

Good  
Samaritan  
Home

# New Beginnings

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## It's about changed lives

One question we are often asked with this ministry is how many of our residents are successful? How many actually change the behavior that got them into trouble in the first place? It's a good question—but it's a hard one to answer. That's because it takes time to measure success reentering the community after prison.

I believe most of the men and women we house and mentor will eventually make it. But since they stay with us for just a few months until they get a job, and their own apartments, that means when we DON'T hear from someone, that's good news. They've made it. But it would be nice to see it in person. Well, in November we got our proof.

Tony lived in Springfield all his life. So when he was released from prison homeless in 2012 and sent to our Dayton house, he had no idea where to go. Soon he was lost on the streets, alone and afraid.

"It took me two months to adjust to being out of prison,"



Tony Rose (*left*) struggled to find a job and restart his life after prison. But with help from GSH staff Kathy Graham (*center*) and Chris Baugh (*right*), he finally made it.

he said. "I spent most of my time sitting on the couch, too nervous to even look for a job."

It took him eight months to eventually find a job.

"Chris wasn't easy on me, but I was stuck and scared."

Chris Baugh spent 16 years in prison himself, so he knew firsthand what Tony was feeling. That's why we hired Chris then—to help guys like Tony.

He started earning money, but he never had a bank account before, so it took Tony another six months to start saving for his own apartment.

In time, like most of our residents, he soon moved to his own place and we lost track of him—until he called out of the blue to tell us how well he was doing. He has a new job where he is in management training—and he's working so much overtime he bought a 2017 car—the nicest one he's ever owned! More important, all his back child support is repaid!

"I could not have made it without you guys, and especially Chris," he said. "I've been given a second chance by the state and by God."

He cried as he drove out of the restaurant parking lot.

# GSH and Covid-19



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Like most people, Covid-19 has been our primary concern this entire year. All that we hear—from everywhere—has been how dangerous, and especially how contagious this virus can be.

Our situation has been even more critical because of the type of work we do—group housing. That meant if one resident got sick, not just that whole house would likely get sick, but there was the very real danger that staff could unknowingly carry the virus from house to house **INFECTING EVERYONE!** That was something that kept me awake at night.

It didn't help when we started getting reports of the virus spreading throughout the prison system, infecting as many as 80 percent of the inmates. If it happened there, it would surely happen just as easily in our houses!

Fortunately, and with a lot of advice and counsel from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation, the local health department, and especially a lot of hard work from our staff—and particularly Brian Gilvin, who spearheaded all our safety efforts—**WE HAD ONLY ONE RESIDENT —AND NO STAFF—CONTRACT COVID-19 THIS ENTIRE YEAR.**

## *Meet our new staff*

**Elijah Knost, our new part-time Dayton house manager**, heard about Good Samaritan Home through one of our staff who attended church with him. Elijah said he was trying to live out his faith by helping with the church youth group. But he felt that



wasn't really enough, that he wanted to do something to help at-risk people.

"I have a passion for people, specifically those that have had a rough life.

This is the reason I wanted to work at GSH."

This sums the Good Samaritan Home purpose very clearly. **Faith is best shared through acts of mercy to those who have never known mercy.** In our divisive political and social climate today, this message is critically needed.

**. Tony Monnier / Social work assistant.**

Tony is a man of very few words, but always willing to help.

He started with GSH in 2012 when he was going through a hard time and needed emergency housing and support. In turn he offered to help our staff with some house maintenance issues. He did so well

we offered him a part-time job as resident services assistant. One day a week led to two and three and even four days. No matter what we asked him to do, he always said yes.

Tony is now responsible to oversee and mentor some of our older, and most needy residents. Tony reminds me of the Bible verse about "*the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*"

