

BEHIND THE DOVE



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM DISMAS HOUSE
SUMMER 2023



Louis L. Reed



The Arquettes



Dr. William Arnold



Lori J. Bell



Lelan Statom

Join Us for the 2023 Forgiveness Luncheon

Dismas House's signature annual event, the Forgiveness Luncheon, is just around the corner, taking place on Tuesday, October 3 from noon-1:00pm at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. In celebration of second chances, guests will hear triumphant stories from speakers and former Dismas House residents.

Louis L. Reed, one of the country's leading figures in the field of social impact, will be our Keynote Speaker. Reed is a TEDx speaker, producer for the Hulu series *UnPrisoned*, Huffington Post contributor, Council of Criminal Justice trustee, and Forbes Coaches Council Member.

Christina and David Arquette will return for the second year as Honorary Chairs. Christina is a producer, television personality, and former professional journalist. David is an American actor and film director. Together, the couple produced the award-winning documentary, *The First Step*, which prominently features Louis L. Reed alongside activist and commentator Van Jones.

Our Co-Chairs are Dr. William Arnold, Director of the Office of Reentry for the State of Tennessee, and Lori J. Bell, Senior Interior Designer for EOA Architects. News Channel 5's Lelan Statom will be our event Emcee.



To learn more or register, please visit dismas.org/events.

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Resident Spotlight

Jace arrived at Dismas House in April and noted he was surprised by the level of care he encountered immediately. Discovering a new set of clothes, among other basic needs, he felt supported and ready to tackle his goals. "Just knowing that people in the community care about us is crazy - people who don't even know me. They help me and countless others without having met us."

During his first 30 days of acclimation on campus, a period where residents do not work, Jace utilized all of the resources at hand and prepared to find the job of his choice. By day 30, he was offered a welding position with Rogers Manufacturing. The trade is near and dear to his heart, as was the opportunity. "My employer didn't have to take a chance on me, but they did. It means the world to me. My Grandfather had a welding business for 40 years and raised me in that environment. We were really close, but he passed away two months before I got out of prison. Being back in the welding shop brings back memories of him. It's what I love."

"Dismas House gave me an opportunity, too. They're giving people a chance that might not have had the right tools to better their lives. They help people take the steps they need to make a real change. The fact that so many people care really helps me want to do right. We have the opportunities we have because of them."

Continue reading Jace's story at dismas.org/blog-post.



Jace Sharp

Looking Back: Fiscal Year in Review

The end of June marked the close of Dismas House's fiscal year and the third year in our new 72-room campus. Since reimagining our programming to holistically serve the individual needs of our residents, we have continued to exceed our yearly objectives. Below are just a few of the snapshots found in our 2023 annual report. Thank you for your support in completing another successful year!



22,514

Bed Nights



123

Residents
Served



98.5%

Residents
Employed within
90 Days



\$440,869

Legal Fees
Waived



1,776

Case Management
Sessions

Staff on the Move

This summer, we welcomed two new faces, Kim and Zach, to the Dismas House team and celebrated Emmeline's internal transfer to a case management position. We continue expanding our team to serve the needs of our growing campus!



Kim Morris
Clinical Director



Zach Stegman
Resident Support Specialist



Emmeline Stuart
Case Manager

Looking Ahead: What to Expect Next

Holiday Feature at the Governor's Mansion



We are excited to share that Dismas House has been selected by First Lady Maria Lee as one of five Tennessee nonprofits to be represented with a special Christmas tree displayed at the Governor's mansion. The highlight comes as part of the First Lady's initiative, *Tennessee Serves*.

Tennessee Serves highlights nonprofits doing transformative work across the state and works to mobilize Tennesseans to meet community needs. Each holiday season, the Governor and First Lady ask guests to attend their Christmas tours and bring items for donation to benefit the organizations represented.

2024: Our 50th Anniversary

The new year will mark Dismas House's 50th anniversary! Since being founded in 1974 by Father Jack Hickey, the organization has helped improve countless lives and strengthen communities through the generosity of our supporters and volunteers.

As we commemorate five decades of impact, we will invite the community to gather and celebrate with us throughout the year. We are thrilled to honor this momentous milestone together with those who made it possible.



Visit dismas.org for more information on each event. To ensure you don't miss any announcements, view the envelope insert to sign up for email or text notifications.



2424 Charlotte Pike
Nashville, TN 37203

Get Involved with Dismas House

There are many ways to support Dismas House. Last year, volunteers provided nearly \$100,000 in value by contributing time and talents. The community's care and support play an integral role in creating a sense of family for residents and helping to destigmatize incarceration.



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Opportunities

Volunteer: Serve a meal on campus, assist with clerical or facilities needs, greet guests at the front desk, join a committee, mentor a resident, or provide a helping hand at events.

In-Kind Gifts: To meet our growing resident population's basic needs, we welcome donations of bed pillows, bath towels, water bottles, backpacks, and new or gently used men's clothing and shoes.



Scan to Donate

Financial Gifts: One-time and recurring giving tiers can be found on the envelope insert and our website.

To learn more about volunteer and donation opportunities, please visit **dismas.org**.