

New Beginnings

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What others are saying about

Koinonia House

- "Manny Mill never forgot the people he left behind...he has a great vision for bringing these kinds of houses all across America." Chuck Colson, Chairman Prison Fellowship
- I encourage you to sponsor these houses...we need to be involved. These men need you. We need thousands of Koinonia Houses." Manuel Rojas, Chaplain Hill Correctional Center, Galesburg, IL
- Koinonia House is a proven factor in reducing recidivism; it fills a need not met anywhere else in the entire prison system." IL Rep. Randy Hultgren.
- Koinonia House is the best program I know of...for ex-prisoners. You are helping these individual get properly established in their personal lives and society." The late Kenneth Wessner, Chairman of ServiceMaster

Why start Koinonia House?

Since I entered the ministry it has really bothered me that most of the people I met were good church people. But I had little contact with the very ones who needed the gospel message the most. It's like building a hospital and ignoring all the sick people in the community.

This spring I visited Marion Correction Institution and met several inmates who had genuinely been converted to Christ. But what will happen to them when they are released? Who will meet them at the gate? That's when Kathy and I heard about Koinonia House Ministries and decided to open our home to these brothers in Christ when they are released.

- John Graham, Resident Director, Koinonia House of West Central Ohio

Koinonia House is community project

When we bought our 122-year-old house we knew there would be a lot of work needed to restore it.

Since May we have rebuilt the garage and front porch roofs, gutted most of the interior and begun restoring the old walls and woodwork.

Although I was able to do most of the work myself, I did need a lot of help. I



Plumber Mike Bubeck

found a great plumber who helped me build a new downstairs bath/utility room. Best of all, I found out he was a new Christian and we had some

great conversations while we worked.

I also hired a couple neighbor boys to help with what I call the "grunt" work. They needed some extra money and I needed some extra muscle.

More important, I was able to meet a lot of the kids in the area through them.

We still have a lot of work to do yet and we will keep you posted on our progress.



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What is Koinonia House?

The word comes from the Bible and it means "fellowship found in God's family."

Koinonia House is a national organization dedicated to helping Christian inmates grow in their faith when they leave prison. Although there are about 200,000 Christians in prison, there is very little help for them when released.

That's why Manny Mill founded the first Koinonia House in 1990 in Wheaton, IL. As a former convict, he knew first-hand how critical it was to have Christian support when released from prison.

"Just because they have been behind bars doesn't exclude these men from being God's people," he said.

But the problem is that many men leaving prison - even Christian men - have no where to go and no one to turn to. So they turn to their old friends and old habits.

But that's where Koinonia House comes in. Before release, applicants are screened by the prison chaplain. The best candidates are chosen to live at Koinonia House for 15 months while they are mentored.

Koinonia House in Greenville is the first one outside of Illinois.



Greenville Koinonia House