



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

DISMAS HOUSE 2.0

Celebrates First Year

WHEN KAY KRETSCH became the CEO of Dismas House, she knew it would not be easy to lead the 47-year-old nonprofit into its next phase of growth, especially while moving to a new campus between Nashville's EF3 tornado and a global pandemic. Yet we did plus installed a virtual learning infrastructure for our residents. Through it all, the campus has remained COVID-19 free!

In Kay's first few weeks as CEO, she created five areas of focus for herself which included:

1. Maintaining a keen focus on our mission
2. Analyzing and improving financial measures
3. Ensuring accountability and transparency
4. Achieving development goals and overseeing the capital campaign
5. Developing the leadership team



After identifying these focus areas, Kay developed 30, 60, and 90-day plans and got to work. Utilizing her broad skill set and experience, Kay focused on achieving the end goal – improving all aspects of Dismas. From here, a new strategic plan was developed and implemented, taking us into March 2021 where we celebrated our first year on the new campus in what we affectionately refer to as Dismas 2.0!

To Kay, the most important work we do is treating everyone as an individual because goals are unique to each person. "Seeing the men [at Dismas House] thrive gives me the joy and encouragement needed to keep setting and achieving goals." Some of her happiest memories this last year are:



1. Graduation of the inaugural Dismas 2.0 freshman class
2. Graduates from our reentry program moving into our new transitional housing
3. Witnessing residents get a new job or a promotion
4. Watching residents have their voting rights restored

"There is still a lot of work to be done to end the cycle of incarceration but what we have accomplished this last year is not only amazing, it is energizing!"

- KAY KRETSCH

Our Mission

The mission of Dismas House is to improve lives and strengthen communities by providing the formerly incarcerated with holistic reentry programming that breaks the cycle of incarceration.





DISMAS STAFF SUPERLATIVES



*The Leadership Team is
the winner of the*
MISSION POSSIBLE AWARD!

This team survived a pandemic, moved to a new campus and kept moving onward and upward setting new strategic goals!



KAY



JULIE



LOLITA



PHILLIP



The winner of the
MACGYVER AWARD
goes to the Operations Team!

They are always fixing things—printers, light fixtures, coffee machines, meals, what have you. They make sure the men we serve feel welcome and at home the minute they walk through the door. Round of applause for the operations team!



PHILLIP



JORDAN



SAMMY



ZAY

As we celebrate Dismas 2.0 we also acknowledge our remarkable and dedicated staff. The Dismas team grew tremendously this year, and we just couldn't end the commemorations without giving out some fun year-end awards. Way to go!



*Hooray to the Program Team
who deserves the*

GO THAT EXTRA MILE AWARD!

This team consistently goes above and beyond ensuring our residents have a transition plan that is unique to them and their personal success.

Their commitment to providing holistic and individualized support is both unwavering and unmatched. A standing ovation for the programs team!



*Though small but mighty, the
Development & Marketing Team
earns the*

CONFETTI AWARD!

You can always count on this team to find a reason to celebrate- reaching a fundraising milestone, sharing a resident success story, or hosting a successful event. These women know how to commemorate any and all special occasions.

DISMAS IN ACTION



"I was honestly frustrated to be told I had to go to a halfway house. I thought, I will do the 90 days and get out. But, within 2-3 days of being here, I knew I was going to stay as long as I could. This campus is beautiful. It feels like you're in a home and not in an institution anymore."

—JOSH



"I can't believe how much the Dismas staff cares about my success. It really does make me feel like we're all family."

—CALVIN



DISMAS HOUSE celebrates the White House proclamation that recognized **SECOND CHANCE** Month in April 2021

After incarcerated individuals serve their time, they should have the opportunity to fully reintegrate into society. It benefits not just those individuals but all of society, and it is the best strategy to reduce recidivism. During Second Chance Month, we lift up all those who, having made mistakes, are committed to rejoining society and making meaningful contributions.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN
[#secondchanceavelives](#)



ASSISTED 61 men to
transition into society after
incarceration

CONDUCTED
virtual events Dismas Day,
FORGIVENESS LUNCHEON
and Volunteer Appreciation
Week raising more than a
\$120,000

HOSTED 120
Community Dinners and
served 2,100 meals

SECURED 37
Community Partners to
help fulfill our mission

RECEIVED
\$317,500 in grants
to fund programs such as
financial literacy, life skills and
counseling

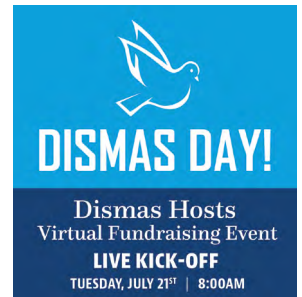
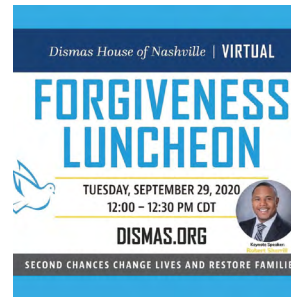
MADE infrastructure
improvements including
laptops, internet access, and a
shift to virtual programming

DEVELOPMENT:

We are grateful for so many opportunities to share Dismas House with the community and allow these opportunities to help our Residents.



Resident Coat Drive



Vanderbilt students serving dinner



WEEKLY COMMUNITY DINNERS:

Monday through Thursday, volunteers prepare meals at Dismas House for our Residents, building a support system that facilitates change and builds enduring relationships.

University Catholic students at Belmont serving dinner



PROGRAMMING:

Our Residents participate in weekly activities such as visits to the Frist Art Museum, TedTalks, Music Therapy, Meditation, Boxing, CrossFit, Yoga and Holiday Decorating.



VOLUNTEERING:

Residents volunteer twice a month at Second Harvest Food Bank and participate in service projects through Hands on Nashville throughout the year. Our residents helped in the clean up after the flooding and tornado that hit portions of North Nashville.

Flood Relief Assistance



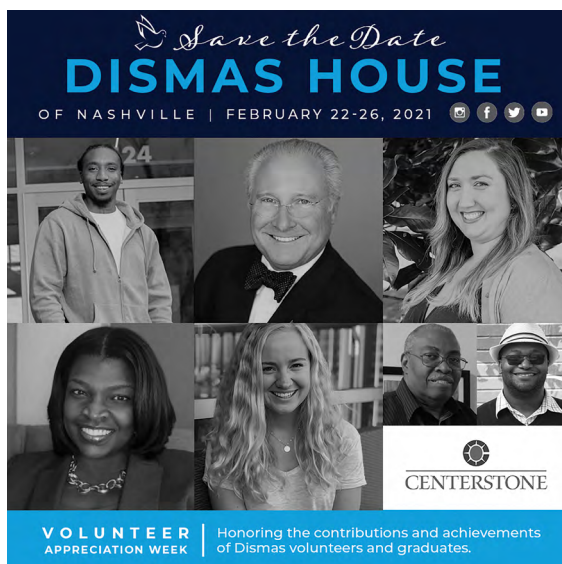
Tornado Relief



Second Harvest Food Bank Service

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK:

Dismas current and former residents, volunteers, mentors, board members, and friends gathered to honor the contributions of community members who help make this a true family. During this event, we celebrate honorees as they are recognized for their service and commitment to the mission of Dismas House.



GRADUATION:



Our reentry program consists of four pillars - Basic Needs, Health and Well-Being, Life Skills and Legal Support. Upon completion, residents graduate and either enter our transitional housing or move out into the community. Way to go, graduates!



CONGRATULATIONS JEREMY!

Here he is after registering to vote and signing up to serve as a poll worker during the next election.

"One of the things that was most important to me was getting my voting rights back. I've since turned in my certification for restoration and I'm waiting on the state to approve it. Dismas gives me the tools to work toward that."

— JEREMY

SAVE THE DATE

Forgiveness Luncheon

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 | 12 PM - 1 PM
Renaissance Hotel
Nashville, TN

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
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2424 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

THANK YOU
for supporting
us this year!



We invite you to visit our new campus!

DISMAS HOUSE OF NASHVILLE, 2424 CHARLOTTE AVENUE, NASHVILLE, TN 37203 | [DISMAS.ORG](https://dismas.org)

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