



# New Beginnings

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## Volunteers needed

The "Koinonia controversy" was an emotional drain on us, but the preparations for our first resident continued. We have gotten six applications, mostly from Marion Prison, and two of them look promising.

Work on the house continued too. Although a lot of people have been helping us, the truth is we need a LOT more volunteer help.

Like all remodeling projects, there is far more work to do than I realized. We desperately need help splitting wood, stripping wallpaper, stripping paint from wood trim and doors, and even cleaning. And skilled help is needed to install wood trim and flooring.

Without your help, we won't be ready for our first resident. And that would do more to delay our ministry than any neighborhood controversy ever did.

If you or your church group can offer ANY help, please call us right away.

## City council finds Koinonia House® legal

On May 7 Greenville Law Director Jeffrey Amick told Koinonia House® critics he believed the ministry to Christian men coming out of prison was within zoning laws. This was the culmination of four months of tension in Greenville over the issue.



Law Director Jeffrey Amick tells council members that Koinonia House® is within the zoning laws.

The "Koinonia controversy," as the local newspaper called it, began on Feb. 19. A group of residents asked city council to block the ministry.

"It's not a bad program," one neighbor said, "but I don't think it belongs in a residential neighborhood."

### Increased opposition

Critics came back to council repeatedly, each time with more names on a petition intended to block Koinonia House®. By late April they claimed nearly 450 signatures.

Dozens of letters attacking the ministry were printed in the newspapers. Declining property value was the most common concern. But also safety. "I'm afraid they will come to our school and shoot us," a 10-year-old wrote.

However, statistics show that Koinonia House® residents are extremely safe. Even one state prison official agreed. He told the Dayton Daily News, "We're reaching out to (the faith community) to be involved with us."

Numerous television,

newspaper and radio reports followed the controversy.



There were three television interviews and numerous newspaper stories about our ministry throughout the winter and spring.

### Good news

Even all the bad news was good news because we want more churches to help us change broken lives. And all the controversy got them involved.

It was a hard experience to go through, but it got people talking about doing real ministry—and that made it all worthwhile.



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**JOHN GRAHAM  
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*Building a bridge to the future*

**We're on the web!  
Koinoniahouse.org**



# Thank you!

## Matching grant goal reached

On March 29, thanks to your help, we received a check from Koinonia House® National Ministry for \$10,000. We had exceeded our support goal by nearly \$4,000. Thank you.

When Kathy and I met Manny Mill one year ago and committed to be part of this ministry, we had no idea how we were going to do it. But now we know.

### Questions

One thing the “Koinonia controversy” showed us was there

was confusion about our finances, so let me clarify it for you. All donations given us are tax deductible because we are a legal non-profit ministry. Your donations have only been used for ministry-related costs. No donations are used for the remodeling of the house. We have been paying for this ourselves.

### Next year

Many of you have been supporting this ministry each month, and we are especially grateful for your help. But we

are still far short of our \$50,000 annual budget needs. Because of that, I have not taken any salary yet.

So I would like you to start thinking about two things. First, do you know of any grants that we can apply for? We're convinced there are all sorts of foundations who want to support our ministry. We just don't know who they are.

Second, start now to budget Koinonia House® ministry into your tithing for next year. And plan to attend our fall rally.