



## **Dismas Family Farm, Oakham, MA**

### **Dismas Fellowship 2020 - 2021**

Dismas House of Massachusetts, Inc., seeks a fellow for the Dismas Family Farm, a 12-bed, vocational farm for recently released prisoners. The fellowship is a unique, one-year, post-baccalaureate, service opportunity. The Fellow lives in solidarity with the residents of the Dismas Family Farm and helps coordinate daily activities at the farm. Ideal candidates will have a commitment to issues of social justice, excellent verbal and written communication skills, and a comfort working with individuals from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. All applicants must be graduating in May or June of 2020 from a 4-year college or university. Applicants who graduated in the fall of 2019 also will be considered. Hours will include weekend and evening hours.

This fellowship runs the course of one calendar year (ideally July 1 – June 30). The Fellow will receive a \$400/week stipend, and room and board at our home at 687 Lincoln Road in Oakham, MA. Health and dental insurance are available as well.

Duties for the position include, but are not limited to the following:

- ✓ Work alongside agency staff and volunteers to create welcoming home for farm residents.
- ✓ Help maintain program milieu, supporting vocational and program efforts at the farm.
- ✓ Support, welcome, and orient volunteers providing outside services, including, but not limited to, meal provision, education, recovery services, and special project assistance.
- ✓ Transport residents to doctor appointments, job interviews, legal appointments and NA/AA meetings in the community. Help to plan, coordinate and implement house activities.
- ✓ Help coordinate special activities at the farm, including weekly farmers' markets, a summer CSA program, an annual barn dance, and a fall festival.
- ✓ Provide needed administrative support to agency staff to ensure success of fundraising efforts.
- ✓ Work closely with agency staff to fulfill and promote the agency mission and help capitalize on further opportunities for growth.

Desired skills and abilities include:

- ✓ Comfortability working with individuals from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds representative of Worcester's ethnic diversity.
- ✓ Superb organizational skills and the ability to manage multiple demands simultaneously.
- ✓ An understanding of client confidentiality policies and the ability to use good judgment in all interactions with residents.

- ✓ Excellent writing and computer skills, with an ability to communicate our agency's stories via written and social media.
- ✓ Applicants must have a valid MA driver's license.

Dismas House is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, nationality, religious conviction or disability.

Applicants should submit a resume and a one-page cover letter describing how their experience, skill set, and interests would make them an excellent fit for this position. Please include your name on each page of your application. All materials and related questions can be directed to Colleen Hilferty at [colleenhif@gmail.com](mailto:colleenhif@gmail.com).

The application deadline is April 30, 2020.

## What we do:

### DISMAS HOUSE

This flagship home located in the Main South neighborhood of Worcester has provided a caring home environment for homeless and former offenders in need for over a quarter of a century.



### THE DISMAS FAMILY FARM



The Farm is a one-of-a-kind residential home set on the rolling 35 acres of a historic farm in Oakham Ma. Utilizing organic farming methods, the community at the farm operate a CSA, tend to animals, run a farmers market, and rebuild their lives in a holistic and healthy environment far from the urban core.

### THE FATHER JOHN BROOKS HOUSE

Named for the legendary former president of the College of the Holy Cross, Brooks House provides secure apartment living for Dismas grads and their families enriched by staff support and accountability.



### BASIC ADVOCACY FOR REENTRY (BAR) NONE PROGRAM

Led by a skilled attorney and advocate, the BAR None team of pro bono lawyers, retired judges, volunteers, and Holy Cross students help hundreds of former offenders overcome a tangle of civil legal barriers while also connecting them with housing, healthcare, and opportunity in greater Worcester.

### By the Numbers

- Dismas House, the Dismas Family Farm and the Father John Brooks House are home each day to 30 homeless and former prisoners trying to rebuild their lives.
- Over 300 volunteers, comprising 50 different families and church and student groups, prepare and share dinner at Dismas programs each year.
- Dismas Family Farm residents grow over 20,000 pounds of fresh vegetables each year.
- The Dismas Family Farm raises 30 free-range turkeys each year at Thanksgiving.
- The farm has 1 llama, named Nina.



### GREEN INITIATIVES

Dismas is leading the way through solar, pellet-fired furnaces, insulation, and high efficiency heat to a reduced carbon future for low-income housing providers. Working with community partners, Dismas is assisting other agencies in cultivating energy.



*For over a quarter century, Dismas House of Massachusetts has provided a sense of community and belonging to former offenders and homeless people in central Massachusetts!*