

DISMAS House

Introducing Pryce House!

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 in Oakham offers vocational rehabilitation and supportive housing on a working farm.

The Father John Brooks House in Worcester and the **Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House** in Oakham offer 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.

After years of planning and prepping, we are thrilled to unveil the new Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House in Oakham! Named in honor of longtime, treasured volunteers at the Dismas Family Farm, the Pryce House provides permanent, supportive housing for six Dismas graduates and their families. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in realizing this project, including project funders, the Department of Corrections ARPA, Charlesbank Homes, CCRI Mass Housing, the Fletcher Foundation, the Stoddard Charitable Trust, the Albert W. Rice Charitable Foundation, the Amelia Peabody Charitable Trust, the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation, the Massachusetts Woman's Home Missionary Union, Santander Bank Charitable Foundation, and St. Francis Episcopal Church in Holden. A special thank you as well to State Representatives Jim O'Day and Dan Donahue and State Senators Mike Moore and Robyn Kennedy for their advocacy in securing additional ARPA funding for this project.



The newly-renovated Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House in Oakham

Spotlight on Dismas Alumni!



Dismas alum Shane Bradwell repaired and painted the barn at the Dismas Family Farm this past summer

Shane Bradwell, a 2014 alumnus of Dismas House in Worcester, has worked tirelessly to build a better future for himself and his family. Shane, who resides with his family in Auburn, started his own company, Quality Painting, about 10 years ago. Dismas is thrilled with all the work that Shane and Quality Painting have done at our programs over the years. Call Shane at (774) 420-6654 to see what he can do for you!

See Page 2 for more alumni news!



Donate online at www.dismasisfamily.org

Spotlight on Alumni (continued)



Farm alum Mike Kenny joined the Dismas staff as Program Coordinator in September 2023

Michael Kenny, a 2021 alumnus of the Dismas Family Farm, joined the Dismas staff as Program Coordinator at the farm in September 2023. Mike brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his role at the farm. Mike completed his addiction counseling education and certification and is passionate about helping Dismas residents in their journeys of healing from addiction and trauma. Mike, a self-described, “semi-retired” building contractor, also enjoys guiding farm residents in vocational and maintenance tasks on the farm. Mike is a proud grandfather of three and lives in Worcester with his beloved dog Seamus.

Dismas Board of Directors

Jill Sullivan, President
Suzanne Arpante, Vice-President
Meghan Maceiko, Treasurer
Jay Broadhurst, MD
Nan Ford
Paul Gallagher
Eric Garcia, MD
Ed Karcasinas, Esq.
Sarah Loy
Teddy Myers
Jay Sullivan
Jose Vasquez

Jose Vasquez, a 2021 alumnus of Dismas House in Worcester, has dedicated his life to helping other justice-involved individuals reintegrate and succeed in society. Jose, who works as a BH-JI Navigator for Open Sky Community Services, also serves as a Director of the Reconciliation House sober home in Webster and on the Board of Dismas House. Jose uses his experiences and example in recovery and reentry to guide others in their paths to reintegration. Jose shares that the



acceptance and lack of judgment he felt at Dismas helped him “to begin the healing process and re-engage with [h i s] family.” Thank you Jose for all that you do for our community!

Dismas alum Jose Vasquez helps others as a BH-JI Navigator for Open Sky

SAVE THE DATES!

JUNE 16, 2024

Dismas Family Farm Fathers’ Day
BBQ

OCT. 5, 2024

Dismas Family Farm Fall Harvest
Days

NOV. 30, DEC. 1, 7, and 8, 2024

6th Annual Dismas Family Farm
Christmas Tree Sale

Heard Around Dismas...

Even though my life experiences look different from a lot of the men I live with, sharing space and having time to work towards collective goals allows us to learn from each other and all feel like integral parts of a thriving community. As someone who grew up in a big city, having this year outside has been incredibly healing and has helped me build confidence in a whole new set of skills, and I have watched the responsibility of taking care of plants, animals, and property have the same impact on our residents. Living together, we learn more about what community is, how it is maintained and strengthened, and how impactful it can be in our personal journeys.

—Bea Gerber, Fellow at the Dismas Family Farm

Life is beautiful! I am finally able to clearly connect with myself, nature and the understanding of community. I have been incarcerated many times throughout my life, leaving me more damaged than before. I found myself in a vicious cycle that was breaking my spirit and leaving me hopeless, then I was given a gift. A gift experienced from one passed to another, that gift was/is Dismas. Living with a family of peers whose collective consciousness, dreams and idea of life is unified, I am learning and sharing values of life like responsibility, caring, organization, teaching, listening, and most importantly understanding; allowing me to cultivate the life of my dreams for myself and all who share this gift.

—Resident at the Dismas Family Farm

Dismas is Family!

By the Numbers

70 The number of former prisoners Dismas programs serve yearly as they work to rebuild their lives.

300 The number of volunteers from families, churches, and local schools, that help out at Dismas programs each year.

700 The number of former prisoners the BAR None program serves yearly through workshops and individual counsel.

6 The number of Dismas graduates living in the new Pryce House in Oakham.

\$25 The donation to Dismas that can buy work boots or a state ID for a new resident.



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
- ✓ 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!