

He was all smiles!

Our goal with residents is to give them a safe place to restart their lives. But rarely is that restart so obvious as it was with Tommy. Just released from prison after nine years, he wanted to restart his food benefits and Social Security payments, but didn't know how to do either one.

That's when Josh Green got involved. Although not part of his job description as a house manager, he is a wizard at getting through the bureaucracy.

After a couple phone calls, Tommy got his food benefit card in the mail and went to the grocery store himself. He thanked Josh over and over again for helping him!

But Social Security is a whole different level of bureaucracy! But Josh was on the phone again. Several calls later, calmly asking the right questions, Josh persisted—and Tommy was soon scheduled to receive his first SSDI check!

The Social Services representative said she had not been able to contact Tommy before this and his case was going to be denied soon—and that would have required literally reapplying



Tommy (left) with GSH staff Josh Green (right) after opening his first bank account.

ing all over again, possibly taking several years to complete.

“I can't believe I got it!” This time he cried.

But Tommy's story gets even better. He was told he would get his back benefits as well—a considerable amount, and more than he ever had in his hand at one time.

But that presented another problem. How does he receive the money? If it comes by check, how will he cash it? He doesn't have a bank ac-

count—and never had one in his life. So Josh took him to the bank, set up his bank account with him, and then contacted Social Security to have his money sent automatically into his new account.

But Josh wasn't done with Tommy. He taught him how to use his new bank account, how to budget his money—and even took him to get a haircut and new clothes.

Josh said it best. **“It has been a rare privilege to see Tommy make such astonishing progress. I am hopeful for his future. He embodies ‘the least of these’ mentioned in the Bible.**

And did I mention Josh did all this on his days off!





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GOOD SAMARITAN HOME



Fortunately we were insured, and six months later the house is finally remodeled completely—to the tune of \$66,000. Which is far more than we paid for the building originally, by the way.

• Rising from the ashes

- In January we had some really bad news—one of our houses was nearly destroyed by an accidental fire.
- We try to be so careful to prevent this sort of thing from happening.
- Daily house checks. Regular and on-going inspections. Fire drills. Even an Ohio Department of Correction audit inspection.
- But who could have expected a simple coffee pot to overheat and catch fire? And no one was home!
- The only thing that saved the entire building from burning to the ground was the residents in the adjoining apartment were home, and they heard the smoke detector ringing and ringing. They called the fire department who arrived quickly and kept the fire contained in the kitchen—that is, except for the smoke damage.



Every room was damaged to some degree.



GSH was a turning point in my life

I came to Good Samaritan Home in September of 2017. I had battled with addiction issues for most of my life. The friends of addiction soon followed: the liar, the manipulator, the thief, the victim, the guilt, the shame, the low self esteem, along with a few more.

I had not only found myself in trouble with the law, but also with my family. I truly felt beat down and alone.

Living at the GSH was definitely a blessing and a turning point in my life. I knew I was safe in the house, which gave me the security I so badly needed.

I started going to meetings and Darke County Recovery, where I met Claire, who helped me see



through the worst of myself and begin the path of self-forgiveness. Darke County Chief of Probation,

James Mollette, also became a strong support system for me.

Along with the probation department and Judge Hein, I was able to take classes to become a state licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor.

When I heard there was to be an opening at GSH, I felt that I had reached a point in my life where it was time to start giving back, and try to make a positive impact in someone else's life.

Everyone deserves a chance to find their way and become the best version of themselves they can be. That is why I am excited to be a part of the GSH family.