



GOOD NEWS *Outreach*

Faith in Action Since 1986

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Cheval Breggins

Director's Corner

I believe we should start by giving thanks because you can never say thank you enough. On behalf of the Good News Outreach (GNO) team and people we serve, I want to thank you for your time, talent and treasure that you have graciously bestowed upon us.

GNO, like other organizations and individuals has entered into the 2023 spring season. It has been said that spring is a time of new beginnings. It is the season when life and hope are remembered and reborn. Flowers push through the ground of the earth to bloom and trees burst forth with buds in anticipation of leaves. Spring represents renewal, freshness and rebirth.

The GNO spring season has brought new beginnings to the people we serve, including Kiara, a Mercy House Women participant, working part-time in the food pantry, and Ronnie, a male re-entry participant and 2022 Prayer Breakfast speaker, progressing to become the house manager for the Mercy House Men program.



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During this season, GNO has strengthened and established community partnerships with many organizations who provide a vital service to the various clients we serve. GNO is busy planting the seeds of grant funding by submitting grant proposals. While we await the blooming of some grant applications, we have received funding or items through grant processes from St. John's Episcopal Church (Operational Funding), Target Store (Re-Entry Program Funding), and Second Harvest of Big Bend (Much Needed items for the Food Distribution & Delivery Program).

I want to take this opportunity to plant a new seed. Please mark your calendar for the 2023 GNO Prayer Breakfast that will be held at 8:30

AM, Saturday, September 30, 2023 at St. John's Episcopal Church (Downtown Tallahassee). I promise that if you attend, you will be enlightened and uplifted. More information will be forthcoming.

I thanked you for your time, talent and treasure. If you were unable to bless us in any of those areas, the time to begin is never too late nor what you are able to give is never too small. Everyone reading this article and newsletter can participate in blessing Good News Outreach by keeping us in your prayers.



Food Pantry Announcements

January 2023 saw a major change for Good News Outreach Food Pantry. The decision to relocate had been floating around for some time but finally became a reality this January. The Food Pantry relocated from 548 E. Bradford Road to 606 W. 4th Avenue. The move caused the closure of the pantry for one week and all worked hard to quickly resume regular business for our clients.

The challenges, though problematic, were easy to overcome thanks to the leadership of Director of Operations, David Dobbs. He, along with our many volunteers and staff were able to set the food pantry up at the new location, notify the public of the change of address, and resume our weekly service to the community.

Since its opening at the 4th Ave location, the Food Pantry has served 424 families and seniors and hopes to do more to assist those in need. Our food delivery service is still thriving and soon we hope to expand to

include Good Bread Hills and other neighboring communities. Meanwhile, neighbors are encouraged and welcome to stop by during regular Food Pantry hours, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 am—2 pm.



Mercy House Profiles

As many of you know, but for those of you who do not, Mercy House is the Good News Outreach Re-entry Program which houses men and women recently released from prison at three locations. These men and women have undergone many struggles and challenges and for those who keep focused on their goals and put the work in, the rewards are more than sweet. With this in mind, Good News Outreach wishes to focus and highlight the success of two of our Mercy House residents. Meet...

Mercy House Women

Ariel Bickelman

Ariel had a rough life growing up. At a young age she was predisposed to drugs, partying, and an unstable home. Her mom was one of many whom she saw lead such unsavory lifestyles. For little Ariel, she thought this was the norm. Having seen this behavior on an ongoing basis, Ariel began modeling what she saw and she too began using drugs at an early age. Needless to say, that lifestyle caused her to make wrong and bad decisions, some of which led to her imprisonment.

Ariel realized a bit too late the devastating effects of the mindset she was accustomed to and knew she had to change in order to make a good life for herself and daughter. Upon release Ariel chose to go to Shisa House here in Tallahassee. It was still close to home, allowed her to save money, and would help set her on the right track. While at Shisa, former Re-entry Director Freddie Rouse came and presented to the women there the opportunity Mercy House has waiting for them. This caught Ariel's attention and she pursued the opportunity.

In September 2022 Ariel came to Mercy House. She realized she still needed help and Mercy House could provide what she needed. Why Mercy House, she was asked, "I heard great things when Mr. Freddie came and spoke to us. It was an opportunity for me to save, it provided a stable, drug-free, and clean environment with people offering to help."

Since entering Mercy House, Ariel has seen people come and go. She is now the longest residing resident and currently serves as the House Manager. She has made tremendous progress, has kept a productive job, and saved enough to buy her own vehicle. We are very proud of Ariel and continue to wish her well. Stay tuned for updates!



Mercy House Men

Ronnie Walker

Ronnie was raised by his mom, a single parent for most of his life until his mom remarried. In his early childhood his family moved around a lot. He did not have a close relationship with his step-father but was close with his mom, grandmother, and aunt. For the most part he was a good kid, until he wasn't. He says his getting in trouble in school was a cry for help; one that went unheard. His mom taught him right from wrong but not having a father figure in his life he began hanging with the wrong crowd.

His family moved from Gainesville, FL to Williston, moving from a big city to the country.

With not having much to do, he began getting into trouble, but says he developed a good work ethic. Due to peer pressure and the wrong crowd, Ronnie began using drugs and drinking alcohol. He was on a downward slope but he noticed the seemingly prosperous life of those he associated with. It seemed like easy money selling drugs and it lured him in. At the age of 17 he came up on charges as an adult and at 18 he was behind bars. He would soon find himself in and out of prison three more times.

Something happened this last time however, and he began the process to reform himself. He started researching transition homes while at Jefferson Correctional and while participating in the Modality Program, he heard about Mercy House. He would share a lot during group while everyone else mostly kept quiet. The Program Director took note of him and began helping him in his search. He had settled on a transition place in Jacksonville, FL but still took time to talk with then Re-entry Director, Dale White. He liked what he heard and prayed about it; God told him to choose Mercy House.



Since coming to Mercy House Ronnie has obtained his driver's license, bought a vehicle, secured a job, and somewhat found stability. He has managed to maintain his health and wellness and rebuild a strong relationship with his son. His job is contracted by the Government working at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. He has a good working relationship with his boss who is looking to groom him for management, but Ronnie wants to someday acquire his commercial driver's license. For now, his goals are to remain humble and obtain his own apartment. In April Ronnie assumes the House Manager position at Mercy

House and we are ever so proud of him and all of his accomplishments. Stay tuned for updates!

Maryland Oaks Crossing News

We have long anticipated announcing the opening of the Maryland Oaks Crossing (MOC) Learning Center. While we *still* have not set an opening date, we are getting closer to that anticipated day. Much progress has taken place at the Learning Center. It is now firmly placed on its foundation, the water is turned on, the electricity has been connected, the permits have been secured, and we are in the final stages of renovation.

It is an exciting time, but also a very stressful one, but Good News Outreach is up for the challenge. It is our continued commitment to serve the MOC community in the best way we know how. Chapman Medical group comes every third Saturday of the month to ensure health and wellness and impart valuable information. Case management is ongoing, and we are looking to implement additional seminars, trainings, and services to benefit MOC residents.

Soon we will celebrate Easter (or Resurrection Sunday) and thanks to St. Paul's United Methodist Church, youngsters at MOC will receive Easter baskets to commemorate the day. We are thankful for all those who partner with us to help meet the needs of our MOC community. There is still work to do and still areas of need. To find out how you can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Good things are happening at Good News Outreach and *you* can be a part of it.

Thank you!



Board Chair Letter



Dear Friends of Good News Outreach:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your many compassionate actions – as community leaders, volunteers, partners, contributors – and what they have meant to our community and our agency. We finished 2022 strong, serving 55 families at our Maryland Oaks Crossing Community, delivered over 6,000 bags of groceries to homebound seniors in Leon County, and assisted 23 men and women re-enter our community after incarceration.

But the work continues. Good News Outreach’s 22nd Annual Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2023 at St. John’s Episcopal Church (211 N. Monroe Street) starting at 9:00 AM. In addition to being an opportunity for our community members, leaders, businesses, and clergy to gather each year for fellowship and prayer, the Prayer Breakfast also serves as Good News Outreach’s primary fundraising event. We are only able to serve our community because of your generous contributions and it starts with the Prayer Breakfast. Included with this Newsletter is a copy of the sponsorship opportunities for the Breakfast – please help us share these opportunities and consider sponsoring yourself or having your business sponsor.

If you have any questions about these sponsorship opportunities, please contact our Executive Director Cheval Breggins at chevalb@goodnewsoutreach.org.

Kevin Forsthoefel
Board Chair

View online at www.goodnewsoutreach.org



2023 Prayer Breakfast Sponsorships

St. Johns Episcopal Church • Saturday, September 30, 2023 • 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

	\$10,000 Title Sponsor	\$5,000 Angel	\$3,000 Altruist	\$1,000 Advocate	\$500 Supporter	\$75 Event Ticket
	10 Seats at Reserved Table	10 Seats at Reserved Table	8 Seats at Reserved Table	4 Seats at Reserved Table	2 Seats at Reserved Table	One seat
	Recognition: Social Media, Website, Newsletter	Recognition: Social Media, Website, Newsletter	Recognition: Social Media, Website, Newsletter	Recognition: Social Media, Website, Newsletter	Recognition: Social Media, Website, Newsletter	
	Name in Event Program and Press Release	Name in Event Program and Press Release	Name in Event Program and Press Release	Name in Event Program and Press Release	Name in Event Program and Press Release	
	Recognition Board: Name and logo prominently displayed	Recognition Board: Name and logo prominently displayed	Recognition Board: Name and logo prominently displayed	Recognition Board: Name and logo prominently displayed		
	Introduction at Prayer Breakfast	Introduction at Prayer Breakfast	Introduction at Prayer Breakfast			
	Sponsor Banner and Resources Display Space	Sponsor Banner and Resources Display Space				
	Public Recognition					
	Two-minute Mic Time					

How does your sponsorship help Good News Outreach put *Faith into Action*?

<i>\$100 creates approx. 11 bags of groceries, or 88 meals for families experiencing food insecurity.</i>	<i>\$500 provides seniors with six weeks of food and hygiene care package for an entire year.</i>	<i>\$1,000 gives two men or women a first-month scholarship at Mercy House and a lifetime of hope.</i>	<i>\$3,000 helps provide after school and enrichment programs for up to 10 children at Maryland Oaks Crossing.</i>	<i>\$5,000 transforms a Maryland Oaks Crossing house into a home through a roof or AC replacement.</i>	<i>\$10,000 transforms two Maryland Oaks Crossing's houses into homes through roof or AC replacement.</i>
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Better Angels Update

Better Angels senior program at Good News Outreach (GNO) is thriving. We have welcomed three new seniors at our 4th Ave location. Mr. Wade Warren, who transitioned over from our Maryland Oaks Crossing community, and Mr. Jeff Altice. Since their arrival they have participated in the AHEC Tools to Quit class hosted at GNO by Ms. Yolanda Gillette, GNO's 2023 Valentine's Day Celebration, and recently the Better Angel's Meet & Greet where we also welcomed our newest resident, Ms. Lynda Oppenheim.



Ms. Lynda took up residence at GNO in March with her caregiver Artega Lovett. At the Meet & Greet Executive Director Cheval Breggins welcomed Ms. Lynda while Director of Operations David Dobbs assisted her with her food.

The 4th Ave campus shares space with the Mercy House Women's Re-entry. We anticipate implementing more seminars and activities for our Better Angels seniors

to participate in. In the works is another seminar by AHEC dealing with diabetes, Bible study, and church services at GNO.

Great things are happening at GNO and you can be a part of this great work. For more information contact us at 850-692-3301 or visit us online at goodnewsoutreach.org.



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