoholics.

Seattle taxpayers were fed up with spending \$50,000 per alcoholic, every year, on recovery programs, prison, and emergency room visits. The solution is 1811 Eastlake, a housing complex that accommodates 75 alcoholics. The residents are allowed to drink all they want, and they don't have to be in a recovery program—as long as they're off the streets.

Bill Hobson, the program's executive director, believes most alcoholics can't change. "Once you're an alcoholic, you're always an alcoholic," he says, citing the example of an alcoholic who got drunk 10 minutes after leaving a detox facility he had been in for two months.

Hobson and his group reject the transforming power of Jesus Christ and believe some people are beyond hope and help. Perhaps they've never read Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."