

# BEHIND THE DOVE



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM DISMAS HOUSE  
MARCH 2023



## Join Us May 20 For Whiskey, Wine & Whiskers



We invite you to join us for Whiskey, Wine & Whiskers from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 at Wilburn Street Studio.

We're excited to host the 2nd annual fundraiser to introduce Middle Tennesseans (and our whiskered friends) to Dismas House to learn more about our mission and vision. The day will feature tastings from local distilleries and wineries. You won't want to miss out on our celebrity DJ Sterl The Pearl, the official DJ of the Tennessee Vols, our favorite food trucks, a photo booth, a silent auction, the best dressed pet competition, and a day out with our furry friends!

Your support of the event - as a sponsor, vendor or guest - helps us continue to improve lives and strengthen communities by providing the formerly incarcerated with holistic reentry programming that breaks the cycle of incarceration. Tickets, sponsorships and vendor slots are available now.

Learn more by visiting [dismas.org/events](https://dismas.org/events)



**BE A  
VENDOR**

**BUY  
TICKETS**

**BE A  
SPONSOR**



# 2023 WHISKEY, WINE & WHISKERS VENDORS AND SPONSORS

AS OF MARCH 24

## Vendors

**BAKER'S**<sup>®</sup>

BASIL



HAYDEN



**NOB**<sup>KY · US</sup>  
**CREEK**



**UNCLE NEAREST**<sup>®</sup>  
— \* —  
PREMIUM WHISKEY



Food available for purchase



## Sponsors

Dog Day Afternoon Sponsors



**Steve & Shannon  
Cook**

Yappy Hour Sponsors

**Jen & Taylor  
Fortune**

Fur Ball Sponsors



**Rep. Vincent Dixie**

**Lori Bell**

## Friends of Dismas House



More vendors and sponsors to come! Follow us online at [dismas.org](http://dismas.org) to get the latest updates!

**Whiskey, Wine & Whiskers is an event for adults ages 21 and up. Rain or shine!**



## 2023 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK



During the week of Feb. 20 to Feb. 24, we held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Week presented by Vanderbilt University. We gathered on our campus with family, friends, and colleagues to honor those who generously offer their time and talent to make Dismas House a better place. Congratulations to all of the 2023 honorees.

**Community Partner Service Award** - 2023 Recipient: Shade Tree Clinic, a student-run clinic that provides free, high-quality care to uninsured and underinsured individuals in the Nashville area.

**Student Service Award** - 2023 Recipient: Declan Harris, a Dismas House clinical intern who provides individual support to residents, facilitates groups, and continues to think of new ways to best serve the men at Dismas House.

**Volunteer Service Recognition Award** - 2023 Recipient: Patchwork, a group of chefs who are an integral part of providing dinners and weekend meals for Dismas House residents.

**John Jenkins, Jr. Resident Service Award** - 2023 Recipient: Michael Barrett, who is our first Individual Placement and Support participant and was chosen to speak at an event with Governor Lee in November 2022. He is employed as a chef at our employment partner, and he is currently pursuing a two-year Culinary Arts A.A.S. degree.

**Board Service Recognition Award** - 2023 Recipient: Steve Cook, whose expertise, advice and counsel have been invaluable to Dismas House as he serves on the Executive Committee and leads as the Board Chair.

**Grace Morales Outstanding Service Award** - 2023 Recipient: Phil Ryan is a member of the Board and serves on the Capital Campaign Committee. He was instrumental in connecting us to resources during our expansion project.

# 2023 DAY ON THE HILL

On January 26, we hosted our annual Day on the Hill breakfast at the capitol in Nashville. Residents and staff members had discussions with state legislators about how they can contribute to the efforts of supporting citizens who are reentering society. Dismas House is an approved Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) residential reentry program, and we receive funding from the State. It's our goal to make sure our legislators know the value of our services. People who come through our program have a significantly lower recidivism rate, which saves taxpayer dollars.

"I'm hoping to have more meetings with senators and representatives to help them see what a new reentry model looks like," Dismas House CEO Kay Kretsch said. "I also bring the residents here so they will know this is the people's house and they are as welcome here as I am."



## APRIL IS NATIONAL SECOND CHANCE MONTH



Since 2014, April has been observed in the United States as Second Chance Month. The initiative was established to recognize the importance of reentry and the role each member of the community plays in supporting safe and successful reentry. From the U.S. Department of Justice

to the Tennessee Office of Reentry (OOR), organizations across the country will celebrate throughout the month with live events, webinars, podcasts and other learning opportunities. With nearly 95 percent of incarcerated Americans being released at some point, it's important that adequate resources are dedicated to the reentry population, and awareness is raised in the entire community.



Tennessee Office of Reentry  
Job and Resource Fair - April 2022

Members of our team will be celebrating Second Chance Month by attending the following events:

**April 19:** Talent Solutions Forum hosted by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce that will focus on the successful hiring and retention of Tennesseans who are justice involved.

**April 29:** The Inaugural Discovering Desistance Second Chance Resource Fair and Panels in Madison, Tenn.

**We can't wait to participate in Second Chance Month this year!**

# WELCOME TO DISMAS HOUSE



**Grayce Gadson, MPM, CPRP**  
IPS Supervisor



**David Harris**  
IPS Employment Specialist



**Emmeline Stuart**  
IPS Employment Specialist



**Autumn Ziegler**  
Case Manager

**Grayce** joined Dismas House as the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supervisor in the Fall of 2022. Previously, she worked at Parker Center doing similar work. She has also served as a Cognitive Behavior Instructor and Client Services Coordinator in the Tennessee Department of Correction's prison and jails starting in 2016 with Project Return.

As an IPS Employment Specialist at Dismas House since November 2022, **David** is originally from Indianapolis, IN. His previous tenures were with the New Mexico Human Services as a Family Assistance Analyst and in higher education at Tennessee State University assisting adult students in planning their degree programs.

**Emmeline** joined Dismas House as an IPS Employment Specialist in November of 2022. Prior to Dismas, she served at Project Return. She brings two years of experience in a variety of roles in reentry services, ranging from program services to operations. Hailing from a small town in North Georgia, she earned a Bachelor's in Theology and Ministry from Lipscomb University.

As a case manager at Dismas House since October 2022, **Autumn** previously worked at Atlanta Community Food Bank as a Benefit Coordinator. She graduated from Eckerd College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development with a Global Focus. After graduation, she spent a year working with a sustainable development NGO in Nicaragua as the Volunteer Coordinator. Since then, she has worked with a various community-based nonprofits in Nashville and Atlanta.

**We're happy to have these new additions to our team and look forward to their contributions!**



## BE A PART OF THE DISMAS HOUSE FAMILY

Want to join our efforts to change lives and restore communities? There are many opportunities to contribute your time and talents to help Dismas House meet the needs of our residents and break the cycle of incarceration. From volunteering at community dinners to donating in-kind services, we'd love to partner with you and welcome you into our family.



Volunteer at a  
Community Dinner



Apply to be  
a Mentor

Learn more by visiting [dismas.org/volunteer](https://dismas.org/volunteer)



2424 Charlotte Pike  
Nashville, TN 37203

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2023 FORGIVENESS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 3, 2023  
Renaissance Nashville Hotel



Sponsorships are available and table hosts are needed.  
For questions, please contact Jessica Guzman, VP of Development, at [jguzman@dismas.org](mailto:jguzman@dismas.org).