

BEHIND THE DOVE



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM DISMAS HOUSE
SUMMER 2022



WHISKEY, WINE & WHISKERS



Dismas House hosted its inaugural Whiskey, Wine & Whiskers fundraiser on June 11th at The Wedge Building. More than 150 guests helped raise over \$20,000 that will go directly towards funding holistic programming based on our four pillars - basic needs, health and well-being, life skills, and legal support - designed to break the cycle of incarceration.

This first-of-its-kind tasting event featured vendors Uncle Nearest, Miracle One Wine Company, Maker's Mark, City Winery, Nelson's Green Brier Distillery, Twisted Sistuhs, Guidance Whiskey, pH Craft Cocktails, Basil Hayden, Angel's Envy, Pennington Distilling Co., and Knob Creek, who helped to make the event PAWsome for our guests.

Guests also had the opportunity to enjoy food from Chang Kham, Eden BBQ, Good Bites, The Table of Cuba, and Uncle Louie G's food trucks and shop with The Darling Dog Portrait Co.

We deeply appreciate the support of our outstanding event sponsors - David & Pampee Young, Associated Children's Dentistry, Lori Bell, CapStar Bank, Entoto Gear, Jon Frere, Icky Picky, and Stacy Widelitz. We look forward to another dog-gone good time next year!





Ricky Kidd (center) with judge-elect Khadija Babb of the Nashville Chapter of the NAACP and Dismas House board member Rep. Vincent Dixie

INTERSECTIONS OF JUSTICE

In June, Dismas House welcomed Ricky and Dawn Kidd to campus. Ricky, who was exonerated after being wrongly convicted and incarcerated for 23 years, spoke with residents about his reentry journey since his release three years ago. As Kidd shared his story with residents, he stressed the importance of remembering their own personal "why" as motivation when the reentry journeys become challenging.

After the mentoring session with residents, Ricky and Dawn joined members of the Nashville reentry community for an informative, solution-oriented conversation about the "Intersections of Justice."

"We are so grateful to Ricky for sharing his story and making valuable connections in our community," said Dismas House CEO Kay Kretsch.

THANK YOU BONOBOs

Upon arrival at Dismas House, every new resident receives a welcome package that includes three days of clothing. These clothes help residents get settled into life on campus as they begin their reentry journey. Recently, the Green Hills location of menswear company Bonobos made a sizeable donation of new clothing items for our residents.



Every man had the opportunity choose from shorts, t-shirts, and jeans in a variety of color washes. Interview attire like button-down dress shirts, khakis, and dress slacks were also available. Dismas House is grateful for community partners, like Bonobos, who empower and support our residents as they transition back into our community.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

This Spring, CEO Kay Kretsch traveled throughout Middle Tennessee building connections with local community-focused organizations.

She addressed the Hendersonville and Franklin Rotary Clubs and shared the impact of incarceration on our communities and how Dismas House works to break the cycle.

Kretsch also represented Dismas House on a panel hosted by community activist Raymond "Twilight" Stewart at the Rock Tha Bellz Event Center in Madison. She was joined by members of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Dr. Kate King, founder of WE STAY FREE, a community-based organization that advocates for justice-impacted citizens, and judge-elect Robin Kimbrough Hayes. We will continue to build these and other relationships in the future as we strengthen our community connections.

FORGIVENESS LUNCHEON

The annual Forgiveness Luncheon will return to an in-person event on Tuesday, October 11th at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. William "Fry" Arnold, Jr. He sought to overturn his conviction through the courts of appeal after being wrongly sentenced to 25 years. After spending six years and nine months in prison, Arnold's case was overturned in 2020. He is now serving as the Director of the Office of Reentry for Tennessee.

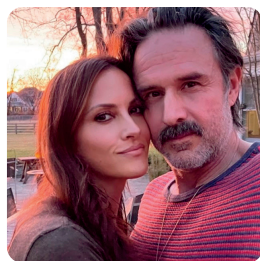
The honorary co-chairs of this year's fundraiser are Christina and David Arquette. The couple, who volunteer at Dismas House, served as executive producers for the documentary *The First Step*, which examines criminal justice reform and the work behind the 2018 federal sentencing reduction bill called the First Step Act.

This year's event co-chairs are Eric E. Brown, Jr., Principal, Serpents & Doves Strategies; Diane Hayes, retired Executive Director, Young Leaders Council; Gary Everton, Founding Principal, EOA Architects; and Robert C. Sherrill, entrepreneur, author, speaker, and returned citizen. Returning as emcee is Emmy Award-winning meteorologist Lelan Statom.

If you are interested in becoming an event sponsor or serving as a table host, please contact Vice President of Development Jessica Guzman at jguzman@dismas.org.



Dr. William
Arnold, Jr.



Christina and
David Arquette



Lelan
Statom



Eric E. Brown, Jr.



Gary Everton



Diane Hayes



Robert C. Sherrill

THE FIRST STEP SCREENING

Dismas House's dining hall was transformed into a movie theater, thanks to the generosity of volunteers Christina and David Arquette.

The Arquettes hosted a screening of the documentary 'The First Step,' complete with movie theater popcorn and snacks for residents and guests.



In the panel discussion following the screening, Christina Arquette, one of the executive producers of the film, was joined by producers Lance Kramer, Devon Dansky, David Arquette, and Louis L. Reed, reentry advocate and co-star of the film. Residents and guests sparked a conversation about criminal justice reform.



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WELCOME TO DISMAS HOUSE



Kim Demetrio

Dismas House welcomed the addition of two new members to its leadership team recently - Kim Demetrio and Jessica Guzman.

Kim joins as the Vice President of Programs. Kim comes to Dismas House with over 15 years of professional experience as a social worker, most recently at Catholic Charities. She is committed to working with those who have been justice impacted to ensure that they have the needed support and tools to overcome barriers to employment, housing, and education and promote healing, self-sufficiency, and overall stability.



Jessica Guzman

Jessica was promoted to Vice President of Development after serving previously as Dismas House's Development Manager. Last fall, her creativity saw Dismas House seamlessly pivot its annual Forgiveness Luncheon fundraiser into a virtual event only weeks before it was set to go live. The event went on to raise over \$200,000 despite the change. She also spearheaded the agency's newest fundraiser, Whiskey, Wine & Whiskers, drawing 150+ guests and raising over \$20,000.

Both have made an immediate impact since arriving and we look forward to their contributions to Dismas House.