

# DISMAS House

## New Home for Farm Graduates

### 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.



A sneak peak at our new home for farm graduates

We are delighted to announce our new home for farm graduates! After an exhaustive planning process, we have found a perfect, two-family home right down the road from the Dismas Family Farm! This new home will be similar to our Father John Brooks House in Worcester, and will provide permanent housing for farm graduates who wish to remain connected to the farm. We will spend the spring renovating the house to make it an ideal space for future residents. Please visit our website for more information and for updates on our anticipated ribbon-cutting and house-warming. Thank you to all of our project funders and supporters for making this happen!

## Dismas Celebrates 35 Years!

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dismas programs welcoming returning citizens back to the greater Worcester community. While we have expanded our programming to meet the changing needs of our residents, our mission has remained the same. From our range of housing models to our civil legal support services, Dismas programs provide a welcoming, nurturing, and safe environment to foster healthy reintegration. We are grateful for all of our friends and supporters for helping us reach this milestone.



Residents, staff, and friends gather on the front porch of our original Dismas program on Richards Street



Donate online at [www.dismasisfamily.org](http://www.dismasisfamily.org)

# What's New at the Farm. . .

. . . a lot actually! We are pleased to announce the opening of our new farm store, located in the barn. Featuring our organic vegetables, fresh eggs, and handmade woodcrafts and candles, the farm store is open every day from April through December as a great place to stock up on all things Dismas!

We have also added a Fathers' Day BBQ to our calendar of free events at the farm (see below). Throughout the year, these seasonal events invite the community to come and enjoy some delicious food, see our adorable miniature animals, and spend some time with us at the farm. Stop by—we would love to see you!



Farm residents, staff, and volunteers celebrate the opening of the new farm store



The farm hosts events throughout the year including our fall harvest days and our Christmas tree and wreath sale

## Calling All 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 at our programs to helping around the farm. See *Ways to Connect* to find out how you can become involved and help make a difference!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**JUNE 18, 2023**

Dismas Family Farm Fathers' Day  
BBQ

**OCT. 7 and 14, 2023**

Dismas Family Farm Fall Harvest  
Days

**NOV. 25 + 26 and DEC. 2 + 9, 2023**

5th Annual Dismas Christmas  
Tree Sale

### Dismas Board of Directors

Jill Sullivan, President  
Suzanne Arpante, Vice-President  
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Kevin Byrne, Esq.  
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Jose Vasquez



# Heard Around Dismas. . .

In the picturesque landscape of the farm, I am recovering from 22 years of imprisonment. . . I have been afforded the opportunity to start over without the social pressures and temptations of city life. It has exposed me to a much simpler and peaceful existence than I have been accustomed. It has left me with the feeling that life will get better and I will not have to experience the chaos of my past.

**—Resident at the Dismas Family Farm**

As an emerging professional, the fellowship role has offered me unparalleled opportunities to engage with clients from all walks of life, to learn about their stories, and to partner with them on their journeys of recovery and reintegration. As a live-in member of the community, Dismas has also truly become a family — one in which we strive daily to recognize our individual limitations, draw upon our unique gifts, and humbly create a vital community grounded in a spirit of hope and brotherhood. The joy of this experience has been multiplied by the profound enthusiasm and support shown by the broader Worcester community whose generous participation in our mission has bolstered my faith in the transformative power of community.

**—Aaron Christo, 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 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 50 chickens, 3 alpacas, 3 mini-goats, 2 mini-donkeys, 2 miniature horses, 1 cat, and 1 beloved dog, Hobbes.
- # And Dismas House has 1 cool 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-XXXL).
- ✓ 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](http://www.dismasisfamily.org)
- ✓ On Facebook at 'Dismas House'
- ✓ On Instagram at '@dismashouseofma'
- ✓ By email at [cmdismashouse@aol.com](mailto:cmdismashouse@aol.com)
- ✓ By phone at (508) 799-9389 or at the farm at (508) 882-0000



**Donate online at [www.dismasisfamily.org](http://www.dismasisfamily.org)**  
**Thank you for your support!**