

Good  
Samaritan  
Home

# New Beginnings

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## A second chance

The one thing that sustains us in this ministry is the hope that maybe—just maybe we can see a change in someone’s life.

Sometimes that change is just staying off drugs, or out of jail, and in a best case, getting a steady job. But rarely do we ever see someone change as dramatically as Christy.

Christy and her three kids were in our shelter in 2006. Bad friends, bad choices and a lot of regret brought her to us. She and the kids were with us for several months, then moved out and disappeared, like so many people we deal with.

Then we heard there was a fire in Greenville. Three children died. It was Christy’s kids. Her life spiraled down in a sea of grief, guilt and despair after that. “I struggled with drug abuse for two years as a result. A parent should never have to bury a child,” she said over and over.

Finally, she determined to turn her life around “to prove herself to her kids.” And she did. Completely clean for the past 11 years, working as a store manager and spending all her time and money trying to



*Christy Winans with her three children in 2006. Ja 'Shawn, Jasmine and Kayla. All three died in a tragic housefire shortly after they moved from our shelter.*

rebuild her life. She paid off all her fines, got her driver’s license back, has stable housing, and is drug free. Best of all, she can be the “best aunt” to her nieces and nephews.

Christy kept in touch with Kathy, mostly at the annual balloon release she held on the birthday of each of her kids. They both cried every time they were together.

Christy’s goal is more than rebuilding her life, but helping other people rebuild their broken lives too.

So it only seemed natural to hire Christy as our newest manager. “I’ll

be able to notice warning behaviors because of my experience.” More important, “I hope to make a difference in the life of someone.”

In 2007, after that fire, I wrote this: *What families struggling to get out of poverty really need is a relationship with healthy people who can offer a hand up, not just a hand out. Programs don’t change people. People change people.*

When Christy was given a Good Samaritan Home business card with her name on it, she cried. “This job will help me get as close to okay as I will ever be.”



# Ministry in work pants



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

Phone: (937) 417-5733  
Email: gsh.johngraham@gmail.com  
www.goodsamaritanhome.org

**GOOD SAMARITAN  
HOME**



When we started this housing ministry in 2001, Kathy and I just shared our own home with those in need.

The need grew quickly, and the number of houses we bought and remodeled grew quickly as well. In the beginning I did all the work myself with volunteers to help whenever they could.

But now it is impossible for me to manage 100 residents in 18 houses in three counties—and all the paperwork

that comes with our housing contract with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction—and do all the maintenance and repairs that come with having so many houses.

Dave Norris is a handy man / contractor who wanted to do more than just repair houses. He wanted to help repair lives too. So now three days a week he can be found under a sink, or on a ladder with a hammer, paint brush or drill, keeping all the Good Samaritan houses safe and clean.

## Long term housing / mentoring



We realized we needed long-term housing, beyond our contract with the state.

In 2008 we bought a single house in Greenville to offer affordable housing for up to four men. Soon it filled and we bought another one in Sidney, then another in Dayton.

Now we have 6 houses with 40 men—and some have been with us for several years, and one man for 13 years!

Our newest building is a 6-unit apartment in Dayton that houses 10 residents and one manager.

Glenda, 67, was living in one of the apartments and was the unofficial building manager for the previous

owner. When we bought the building in March, she was worried she would lose her housing.

But we soon realized how valuable it was to have someone with a “grandmother’s eye” watching over the building.

We asked her to stay on and be part of the Good Samaritan team.

Win-win for everyone!



In 2008 we realized we needed more than just temporary housing. Many of our residents did all we asked of them.

They got a job, stayed out of trouble and tried to find their own apartment—only to be denied because of their past mistakes.