

**Good
Samaritan
Home**

New Beginnings

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Residents good news

This has been a tough winter for all of us. But there was some good news from our Ludlow Street house residents.

When we were hit with three major snow storms this winter, our residents used it as an opportunity for community service.

Snow blower evangelism

A deep snow fall can cripple our neighborhood for days. But instead of complaining about the weather, our residents spent their time shoveling snow



throughout the neighborhood for days on end. They used our snow blower to clean sidewalks for blocks in all directions, dug out cars – and even rescued people!

Heroic actions

“Joe” was shoveling a sidewalk near Ohio Street when he heard what he thought to be a faint cry for help. He looked around until he found an 85-year-old woman laying in a snow bank. Unaware of the danger of the severe cold temperatures, she had walked to her mailbox at the curb wearing a thin coat and no gloves nor boots. But her sidewalk was icy and she had fallen and could not get up.

Joe picked her up and took her back to her house and stayed with her until he was sure she was okay. A few days later her family called us to say that because of that near-death incident, they had finally convinced her to wear an alarm bracelet. If it hadn't been for Joe, she might not have survived her fall.



Hard work pays off

More good news is Walter. He made the front page of the Dayton Daily News in March.

Getting a job in this sour economy is tough, but it can be nearly impossible with a prison record. But through persistence and the help of several community mentors, Walter got a job at the Versailles Winery. Not only that, but he moved out of our reentry house, into our transitional living house for several months while he saved his money, and now he has his own apartment and plans to start night school in May.

His success story was the focus of a series of articles on making it in a tough job market.



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**GOOD SAMARITAN
HOME**

Welcoming the Stranger

Visit our website
www.goodsamaritanhome.org

Reentry Taskforce approved

Grant funds can only be used to fund the Reentry Taskforce. None of this money can be used for the emergency shelter, reentry house and transitional living house. These programs are funded solely through your donations.

Good Samaritan Home was recently awarded a \$170,000 Ohio Department of Criminal Justice Services grant to form a critically-needed Reentry Taskforce in Darke, Miami and Shelby counties.

There are more than 2,300 men and women on state parole or county probation in the three counties.

It has been my experience that nearly all of them want to restart their lives. But without help, too often they end up back in jail or prison, and that is something in these tough economic times, we can no longer afford.

Currently 4 out of every 10 parolees go back to prison costing Ohio taxpayers \$1.7 billion a year. Worse yet, taxpayers in Darke, Miami and Shelby counties are paying 40 to 60 percent

of local taxes on criminal justice services.

The purpose of the Darke, Miami and Shelby Counties Reentry Taskforce is to address reentry barriers – substance abuse, mental health, employment and housing – by bringing together all the service and law enforcement agencies to work together to offer the

critical support ex-offenders need to stay out of prison for good.

This grant is very important because it will allow us to greatly expand our services without diverting local donations from existing programs.

There are currently 14 agencies in the three counties committed to the Reentry Taskforce, and when fully up and running, as many as a dozen more are expected to participate.

Angi Lee, Ohio Dept. of Correction Reentry Administrator, said the correctional system alone cannot change the attitudes and actions that lead people to prison. The local communities must be involved – and that is why the Darke, Miami and Shelby Counties Reentry Taskforce was formed.

“Local people addressing local needs with local solutions.”



GSH Director John Graham receives congratulations and counsel from ODRC Director Ernie Moore. There are now 22 such Reentry Taskforces in Ohio .