

# Second Chances

Spring Newsletter | Dismas House of Nashville



## JOIN US FOR DISMAS HOUSE WEEK 2020

For 46 years, Dismas House of Nashville has served as a beacon of hope for formally incarcerated men desperately looking for a second chance. To date, we have served more than 1,000 men from our current location on Music Row. However, we could only serve 20 residents a year in our eight bed home despite receiving more than 300 applications annually. We wanted to have a greater impact in our community by helping more men.

In a few weeks, we will be able to serve up to 200 men when the doors of our new campus open at **2424 Charlotte Avenue**. In celebration of this milestone in our organization's history, we are commemorating this moment with a weeklong celebration. We welcome you to join us for **Dismas House Week**, April 7th – 9th.

#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

- Tuesday, April 7 Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting, 10:30 AM 11:30 AM
- Wednesday, April 8 Reunion Clam Boil & Prayer Service, 4 PM 7 PM
- Thursday, April 9 Comcast Cares Day 10 AM 2 PM

For more information, please contact <u>dhughes@dismas.org</u>.





The mission of Dismas House of Nashville is to foster community awareness and understanding of the challenges and obstacles formerly incarcerated men face upon reentry by providing a system for personal transformation and growth as they transition back into society.



## Volunteers, Agency Partners Recognized at Annual Appreciation Dinner

Dismas House of Nashville recognized and honored the exceptional contributions of its volunteers and agency partners at the 3rd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in January at Second Presbyterian Church. The emcee for the event was Michael "Moose" Moore and broadcasting legend, Rudy Kalis, delivered a spirited message of hope.

#### **2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:**

- John Jenkins, Jr. Resident Award Brandon Harper
- Volunteer of the Year FiFi Johnson
- Student Volunteer of the Year Robert Fuller

- Community Partner of the Year Interfaith Dental Service
- Board Member of the Year Paul Connelly
- Grace Morales Commitment Award Kay Kretsch



# **Bombas Donates**

Dismas House of Nashville meets the needs of our residents through the generosity of the community. We are so grateful to HCA Healthcare and Bombas for donating 500 pairs of socks to Dismas!



## Young Professionals MIX MINGLE & MISSION

Young Professionals came out in support of Dismas House of Nashville just days before Halloween for our inaugural Mix Mingle & Mission mixer. Held at W.O. Smith Music School in Nashville, guests arrived in everything from 80's tracksuits to lederhosen, ready to learn more about the life-changing programs at Dismas.

Dismas CEO, Gerald Brown, gave a passionate appeal to attendees, challenging them to lend a hand. Mike Gengler, a long-time Dismas House of Nashville supporter and father of Chris, a former Dismas resident, shared his son's touching journey of redemption which he recalls as the "best eight months of his life."





#### **ROCK THAT UGLY SWEATER**

In the spirit of the season, the Dismas House of Nashville Young Professional Committee hosted its inaugural "Rock That Ugly Sweater" Mixer. Attendees were encouraged to put on their ugliest holiday sweater and come celebrate the season with our Dismas family.

### FATHER JACK HICKEY CIRCLE OF GRACE RECEPTION

Father Jack Hickey founded Dismas House of Nashville in 1974 with a vision to help formerly incarcerated men successfully reintegrate into society. By bridging the gap, Dismas helps returning citizens find supportive services, obtain jobs, and become contributing members of our community.

During this special reception, held at Tech Hill Commons, we recognized those who have so generously committed to an annual gift to help Dismas House of Nashville deliver life-changing programming for residents. This reception provides an excellent opportunity for like-minded individuals with a heart for service to connect and collaborate on ways they can make a difference in the lives of our residents.







#### AT&T BELIEVE TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN FUNDS THE MISSION

We are grateful to AT&T for generously donating \$10,000 to Dismas House of Nashville to help us create safer communities in Tennessee by providing transformative support services to formerly incarcerated men upon reentry. This helps empower them with the tools they need, like housing and counseling services, to become self-sufficient contributing members of society.

# Save the Date!

Every May, Dismas House of Nashville holds its signature event, the Forgiveness Luncheon. The 2019 keynote speaker was 1st Round NFL Quarterback Ryan Leaf, who shared his personal story of redemption after a career ending struggle with substance abuse that led to prison.

The 2020 keynote speaker will be announced soon.

For more information, please contact <u>dhughes@dismas.org</u>



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