

Good  
Samaritan  
Home

# New Beginnings

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## GSH grows again!

It is hard to believe that it was just 12 months ago that we opened our first re-entry house in Dayton. We thought that housing six men at our North Main Street apartment building would be all we could expect for quite a while.

But we had so many referrals that in December we bought a small duplex nearby for six more men.



*The Woodcrest Ave. house was in foreclosure and deteriorating when we bought it. Now it is home to 6 men wanting a second chance after prison. It is typical of all the 11 ministry houses that GSH now owns—all given second chances to benefit the community*

But it was soon full and in April we opened another duplex for six more men – and the referrals kept coming. So in May we opened our fourth Dayton building.

*It's not just housing we offer.  
It's a second chance.*

### More than houses

Over the past year we have housed and mentored 54 men in our Dayton houses, as well as 21 men in our Sidney house and 22 more men in our Greenville houses.

But it's not just housing we offer. It's a second chance.

On the one hand, it makes financial sense to help find housing and jobs for those coming back from prison every year in Ohio. If someone is working and paying taxes, then they won't be costing taxpayers the \$1.7 billion that we pay for prisons in Ohio.

**But far more important than money, the foundation of our faith is that God's love, God's forgiveness, knows no limit. There is no sliding scale of grace.**

So if God can offer "paradise" to the thief on the cross who repented, then so must we. And for us that means housing and support for those coming home from prison.

Although city and county officials have been very supportive of our reentry housing in Dayton, they haven't been satisfied.

*"What we need in Montgomery County is long-term affordable housing for ex-offenders?"* county officials told us repeatedly.

### A radical leap of faith

Because it so difficult to find landlords who will take a chance and rent to ex-offenders—at an affordable price—it is our plan to buy 20 more apartment buildings in Dayton over the next five years for as many as 120 ex-offenders who have gotten jobs, but still need help.

This is what we call "the double bottom line" - a program that pays for itself while still profiting in people. It's win/win for everyone.





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HOME**

*Welcoming the Stranger*

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[www.goodsamaritanhome.org](http://www.goodsamaritanhome.org)

## We need your help in practical ways

A house is not a home without all the furnishings that make it livable—and we need EVERYTHING for these new houses.

- couches
- loveseats
- chairs
- round dining tables/  
chairs
- single beds
- dressers
- electric stoves
- refrigerators
- freezers
- coffee pots
- microwave ovens
- floor lamps
- table lamps
- Carpet or rugs / any size

- blankets
- twin sheet sets
- pillows
- towels / wash cloths
- Kitchenware / dishes
- pots/pans
- Coffee mugs
- drinking glasses
- can openers
- Salt/pepper shakers /  
various kitchen tools
- toilet bowls brushes
- waste baskets  
both large / small
- **You name it, we need it!**

## GSH success stories

We talk a lot about our houses because they are tangible. But houses are not what we really do. We are about people – giving a second chance to people who never had a second chance, those the Bible calls “the least of these.”

**Chris** spent 16 years in prison. Halfway through his sentence, he realized he needed to change his life or die in prison. So he came to our reentry house in Greenville determined to turn around his life.



Even though he is a skilled mechanic, getting any job was a monumental task for him. No one was willing to take a chance on him. All they saw was his crime.

But after six months and hundreds of rejections, he was finally hired as a minimum wage laborer in an auto oil change shop. Even though trained to rebuild car engines, Chris willingly spends his days underneath those same engines changing dirty oil all day long.

*“Best hire I’ve made in a long time,”* his boss said recently. *“I wish I had 10 more guys like Chris.”*

Chris now lives in our reentry house in Sidney where he acts as manager and mentor to other men looking for a second chance.

Like so many of the men we help, **Alex** didn’t have a lot of job skills, and a prison record only made his job chances even slimmer. But he did have one important thing to offer—a change in attitude. He spent much of his 14 years in prison as a dog trainer—not the sort of skill that would help him find a job on the outside, but it did

teach him to stick with a task no matter how difficult.

Like Chris, he pounded the pavement for six months trying to find a job. He had just about given up when a local gravel company offered him a job running a conveyer machine “separating rocks” - and he loves it!

*“They don’t make a big enough book for me to explain how I feel about my job!”* he said holding back his tears.

Alex credits the encouragement and support he got from GSH staff Jon Keller for his job. *“He walked beside me,”* he said.

