

DISMAS House

Dismas at 30!

From the Directors

Dismas is family. You realize this when you visit our homes; Dismas House and the Father John Brooks House in Worcester; and the Dismas Family Farm in Oakham. Residents, volunteers, and staff come together to create warm and welcoming homes for former prisoners. For 30 years, Dismas programs have provided hope, understanding, and opportunity for former prisoners reentering our communities.

In this supportive family environment, Dismas residents can begin the processes of healing and rebuilding lives scarred by homelessness, addiction, and incarceration. Dismas residents find opportunities to learn vocational skills, seek employment, and reconnect with their families and with society.

You can learn more about Dismas programs by visiting our website www.dismasisfamily.org. Better yet, visit us at one of the farmers' markets we attend, or join us for our annual barn dance or fall harvest festival! Thank you!

Colleen and Dave



Residents and staff at Dismas House in 2000

Worcester community effort — countless community and church volunteers and local college students have joined us in our mission of hope for former prisoners. We also are indebted to our board members, who have



Summer at the Farm in 2015

Dismas House is celebrating 30 years in greater Worcester! As we reflect on these 30 years, we want to express our gratitude for the community effort that has built the Dismas family of programs, and has supported the men of Dismas on their journey back to society. Through Dismas programs, residents reconnect with the fabric of society, discovering a new sense of hope, self-worth and purpose. Dismas always has been a



Father John Brooks, second from left, at the opening of Brooks House in 2007

overseen the growth of the Dismas family of programs. We are grateful for our staff, who have worked day-in and day-out to create a safe and supportive sober-living environment. Most importantly, we are humbled by the residents of Dismas programs, who have had the courage to imagine a better life for themselves and their families. Thank you everyone—we are looking forward to the next 30 years together!

Donate online at www.dismasisfamily.org

See You at the Markets!



Eating your vegetables is not only good for you, it is good for Dismas too! The Dismas Family Farm is a productive, working, vocational farm. The Dismas Family Farm is proud to offer over 50 varieties of vegetables, eggs, pork, lamb, wood crafts, and candles at two local farmers' markets. The Dismas Family Farm can be found every Saturday, year-round, from 9 AM – 12 PM, at the popular Canal District Farmers' Market in Worcester. From June through September, the Dismas Family Farm can be found every Thursday from 2 – 6 PM at the Westborough Farmers' Market, founded and operated by Dismas, in downtown Westborough. These markets showcase the amazing efforts of the Dismas Family Farm. We hope to see you at the markets!

Dismas Board of Directors

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Gail Parker, LICSW, Vice-President
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Spotlight on Dismas Graduate

Mike grew up in Main South Worcester, in what he describes as a "chaotic and dark" environment. Mike's early life became focused on gangs and drugs. Mike served his first state prison sentence at age 17, and then was in and out of prison, spending over 15 years incarcerated. While in jail, Mike learned about Dismas House, and decided to try something new. Mike says he could not believe the positive environment he found when he arrived at Dismas House. At Dismas, Mike says he "learned new responsibilities, the need to meet curfews, to be at dinner, to engage in recovery." Mike started volunteering at Spectrum's peer recovery center in Worcester. Eventually, Mike returned to school and became a certified alcohol and drug counselor.

Mike graduated Dismas and moved into the Father John Brooks House. Today, Mike is the director of the center where he once volunteered. Mike works hand-in-hand with the district attorney, the drug court, and others in helping addicts on their hard road to recovery. Mike is an example of what is possible through hard work and the welcoming community and support of Dismas House!



Save the Dates!

3rd Annual Dismas Family Farm Barn Dance
JUNE 9th 6 - 9 PM
9th Annual Dismas Family Farm Fall Festival
OCTOBER 6th 12 - 4 PM

Heard Around Dismas...

I may not be the good shepherd, but I've become, incidentally, a pretty good shepherd since I've started my journey here at the Farm. I awake every day with a sense of purpose and gratitude, coupled with a keen discipline and respect, thanks all due to the very unique and especial environment and atmosphere that the Farm provides one with. The newfound responsibility and self-awareness that I've learned, nurtured and grown here, has spilled over into other aspects of my personal life, relationships, and community outlook.

-Dismas Family Farm Resident

Working with the residents at Dismas House was a privilege; they taught me a lot about humility and giving back to others regardless of where they come from. Dismas also taught me that everyone deserves a second chance because the disease of addiction is very unfair and misunderstood.

-Molly Hourigan, former Holy Cross Fellow at the Dismas Family Farm



Dismas is Family!



By the Numbers

- # Dismas House, the Dismas Family Farm and the Father John Brooks House are home each year to 65 homeless and former prisoners trying to rebuild their lives.
- # Over 300 volunteers, from families, churches, and local schools, help out at Dismas programs each year.
- # Dismas House is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2018!
- # The Dismas Family Farm coordinates a 50-member CSA, providing members with a weekly share of the farm's best produce.
- # The farm has 150 chickens, 40 sheep, 30 turkeys, 3 pigs, 2 cats, and 1 dog, Hobbes.

Dismas House of Massachusetts
Post Office Box 30125
Worcester, MA 01603
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dismas Wish List

- ✓ New, twin-sized sheets and blankets. New pillows and bath towels.
- ✓ Laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, and other cleaning supplies.
- ✓ Gardening and lawn tools to help on the farm.
- ✓ Men's work boots and sneakers.
- ✓ Fuel gift cards to help with transportation costs.

Please contact us (see contact info at right) to arrange drop-off or pick-up of donations. Thank you!

Ways to Connect

- ✓ On our website at www.dismasisfamily.org
- ✓ On Facebook at 'Dismas House'
- ✓ On Instagram at '@dismashouseofma'
- ✓ On Twitter '@DismasHouse'
- ✓ By phone at (508) 799-9389 or at the farm at (508) 882-0000



Donate online at www.dismasisfamily.org
Thank you for your support!