

# BEHIND THE DOVE



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM DISMAS HOUSE  
SPRING 2023



## Dismas House Wins Two Urban Land Institute Awards



On April 26, Dismas House was recognized by Urban Land Institute (ULI) Nashville with two Excellence in Development Awards. ULI is the oldest and largest network of cross-disciplinary real estate and land use experts in the world. ULI Nashville's Excellence in Development Awards celebrate developments that are exceptional in building and site design and that positively impact Middle Tennessee.

Of the 18 organizations nominated for the 13th annual ceremony, Dismas House received one of eight final recognitions for projects that demonstrate outstanding, purpose-driven architecture. Additionally, ULI honored Dismas House with a second accolade: the Rose Faeges-Easton Community Impact Award. The inaugural award celebrates the Founding Director of ULI Nashville and commends the impact of projects that address significant needs while modeling public/private partnerships.

We want to thank our development partners, who beautifully executed our vision for a campus that provides a healing, dignified foundation for our residents.



# Save the Date: 2023 Forgiveness Luncheon

October 3, 2023 | Renaissance Nashville Hotel



The Forgiveness Luncheon, our signature annual event, provides the community an opportunity to celebrate second chances and financially support the organization's mission. Set in the luxurious Renaissance Nashville Hotel, table hosts and their guests will hear from guest speakers and Dismas House residents, among others, while enjoying a plated meal.

This year, **Louis L. Reed** will be our Keynote Speaker. As one of the country's leading figures in the field of social impact, Louis brings years of expertise in criminal justice reform, policy advocacy, and public health. After spending 14 years in federal prison, his leadership led to the passage of more than 30 state and federal-level bills, including the historic First Step Act in 2018. Outside of his current role as National Advocacy and Campaigns Director at Fines & Fees Justice Center, Louis is an award-winning author, commentator for the Law & Crime Network, licensed and board-certified addictions practitioner, and producer of Hulu's *UnPrisoned* series.

Table host opportunities and sponsorships are now available. To learn more, contact Jessica Guzman, VP of Development, at [jguzman@dismas.org](mailto:jguzman@dismas.org).



## Resident Spotlight

Terry joined Dismas House in December 2021 and quickly began working toward a variety of personal ambitions. Known for his self-discipline, he understands that success comes with hard work. For Terry, it's not a matter of if but when he'll reach his goals. "Dismas House provides the structure that men coming out of prison need to succeed. We have all the freedom to make our own choices but also the resources needed to make the best choices."

In 18 months, Terry improved his credit score by over 225 points and dramatically increased his savings. Ultimately, these ladder up to his primary goals of owning a home and opening a transitional facility. Guided by his own experience, Terry hopes to change the way justice-involved individuals view recovery and healing.

"It's important to know that we don't have to let things stay the way they were," Terry stated. "I've started a new life, and I appreciate the opportunity to be seen as who I am now. When I walk into a room, I'm just Terry. I'm not defined by anything I've done."



Terry Copeland

# Whiskey, Wine & Whiskers Recap



On May 20, we hosted our annual Whiskey, Wine & Whiskers fundraising event at Wilburn Street Studio in Nashville. Because of generous sponsors and attendees, we raised more than \$40,000. These funds will directly benefit Dismas House residents through our four core pillars of programming.

The tasting event featured 18 of the region's favorite wineries and distilleries, along with food trucks, a 360° photobooth, curated retail experiences, live music from DJ Sterl the Pearl, and, of course, a *Pawty Zone* for our furry friends.

We sincerely appreciate the support of the guests and partners who made the event a tremendous success. Through special events like this, we continue introducing the Nashville community to the mission of Dismas House, and we look forward to continuing the fun-filled tradition next year!



## Dismas House Spring Activities

With no shortage of stunning natural scenery in close proximity to the Dismas House campus, residents and staff members have enjoyed numerous opportunities to explore the great outdoors this spring. From fishing trips at Percy Priest Lake to a full moon hike at Radnor Lake, the warm-weather activities have been a welcome addition to regular programming, and we look forward to making more memories this summer!



## Get Involved

There are many opportunities to contribute your time and talents to help Dismas House meet the needs of our residents. From volunteering at community dinners to donating in-kind services, there is a place for you in the Dismas House family.

**Learn more at [dismas.org/volunteer](https://dismas.org/volunteer).**



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## Welcome to Dismas House



**Amari Cecil**

Resident Support Specialist



**Diane Nelson**

Certified Peer Recovery  
Specialist



**Shanethia Ivy**

IPS Employment Specialist



**Victoria Roth**

Director of Marketing  
& Communications

Our newest Resident Support Specialist, **Amari**, joined Dismas House in January. Promoting positive re-entry, Amari works directly with our residents by assisting in the coordination and facilitation of programming, transportation, community dinners, and more.

**Diane** joined Dismas House as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist in February. With over 30 years of healthcare and counseling experience, including working directly with justice-involved individuals, Diane has quickly established rapport with our residents.

A certified IPS Employment Specialist, **Shanethia** joined Dismas House in April. Her prior experience includes providing employment services for adults with mental health diagnoses and counseling services for youth and families.

**Victoria** joined Dismas House as the Director of Marketing & Communications in April. She has more than ten years of marketing, communications, and design experience in a variety of settings, ranging from nonprofit organizations to global-scale ad agencies.