

DISMAS House

A New Home at the Farm!

Who We Are

Dismas is Family. Dismas housing programs and services offer hope, understanding, and opportunity for men recovering and rebuilding their lives after years of addiction, incarceration, and homelessness.

Dismas House in Worcester offers supportive, transitional housing and reentry services.

The Dismas Family Farm offers vocational rehabilitation and supportive housing on a working farm in Oakham.

The Father John Brooks House in Worcester offers permanent, supportive housing to graduates of Dismas programs.

BAR None provides civil legal assistance to former prisoners from throughout Worcester by addressing barriers to reentry.



The new home will provide housing for farm graduates who want to stay connected to the farm

Dismas House is pleased to announce the planning phase for a new home for farm graduates and their families, right across the street from our current farmhouse in Oakham! This new home will be similar to Father Brooks House, and will provide permanent housing for farm graduates who wish to remain connected to Dismas programs. We appreciate all of the project funders who have supported us to date—CCRI Mass Housing, the Fletcher Foundation, the Stoddard Charitable Trust, Charlesbank Homes, Agnes Lindsay Trust, and the Massachusetts Women's Home Missionary Union. Special thanks go out to

Representatives Dan Donahue and Jim O'Day for securing an additional \$200,000 in state funds for the project. We look forward to sharing news of our progress with you!

Spotlight on Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Dismas mission, helping to reintegrate former prisoners with society. Volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups range from serving meals to helping around the farm. See *Ways to Connect* to find out how you can become involved and help make a difference!



Spirited volunteers from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) spent a day assisting with farm chores



Donate online at www.dismasisfamily.org

A Tale of Two Annas. . .



Dismas Program Coordinator Anna McCormack stays connected to her farm roots

Anna McCormack highlights the importance of student involvement in the Dismas mission. Anna first arrived at the Dismas Family Farm in 2018 as an undergraduate intern from Anna Maria College. After graduating from Anna Maria, Anna stayed on at the farm as one of two post-baccalaureate fellows, living in community with the residents of the farm for two years, during which time she also completed her Master's in Social Work. Dismas House was delighted to hire Anna in July 2021 to serve as Program Coordinator at Dismas House on Richards Street. Anna brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to the issues facing returning prisoners in her role at Dismas House. Welcome Anna!



BAR None Directing Attorney Anna Rice helps resolve complicated legal matters

Anna Rice is an unsung hero. As Directing Attorney of Dismas' BAR None Program since 2006, Anna Rice has assisted thousands of returning prisoners from throughout Worcester County in tackling legal barriers that hamper reintegration. Anna partners with local agencies and government offices to help former prisoners resolve a range of housing, disability, and family issues. Anna's efforts are not limited to Dismas residents. She travels to other program sites, including Jeremiah's Inn and the Worcester Triage and Assessment Center, to provide workshops and counsel to former prisoners there. There is no problem or job too small or too large for Anna to tackle. Her efforts are tireless, and she has helped sustain and grow the Dismas mission for years. Thank you Anna!

SAVE THE DATES!

OCT. 1 and 8, 2022

Dismas Family Farm Fall Festival
Harvest Days

NOV. 26, and DEC. 3 and 10, 2022

4th Annual Dismas Christmas
Tree Sale

Dismas Board of Directors

Jill Sullivan, President
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Heard Around Dismas. . .

As Fellows at Dismas, we have not only learned about re-entry and addiction recovery, but have become enriched by a spirit of mutual care and inspiration. The complexity of living and working at the farm challenges us daily to learn (and relearn) our individual responsibility in fostering a community of care and understanding. We appreciate the opportunity to grow at the farm and as part of the Dismas family.

**-Allison Hall and Sarah Jaramillo,
Fellows at the Dismas Family Farm**

Dismas is Family!



-I am thankful to Dismas because it gave me the opportunity for a new start in life. It's a safe place to be and the house is warm and friendly!

-It has given me a solid foundation to rebuild my life. A safe home with support from staff, food, clean clothes, and a great group of guys!

-Residents at Dismas House



By the Numbers

- # Dismas House, the Dismas Family Farm, and the Father John Brooks House are home each year to 65 former prisoners trying to rebuild their lives.
- # Over 300 volunteers, from families, churches, and local schools, help out at Dismas programs each year.
- # The BAR None program serves 700 former prisoners through workshops and individual counsel each year.
- # The Dismas Family Farm has 12 sheep, 3 mini-goats, and 2 adorable miniature horses, Thelma and Louise.
- # And Dismas House has 1 awesome cat, Bandit.

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.
- ✓ New men's work boots, sneakers, and gloves.
- ✓ New men's sweatshirts, sweatpants, t-shirts (sizes large-XXL).
- ✓ Fuel gift cards to help with transportation costs.

Please contact us 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'
- ✓ By email at cmdismashouse@aol.com
- ✓ 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!