

# DISMAS HOUSE OF NASHVILLE

Changing Lives



## OUR RESIDENTS ARE MAKING MAJOR STRIDES

When Edward came to Dismas House, he wasn't sure what to expect. But when he walked through the doors, he knew he had found what he was looking for. "The transition going from incarceration to here has been great. They had stuff planned out for us, you can tell it was a well thought out program. And the best part about it is, they don't necessarily hinder us. They (Dismas) are basically a platform for us to get to the next level," Edward shares.

At Dismas House, Edward found the support he needed to realize his dreams of obtaining a good paying job, working toward a college degree, and improving his financial literacy. Today, he has found employment at American Paper & Twine, where he has already received one promotion and is on track to receive his Associates degree in Business Administration from Nashville State Community College. He graduated from the Dismas House program and moved into transitional housing on campus, where he continues to take major strides toward his dreams.

"The Dismas staff always encourages us to be independent, take care of business, and be on time. I love the program. They have been supportive, helping me do everything that I need. If I need guidance or assistance, they have been supportive in that as well, making sure that I can bridge the gap as easy as possible without having to give up on myself."

## FAST FACTS

Dismas House of Nashville is one of the largest men's reentry facilities in Middle Tennessee. Our distinction from our peers is that the residents receive a holistic array of life-transforming programs and benefits such as:



Minimum  
90-day  
Program



Supports  
Educational  
Goals



Mental  
Health  
Counseling



No Initial  
Work  
Requirement



Life &  
Social Skills



Focus on  
Well-being



Technology  
Skills



Non-Faith  
Based



Addiction  
Support



Case  
Management



Financial  
Literacy



Personalized  
Approach



Commitment  
to Diversity

### Our Mission

*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.*



# JOBS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



American Paper & Twine (AP&T), founded in 1926, is a third-generation family-owned and operated wholesale distributor of janitorial products, packaging materials, safety supplies, food service disposables, and office products. They service a wide array of industries, including healthcare, education, manufacturing, distribution, food service processing, government, restaurant, catering, and general offices.

AP&T's product breadth and best in class customer service differentiates them from competitors and allows them to market themselves as a one-stop-shop to businesses large and small. Headquartered in Nashville, TN, AP&T has additional distribution facilities in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, Little Rock, Atlanta, and Muscle Shoals. They have over 550,000 square feet of stocked warehouse space, a fleet of 95+ trucks, and 350 dedicated employees ready to deliver remarkable at every turn for their customers.

To date, American Paper & Twine has employed 11 Dismas House residents.



## PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Dismas House is so proud of its program partnership with Fifth Third Bank, which allows our residents to learn from their "Empower U Financial Literacy Program." Fifth Third has been a big supporter of Dismas for some time. Their regional president, Dave Briggs, serves on the executive committee of the Dismas board, and Ginny Burnett, the Relationship Manager for Middle Tennessee, is an advisory board member. Before serving on this Dismas board of directors, this was already a passion project for Ginny Burnett, who began teaching finance classes at Dismas in 2015. Fifth Third's Financial Literacy program often incorporates a branch partner to open accounts and provide individualized assistance. We are grateful to have Jacolby Robinson, who is the financial center manager, to enthusiastically serve in the branch partner role.



David Briggs  
REGIONAL PRESIDENT

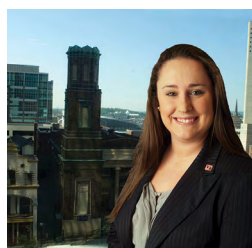
Since June, our residents have opened 14 bank accounts with Fifth Third, and as Ginny has noticed, "with an emphasis on saving." What makes Fifth Third different from other banks is that they do not charge fees to our residents and open accounts for those with convictions, like fraud, that many banks would turn down.

The financial education curriculum includes four courses – Budgeting & Saving, Boosting Credit, Slashing Debt, and Protecting Your Identity. They have begun offering a popular bonus course – First-Time Homeownership. Ginny recently requested and made available a special digital learning platform tailor-made for Dismas House. It includes 35 short, interactive classes on every financial topic you could imagine. In the age of COVID-19, having such an accessible, digital resource for all our residents is beneficial and innovative.

We could not be more pleased with our program partnership with Fifth Third Bank. With Ginny and Jacolby, our residents can gain personal financial skills while benefiting from a very hands-on, individualized approach to banking.



Jacolby Robinson  
FINANCIAL CENTER MANAGER



Ginny Burnett  
RELATIONSHIP MANAGER

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - *Jacqueline Ludwig*

Jacqueline Ludwig first volunteered at Dismas House in December 2018 and returned the following year on occasion. She re-connected with Dismas House this past summer when she and a group of friends would volunteer to cook meals nightly for Community Dinners. When school resumed in the fall, Jacqueline, a teacher at Father Ryan High School, invited students to volunteer at Dismas House. That invitation later grew to include her Crosspoint faith sharing group and Father Ryan faculty. She now volunteers at Dismas House three to five times a month.

Jacqueline is a third-year teacher at Father Ryan High School, teaching a junior level Theology course focusing on Social Justice.

"I enjoy making dinners for the men, but even more than that, I enjoy the conversations I have with them. I admire their courage to continue to strive to be better, and that Dismas House truly helps them in this! It's one of the highlights of my week, and it truly is an honor to spend this time with them!"



*"For as long as I can remember, I've had a passion for social justice, which led me to a passion for prison ministry. My coworkers at Father Ryan introduced me to Dismas House soon after I moved here in July of 2018."*

JACQUELINE LUDWIG

## MEET THE STAFF



**Kay Kretsch**  
CEO



**LoLita Toney**  
VP of DEVELOPMENT



**Phillip Hill**  
VP of OPERATIONS



**Dr. Julie Doochin**  
VP of PROGRAMS



**Kleopatra Gaiter**  
ADMISSIONS MANAGER



**Hillary Dzialowski**  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



**Jordan Collins**  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



**Audra Davis**  
CASE MANAGER



**Brad Clark**  
CASE MANAGER



**Jason Willet**  
FACILITIES MANAGER



**Sammy Garriott**  
SECURITY SPECIALIST



# Dismas Year in Review



## CAREER CENTER DEDICATION

We officially dedicated our Career Center during a delightful ceremony surrounded by Dismas residents, staff, and a few friends. Sponsored by Comcast and the Urban League of Middle Tennessee, this center provides essential resources that assist our residents on their journey to self-sufficiency. Special guests included Dismas Board Chair, Judge Lynda Jones, Clifton Harris, President & CEO, Urban League of Middle Tennessee, and Kim Sasser Hayden, Sr. Manager, Comcast.



## THE FIRST CLASS

Residents start to settle in and take a few moments to huddle up for a family photo.



## FIRST GRADUATES

Michael, Brian, and Matthew are among the first residents to graduate the program after the move to the new campus.

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

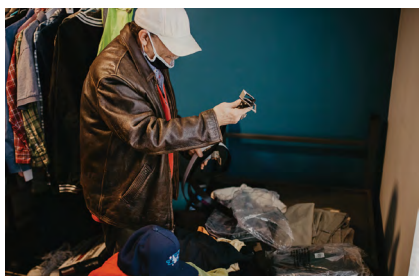
Dismas, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501.c.3 organization. Donations are tax deductible.







## COMMUNITY DINNER VOLUNTEERS



### WINTER COAT DRIVE

THANK YOU! We exceeded our goal of 60 coats during our annual Winter Coat Drive, collecting over 70 coats for our residents. We want to share a special thank you to the Fireside Chat - Nashville Firemen Group for purchasing 19 coats and to Advisory Board member Joyce McDaniel for the most in-kind donations.

# 52

## RESIDENTS SERVED

SINCE APRIL 2020



### 12 DAYS OF DISMAS

In the spirit of the holiday season, we celebrated the 12 Days of Dismas, featuring daily resident stories that highlighted the impact our donors and supporters make in the lives of returning citizens.



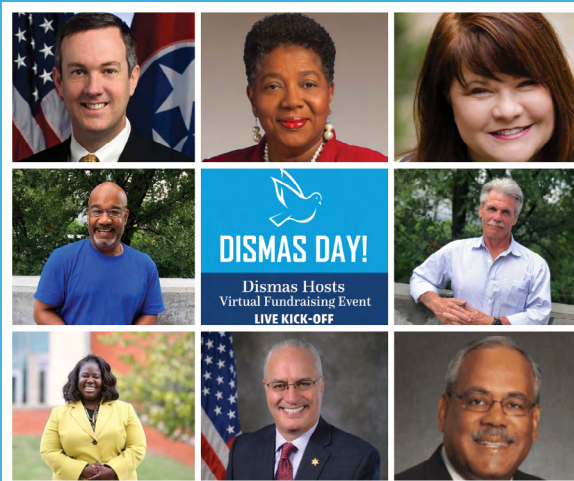
### RESIDENT OUTING

Boxing Day



### RESIDENT ACTIVITIES

Halloween Party - Pumpkin Decorating



### JULY 2020 - DISMAS DAY

Dismas Day was our first virtual fundraising event. It streamed live on our website and Facebook. During the program, supporters were virtually introduced to our residents, learned more about our current and future programs, enjoyed our musical guests, and heard from elected officials, including Secretary of State, Tre Hargett, State Senator Brenda Gilmore, Dismas Board Chair, Judge Lynda Jones, Juvenile Court Judge, Sheila Calloway, Sheriff Daron Hall, and Criminal Court Clerk, Howard Gentry.

# IN THE NEWS

## DISMAS HOUSE RECEIVES \$160K IN COMMUNITY GRANTS

Joe C. Davis Foundation, Tennessee Bar Foundation and CoreCivic Foundation Donate Funds to Restore Families and Strengthen Communities

NASHVILLE, Tenn., – November 24, 2020 – Middle Tennessee's largest re-entry program, Dismas House of Nashville, announces it has received several grants in recent months from private and corporate foundations totaling \$160,000. Funds were received from the Joe C. Davis Foundation, Tennessee Bar Foundation and CoreCivic Foundation. These funds support residents' basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, and transportation which is the largest portion of our budget. The Tennessee Bar Foundation grant helps residents with legal representation for driver's license restoration, a major barrier to returning citizens. Dismas' broad programming includes medical, dental and vision services, mental health assessments, addiction support services, group therapy, financial literacy and job readiness training.

The grants received in the past few months support Dismas' four programming pillars – basic needs, health and well-being, life skills and legal support:

- Joe C. Davis Foundation: \$100,000
- Tennessee Bar Foundation: \$50,000
- CoreCivic Foundation: \$10,000

"We're committed to providing services for our residents to remain free and become self-sufficient, contributing members of society," says Kay Kretsch, interim CEO, Dismas, Inc. "We extend our gratitude to the Joe C. Davis Foundation, Tennessee Bar Foundation and CoreCivic Foundation for their generous support in helping us remove reentry barriers for returning citizens."

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARDS

Congratulations to our Volunteer Appreciation Honorees. They will be recognized during a week-long celebration on social media the week of February 21st - 26th, so be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

**Thomas "Tom" Stearns** – *Grace Morales Commitment Award*

**Dawn Mason** – *Board Member of the Year*

**Centerstone** – *Community Partner of the Year*

**Mary Beth Harding** – *Volunteer of the Year*

**Hannah "Grace" Jensen** – *Student Volunteer of the Year*

**Edward Jones** – *John Jenkins, Jr. Resident Award*

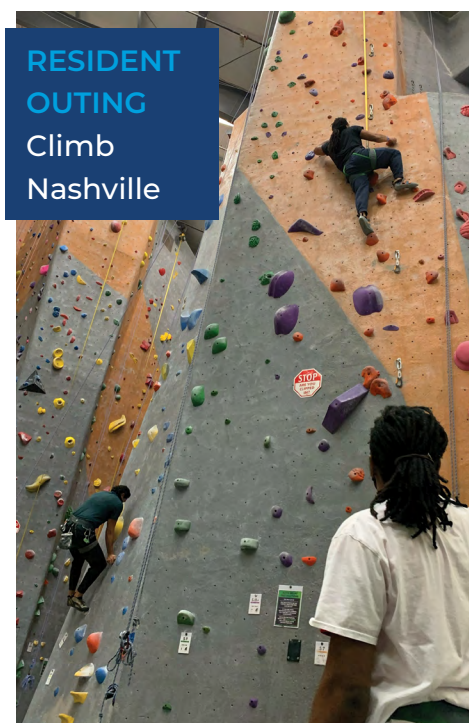
## Partnerships Make Our Communities Stronger

### THE TENNESSEAN

In a recent op-ed, Dismas House of Nashville CEO Kay Kretsch expresses our heartfelt gratitude to the many partners who help Dismas House provide programming services that enable us to meet our residents' needs. To read the full article, please visit: <http://bit.ly/DismasPartnerships>

## Dismas Receives Grant from A Community Thrives

Dismas House of Nashville is one of 12 Middle Tennessee nonprofits to receive a grant award from A Community Thrives, a grantmaking and crowd-funding program from the USA TODAY Network. To read more about the program and see a full list of grant recipients, please visit: <http://bit.ly/CommunityThrives>





## DISMAS HOUSE EXPANDS LEADERSHIP TEAM WITH STRATEGIC NEW HIRES

*Non-Profit Leader LoLita Toney and Operations Expert Phillip Hill Join Organization*

NASHVILLE, Tenn., – January 15, 2021 – Leading Middle Tennessee reentry program Dismas House of Nashville, announces the expansion of its leadership team with the addition of two strategic new hires to scale the organization. Nashville philanthropy strategy expert, LoLita Toney, joins the team as vice president of development, along with Phillip Hill, vice president of operations. They become members of the executive team joining former board chair and interim CEO Kay Kretsch and Dr. Julie Doochin, vice president of programs.

“We’ve been strategically growing our executive team to meet the changing needs of our residents,” says Kay Kretsch, interim CEO, Dismas, Inc. “We’re assembling the right leadership team to take Dismas to the next level and serve our community more efficiently. We’re on target to serve more than 80 men in 2021— more than tripling our capacity this year.”



**LoLita Toney**  
VP of DEVELOPMENT



**Phillip Hill**  
VP of OPERATIONS

LoLita Toney previously served as director of development and chief of staff at the National Museum of African American Music where she led capital fundraising including establishing a national membership campaign and major gift society. Prior to that, she worked in higher education leading fundraising and community relations efforts at Meharry Medical College, Belmont University and Fisk University. Her nonprofit board leadership includes the YWCA Junior Board, Nashville Cable, Nashville CARES, the Greater Nashville Chapter of the National Black MBA Association and Renewal House. LoLita has received many honors for her community leadership including the 2020 YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement Award, ATHENA nominee, Nashville Business Journal’s Women in Music City Award and Power Moves Community Advocacy Award.

Phillip Hill brings decades of experience in operations management, project management, staff development and customer service to his role at Dismas House. He oversees day-to-day operations to support the growth of the organization and the delivery of services for residents and staff. Prior to his role at Dismas House, Phillip was territory sales manager for Ben Tally + Associates in Atlanta, Ga., and previously as store director, store designer and project manager at Turnip Truck Natural Markets in The Gulch and East Nashville. Prior to that, Phillip spent almost 15 years as an interior designer for Bradford’s Interiors and his own design firm. He has also served as a development and fundraising manager for non-profit performing arts organizations including the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., Houston Ballet and Society of Performing Arts in Houston.

## VITAL STATISTICS 2020-2021



**47 Intakes\***



**52 Residents**  
Served



**571 Case**  
Management Sessions



**156 Individual**  
Therapy Sessions



**47 Job Readiness**  
Programs at Project Return



**11 APT Job**  
Placements



**27 Eye Doctor**  
Appointments



**13 Dental**  
Appointments



**54 Pairs**  
of Glasses



**158 Meditation**  
Sessions



**3217 Bed Nights**  
Occupied



**30 Crossfit**  
Classes



**47 Basic Needs**  
Packages



**47 Applied**  
for SNAP Benefits

*\*Five residents arrived prior to April 2020.*



2424 Charlotte Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37203

## DISMAS HOUSE RECEIVES \$37.5K IN COMMUNITY GRANTS

### ***Memorial Foundation and Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee Donate Funds to Support Basic Needs and Programs***

NASHVILLE, Tenn., – January 19, 2021 – Dismas House of Nashville announces it has received \$37,500 in grants from local foundations to support basic needs and programming for residents. The non-profit organization received \$25,000 from the Memorial Foundation for general program support and \$12,500 from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee to fund Welcome Backpacks and meals for residents. The Welcome Backpacks include clothing, toiletries and food for men who are new arrivals to Dismas House to help them acclimate to their new home and transition from incarceration.

While at Dismas House, residents benefit from a broad range of programs including medical, dental and vision services, mental health assessments, addiction support services, group therapy, financial literacy and job readiness training. The Four Pillars of Programming at Dismas House includes: Basic Needs, Health and Well-Being, Life Skills and Legal Support that provides comprehensive services to meet the needs of residents.

“These funds are critical to the operations and programming that Dismas House provides our returning citizens,” says Kay Kretsch, interim CEO, Dismas House of Nashville. “The continued support of the Memorial Foundation and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee allows us to serve more men and help them successfully transition into the community.”

The Memorial Foundation places special emphasis on assisting non-profit organizations that focus on: health; youth and children; senior citizens; education; human and social services; and substance abuse programs.

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee recently announced it has awarded \$2.2 million in grants to 350 non-profit organizations as part of its 2020 annual grant making process. The Community Foundation awards discretionary grants annually from its unrestricted and field-of-interest funds through an open application process to Middle Tennessee non-profit organizations addressing community needs and benefiting the well-being of citizens through valuable programs and innovative services.