



## Profile – Crisna Logan

Why do people commit crimes? How can they change?

Questions like these drove Crisna Logan to major in criminology and psychology at Florida State University.

She believed God had called her to work with “the incarcerated population that always gets ignored.”

Fast forward from her 2008 arrival in Tallahassee to 2021: Logan is in her fourth year as Inmate Programs and Re-entry coordinator for the Leon County Detention Facility. And, in November, Good News Outreach welcomed her onto its board of directors.

For Logan, a committed Christian, the timing appears divinely inspired.

GNO had recently unveiled plans to open a transitional home with related services for women re-entering society after incarceration. She’d long had it in her heart to also start such a home; however, she already was juggling a challenging job with the Sheriff’s Office, marriage and an infant son.

Logan credits longstanding professional ties with GNO board member Michelle Young and Mercy House Director Dale White for making it easy to say “yes” to joining them in guiding GNO’s ministries.

“It was as if God told me, ‘Be still. You can serve in a different way.’”

There’s a great need in the community for programs to help women be successful after serving their time in jail or in prison, she said, noting that more women are getting arrested in recent years. Many have nowhere to go and need help to get back on their feet after their release.

“I’m excited about helping to build the new women’s re-entry program and to help raise funds for this effort.”

Logan brings to the board a passion for service and a strong educational and occupational background.

After completing that double major in criminology and psychology, she worked as a substance abuse counselor and case manager at Gadsden Correctional Facility. She also earned a master's degree in business administration from Keiser University.

One cannot help inmates change their lives for the better without first listening with compassion to them, she said.

As a case manager at the Gadsden prison, "I offered them an opportunity to open up, and to tell their life stories. Their treatment plans flowed from their life experiences."

Now at the Leon County jail, Logan advocates for and implements programs for detainees, including those who were recently released or who soon will return to the community. The service menu is big. It includes preparation for the GED exam, vocational training and substance abuse counseling, as well as classes in anger management, parenting and more.

Sheriff Walt McNeil has said his office aims to provide former and current inmates with tools they need to be successful once released.

Logan sees GNO's Mercy House transitional home for men and its as-yet-unnamed women's program as important partners for the sheriff's office.

She encourages Leon County residents to consider how they can help Good News Outreach in its re-entry ministries. For her, service is part of "being the best person you can be," and building a life with "no regrets."

More about Crisna Logan:

\*Married four years, to Khamon Logan

\*Proud mother of Khalil

\*Native of Immokalee, in Southwest Florida