

Good
Samaritan
Home

New Beginnings

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Meeting needs

Our faith statement these past 15 years has been to simply ask what is the need in the community, and then try to help meet that need.

That was the reason we opened our homeless shelter in 2006, our reentry house in 2007 and our transitional house in 2009 – and since then we have opened a total of 15 houses in Greenville, Sidney and especially Dayton, where much of our focus is now.

Long-term support

Since then we have offered more than 650 men a safe place to start their lives over. But we soon realized more was needed – long-term housing. In Greenville, and especially Dayton, we have 10 apartments to house 24 men like Tracy who needed help in transitioning to independence. We offer shared apartments, with all utilities and furnishings included, at a very modest rate, for as long as it takes for them to become stable enough to live on their own. In return residents work with staff and volunteer mentors in developing skills needed to live on their own.

Helping hurting people, regardless of what sin they may have committed, is what the Church is commanded to do.



With serious health issues and no place to live but the street, Tracy has been with us for nearly four years—first in our reentry housing, and then our transitional housing. He moved to his own apartment in December.

Faith is about grace

Why? We did this because the need for this type of “boots-on-the-

ground” ministry is never-ending. More important, **at root this ministry is about the moral and spiritual right of every person to have a second chance. It’s about grace.** That is the basis of our legal system and, more critical, it is the foundation of our faith. Helping hurting people, regardless of what sin they may have committed, is what the Church is commanded to do.

But here is the key to people receiving that grace. No one hears us unless we speak to their needs in practical ways. **Our faith motivates us to DO acts of grace.**

So no matter how uncertain our finances may be, no matter how intense the criticism, and even no matter how severe the legal threats, we have always focused on simply doing God’s will in practical ways, and for us that is affordable, safe housing to those Jesus called “the least of these.”

Helping hurting people, regardless of what sin they may have committed, is what the Church is intended to do as a primary expression of our faith.



Dr. John Graham
Executive Director
P.O. Box 382

Phone: (937) 547.6337
Email: jgraham19@woh.rr.com

**GOOD SAMARITAN
HOME**

Welcoming the Stranger

Visit our website
www.goodsamaritanhome.org

Staff growth

Brian Gilvin was pastoring a small, inner city church in Dayton when I asked him to manage one of our houses. By his own admission, he was broken in many ways himself, so he took to helping other broken people quickly. In time he realized he was doing more good with us than in the church, and resigned his pastorate to join Good Samaritan Home full time.



When I started this book project, it required a great deal of time. Brian immediately stepped in as the Program Supervisor to oversee all the day-to-day operations of staff and residents. What I like best about Brian is that he is extremely detailed, and with as many as 65 men in all our houses on any given day, having all the details right can be absolutely critical.

For 15 years Good Samaritan Home has primarily depended on me. But the board of directors was concerned we needed to plan beyond me. And now with Brian as my Program Supervisor, we all know that Good Samaritan Home, and the ministry to “the least of these” that we do every day, will go on long beyond me. And that is the way it should be.

Director finishes novel

Forty-five years ago I sat down to write a novel, but never put the first word to paper because I had nothing to say. I was too young and too inexperienced. Yet I never put aside that dream to write.

At first I wrote news stories for the local paper. Mostly boring stuff, but it taught me how to make even government news interesting. That led to a syndicated human interest column where I could have fun writing about the weird things that people say and do. I especially liked writing about the chasm that separates men and women in marriage, particularly Kathy and me. We are polar opposites and have tests to prove it! And that made for nearly

“Well, Pastor, we’re all really glad to have you here. I just don’t know how much counseling you’ll be able to do. People in this church all seem pretty normal to me.”

Daniel was not sure if that was meant to be tongue-in-cheek, or if she really meant it.

“That would be wonderful, Mrs. Peterson, but my experience has been that we’re all broken in some way. Some of us just hide it better than others.”

is a fiction book called ***“I’m running as fast as I can.”***

In a nutshell, it is the story of Daniel

300 columns of material.

But well into my 50s I wanted to do more serious writing and enrolled in a doctoral program in theological studies and social work. That led to my first serious research book. It was a 10-year study on the positive impact that mentoring ex-offenders could have on the individual mentors and even the community. Although it was an important academic work, it was not something that would be read by the average person.

So three years ago, and with a lifetime of age and experience, I returned to my first dream of writing a novel. It

Robinson, who comes from generational poverty, neglect and abuse, and feels he can never catch up to “normal people,” as he calls them.

Not only does he learn to walk and even run again with “his emotional limp,” but he learns that everyone has some sort of limp too. “We’re all broken in some way,” he says.

We all need second chances. That’s the basis of this novel, and all that we do here at Good Samaritan Home. It is the Gospel story.