

DISMAS 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 County by addressing barriers to reentry.



Sober Suppers at the Farm!

Summer 2025 marked the inaugural season for our Sober Suppers at the Dismas Family Farm! A free community event, our Sober Suppers are a space for individuals in substance abuse recovery and their supporters to network, socialize, and feast on delicious summer barbecue at the Dismas Family Farm. The Sober Suppers provide opportunities for farm residents to showcase their culinary skills and to reintegrate



with and to give back to the wider community. Please see our calendar on the following page for 2026 Sober Supper dates and for information on other signature events at the farm!

European Reentry Tour

Delegates from Dismas House had a remarkable opportunity to learn about carceral and reentry philosophy and practices during a tour of these systems in Germany, Sweden, and Norway this past spring. Dismas House and non-profit Legendary Legacies of Worcester accompanied Undersecretary of Public Safety Andy Peck and State Representative/Leader Jim O'Day on a tour and exploration of European criminal



Undersecretary Andy Peck, far left, and State Representative Jim O'Day, far right, join delegates from Dismas and Legendary Legacies on a tour of an open prison in Berlin, Germany



continued on page 2

Donate online at www.dismasisfamily.org

Tour continued. . .

justice models. We met an incredible cross section of reentry experts and visited some of the best criminal justice models in the world; from the Open Prison in Spandau Berlin, to Bastoy prison island in Norway and reentry providers in Stockholm, Sweden. The trip was funded through the New Commonwealth Fund and the Massachusetts Bar Foundation. The team built lasting relationships and learned lessons applicable to building a smarter system for justice in Massachusetts, and will inform our work and ensure continued positive change and healthy reentry for former prisoners.



Sharing ideas and information with representatives from Skyddsvarnet, a reentry service provider in Stockholm, Sweden

SAVE THE DATES!

JUL. 10 + 24 & AUG. 14 + 28, 2026

6 PM to dusk

Summer Sober Suppers at the Farm

OCT. 3, 2026

12 to 4 PM

Dismas Family Farm Fall Harvest Festival

NOV. 28 + 29 & DEC. 5 + 6, 2026

11 AM to 4 PM

8th Annual Dismas Family Farm Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

Dismas Board of Directors

Jill Sullivan, President
Suzanne Arpante, Vice-President
Sarah Loy, Treasurer
Jay Broadhurst, MD
Michael Earielo
Nan Ford
Eric Garcia, MD
Teddy Meyers
Jay Sullivan
Jose Vasquez

In Memory of Frank 1935—2026

The Dismas family lost a dear member in January with the passing of our former longtime resident Frank. Frank first came to Dismas House on Richards Street in 2000. For years Frank was a diligent caretaker of the Dismas grounds, even returning after moving into his own apartment to help with sprucing up and landscaping projects. Frank welcomed generations of Dismas residents and volunteers with his straight talk and strong opinions. Frank's sometimes gruff exterior belied a tender heart—he had a soft spot for animals and children. Frank left an indelible mark on the Dismas community and he will be missed by those who knew and appreciated him.



Frank, bottom left, with his beloved dog friend Flint, at Dismas House in 2000

Heard Around Dismas...

All my life I've looked for something that I just couldn't have—a type of inner peace from a very young age. I couldn't grasp it because love wasn't taught to me. Anger and hate were my life. If you are given a second chance, everything changes. Life changes, attitude changes, gratitude that you never had blossoms. For me, my sobriety this time is different. I can't really explain it, I don't really have to explain it—it shows. Doing things without having to be told, getting ready for life, that's being part of this program for me. This is Dismas for me. Dismas is family—this is and always will be my family.

-Resident at the Dismas Family Farm

My fellowship at Dismas has been an unparalleled experience. Being able to work and live alongside the guys at the farm has taught me so much about the importance of hearing the stories of people vastly different from yourself. By living as a community, we've been able to work collaboratively to meet common goals, from maintaining the farm to supporting each other's recovery and sobriety. Dismas's network of volunteer groups, many of whom have been sharing meals at the farm for years, helps build meaningful connections that might not otherwise exist. These relationships have shown me how powerful shared space and shared effort can be in breaking down barriers and fostering understanding, accountability, and genuine community.

-Emma Pierce, Fellow at the Dismas Family Farm

**Dismas is
Family!**



By the Numbers

38

The number of years Dismas has been a beacon of hope for former prisoners in Worcester County.

38

The number of individuals served in Dismas housing programs at any time.

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.

Too many to count! Chickens at the farm.

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, and 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!