

Good Samaritan Home

# New Beginnings

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## GSH successes

In 2002 we opened our own home to Reggie when he came from prison.

He has been up and down these past dozen years, but he had made it because we were able to help him with two things – housing and mentoring support.

Since 2007 we have been offered temporary to nearly 500 men coming from prison in Greenville, Sidney and mostly Dayton now.

But in 2009 we realized we needed to offer more so there would be more guys make it like Reggie.

So now we have what we call Transitional Houses – long-term affordable apartments where those who need long-term mentoring and support can live indefinitely.

### James is a success story

When James came to us two years ago, his life was in disarray. Convicted of a low-level crime, deeply in debt, homeless, in the process of a divorce and desperately missing his children, he said his only goal was to save enough money to get back his driver's license and buy a car so he could visit with his children again.

Since he was getting a disabil-



*James proudest day was when he came to us with his new driver's license. But he was not satisfied with that. He next goal was to buy his own car!*

ity income each month, we focused on helping him manage his income. After repeated failures, he finally admitted he needed help managing his money.

### Money mentoring

So Kathy agreed to help him with

a budget. Over the next year the two of them paid off several thousand dollars in debt, and here's the best part, he was actually able to pay off his driver's license reinstatement fees so he was then cleared to retake his driver's test and get his license!

The first thing he did when he passed his driving test was to proudly show Kathy a copy of his license!

**But that wasn't the only thing he got back that day. He got back HOPE.** After so many setbacks, so many rejections, after being beaten down for so long, James came to believe what the world had been saying about him for so long, that he was a failure. But now with his driver's license in hand he focused on budgeting to buy a car.

When he had finally saved \$1,000, an anonymous supporter gave him another \$1,000 and he bought a great used van.

Now, because of Kathy's training, James continues to save for what she taught him to call "emergency expenses."

James is a good example of persistence - for all of us.



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HOME**

*Welcoming the Stranger*

Visit our website  
[www.goodsamaritanhome.org](http://www.goodsamaritanhome.org)

## Pantry news

Good Samaritan Home is partnered with Feeding America Food Pantry and Wal-Mart in Darke County. **By the end of this year, GSH will have distributed to other pantries nearly 180,000 lbs of food for the needy in Darke County!**

Our gratitude to the Greenville Wal-Mart for their very generous help with the critical Feeding America program.

So to all the Wal-Mart Staff and our community volunteers — our heartfelt thanks.

**We are expanding our Transitional Housing and we need your help with these items:**

- **Blankets**
- **Twin bed sheets**
- **Full / Queen bedding**
- **Bath towels**
- **Small microwave ovens**
- **Coffee pots**

- **Twin Beds**
- **Refrigerators**
- **Freezers**
- **Washing machines**
- **Clothes dryers**
- **Couches / chairs**

## More success stories



**Daryl and George**

Sometimes the best mentors are other residents. George (rt) spent 17 years in prison and at 61 and in poor health, he could not afford his own apartment on his Social Security.

“I had nowhere else to live,” he said. “I was even worried about having enough food to eat.”

But in our Transitional Housing program, he not only can afford his apartment, but now he can spend his time helping Daryl.

Daryl, 56, had been in and out of prison and the county jail for years, and was going back again because he had no place to live. More important, when homeless, his social workers could not

help him with critical medications.

So in our TH program Daryl not only has a safe, affordable place to live, but he has a good friend in George. “I can’t cook with my tremors,” Daryl said, “because I get nervous with grease on the stove.” So George offered to cook for him everyday. “George has a lot of patience,” he said.

### **A safe place when afraid**

Brad came to us homeless in February. Soon he had a job, but then he was diagnosed with cancer. Needless to say, he was very scared, but he was glad for a safe place to stay.

Then he was approved for Medicaid — and his treatment went well. But in October our manager, Ron, found Brad dead in his room. Apparently his cancer was worse than any of us realized.

However, he seemed to have died suddenly and peacefully, and he had none of the traumatic and painful issues that he feared he might face as his cancer progressed. **Most of all, he was not alone. He was with friends.**

Brad’s death was very upsetting for all of us, especially Ron, who had become

his friend. But we know that during his time of crisis, when he most needed help and support, we were able to be there for him, and for that we are grateful.

**It is for men like James, Daryl, George and Brad that we do this ministry — those who have nowhere to go, no one to turn to and no options in life, the “least of these” Jesus said we are all called to help—even if it is only to offer a safe place to die in peace, among friends.**

