

BEHIND THE DOVE



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM DISMAS HOUSE
SPRING 2022



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION 2022

Once a year, Dismas House sets aside one week to celebrate some of our most valuable resources - our volunteers! Volunteer Appreciation Week was celebrated February 21-25 with a series of intimate luncheons held for each honoree.

This year's honorees were: Beverly Richardson, Student Volunteer of the Year; Kavi Palmer, Volunteer of the Year; Charles "Eddie" Highers, the John Jenkins, Jr. Resident of the Year; Fifth Third Bank, Community Partner of the Year; David Hart, Board Member of the Year; and Paul Connelly, the Grace Morales Commitment to Service award.

The Student Volunteer of the Year is presented to the college or high school student who represents what we believe Father Jack Hickey hoped for in the student partners while the Volunteer of the Year honoree has exhibited a commitment to being actively engaged with the Dismas House mission. The John Jenkins, Jr. Resident of the Year award, named in memory of a former resident, shows our gratitude towards residents who are or were engaged in programming, helping other residents with random acts of kindness, and more.

The Community Partner of the Year recognizes a partner who has significantly enhanced our programming associated with meeting the direct needs of residents, the Board Member of the Year acknowledges a board member who has either led or actively participated on a committee and the Grace Morales Commitment to Service Award, named in memory of the 42-year Dismas House volunteer, is for outstanding volunteer involvement over the past five years or longer as a volunteer.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION 2022



Dismas House CEO
Kay Kretsch (left)
congratulating
Student Volunteer
of the Year
honoree Beverly
Richardson

Fifth Third Bank,
Community Partner of
the Year honoree,
represented by Jacobly
Robinson (left) and
Ginny Burnett



John Jenkins, Jr.
Resident of the
Year honoree
Charles "Eddie"
Highers (left) and
his mentor, Kurt
Tarter



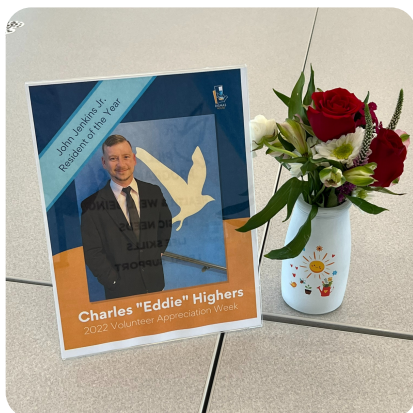
Resident David reflects on his experiences working with
TRICOR and Board Member of the Year honoree David Hart



Dismas House CEO Kay Kretsch and Board
Member of the Year honoree David Hart



Dismas House VP of
Operations Phillip Hill
(right) congratulating
Grace Morales
Commitment to Service
honoree Paul Connolly



Dismas House is grateful
for our community of
dedicated volunteers
who give so much of
their time and talent to
our residents.



Kavi Palmer, Volunteer of the Year honoree,
expresses thanks during his luncheon

To learn more about the awards and view all of the honoree tribute videos,
please visit www.dismas.org/events/volunteer-appreciation

APRIL IS SECOND CHANCE MONTH

Second Chance Month has emerged as a nationwide campaign, since its founding in 2017, to raise awareness of opportunities for the tens of millions of Americans with criminal records who have paid their debt to society.

Since it's founding 48 years ago, Dismas House has stood as a champion of second chances for men newly released from incarceration. Dismas House believes in supporting the whole man by offering a wide range of evidence-based programming that focuses on our four pillars - basic needs, health and well-being, life skills, and legal support - to help build a path to successful reentry.

"It is our love for humanity that is embodied in the daily work of Dismas House where we help men who were formerly incarcerated find renewed meaning and purpose in their lives," said CEO Kay Kretsch. "We have designed our reentry solutions to ensure that we can provide a second chance program that will change lives and reduce recidivism. Second Chance Month is the opportunity for us to identify, and show compassion and consideration for the challenges faced by returning citizens."

Dismas House is honored to celebrate April as Second Chance Month and continue to offer returning citizens More Than a Chance, A Change.



MUSIC CITY SIGHTS AND SOUNDS



Residents and staff after their visit to NMAAM

While residents are doing the daily work toward successful reentry into the community, they often have opportunities to explore our life skills pillar in unique ways.

Recently, some residents visited the state-of-the-art National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM).



Residents and staff pose just before the Stadium Series game



Resident Noland attended the Stadium Series game with his daughter

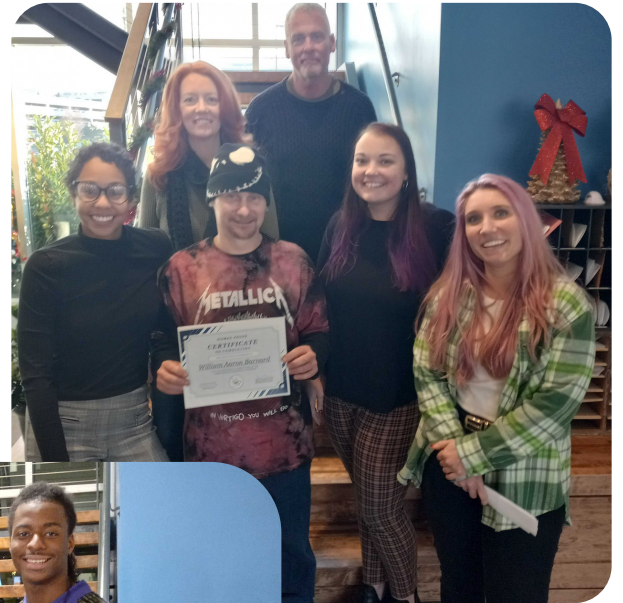
Thanks to the generosity of the Nashville Predators Foundation, some residents were able to cheer on the Nashville Predators when they played the Tampa Bay Lightning in the NHL Stadium Series game. It was the first outdoor NHL game hosted in the state of Tennessee.

GRADUATION SEASON

Springtime means graduation season is approaching but here at Dismas House, we have the honor of celebrating graduations from our residential reentry program year-round!

We are so proud of our residents who have worked diligently to complete our reentry program as well as those in our independent living program who move on and relocate off-campus.

Congratulations graduates!



FUR-EVER FRIENDS

Several times during the year, our residents encounter four-legged friends. Thanks to Music City Chapter of Love on a Leash, Dismas House is able to offer a unique way to dive into our health and well-being pillar.



Pet therapy provides many health benefits including decreasing anxiety, lowering stress levels, and improving energy levels.

The Music City Chapter of Love on a Leash was founded in September 2015 and they have 26 certified handlers with a variety of dogs, cats, and even rabbits who make visits to campuses like Dismas House as well as senior living facilities, special needs classrooms, schools, hospitals, doctor's offices, and libraries in Davidson and the surrounding counties.



DISMAS MAKING LEGISLATIVE CONNECTIONS

Dismas House has been working to build vital and sustainable connections with members of the Tennessee state legislature. In February, members of Dismas House's staff and several residents made the short trip into the heart of Nashville to host a breakfast for Tennessee legislators at the state capitol.



Resident Rashad (left) talks with Dismas House board members Richard McDermot (center) and Rep. Vincent Dixie



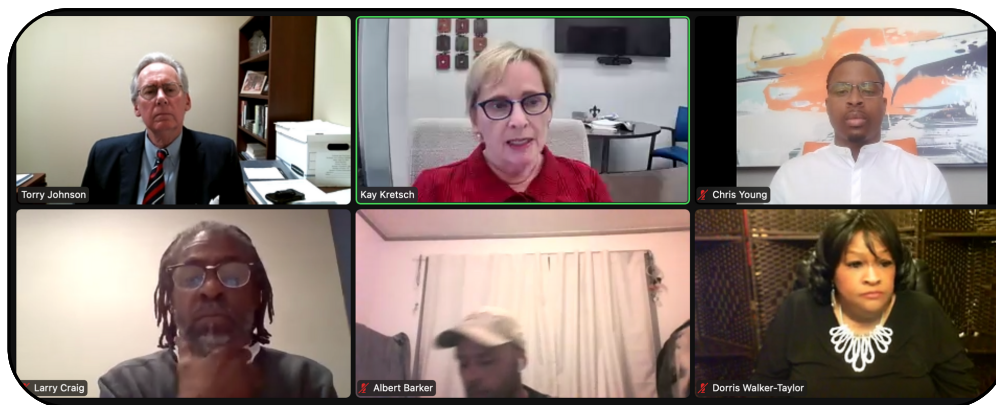
Dismas House CEO Kay Kretsch greets Rep. Bud Hulse (left) and Rep. Mike Curcio during the legislative breakfast

Members of the Criminal Justice Committee were treated to a delicious breakfast from one of our Community Dinner partners, Patchwork, and Chef Ben Tyson. Legislators from all over the state of Tennessee were able to hear about the mission of Dismas House, learning first-hand from residents about the reentry challenges they face.

VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

Dismas House CEO Kay Kretsch served as a panelist during the day-long virtual Belmont University Law School Criminal Law Journal annual Spring Symposium.

"The barriers for returning citizens around the world are not unique and is a humanitarian issue we need to address with new solutions," Kretsch said.



Joining Kretsch on the panel that examined 'Reentry Successes and Failures' were Chris Young, tech entrepreneur and advocate for returning citizens; Dorris Walker-Taylor of Thistle Farms; Larry Craig, Project Return's Social Enterprise Director; Albert Barker with Worldview Australia; and hosted by Tory Johnson.

The panel discussed affordable housing, workforce readiness, second chance employment opportunities, mental health and substance use disorder treatment options. Other topics discussed were how to best prepare returning citizens for release, ways reentry can be improved, and the role of government with reentry in both the United States and in Australia.



2424 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

SAVE THE DATE



Whiskey, Wine & Whiskers

Saturday, June 11
The Wedge Building (2020 Lindell Ave)
12-4 pm

Tickets - \$55



Scan this QR code
to buy your tickets
now!

2022 Forgiveness Luncheon

ignite 
the change

October 2022