



# FRIENDS OF THE WAY HOME

**Our Mission:** To free individuals from the cycle of crime and despair by providing them with holistic support after prison that generates hope, self-sufficiency and connection to the community.

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## From the Director's Corner

December 2009

We are in the season of Advent – a time of waiting, of expectation. This is a theme that is very familiar to many of our participants and those who wait beyond the prison walls to rejoin the wider community.

The heart of our work is seasoned in waiting. We sow seeds, and wait prayerfully for the harvest. We wait for job opportunities to open up again for our people. We wait for positive connections with family and friends to knit together again. We wait in expectation, anticipating milestones of sobriety and clean time. We wait, keeping in contact with letters and visits, with prisoners yearning for release. A significant portion of our people has served over 20 years in prison. They have learned the value, the art, of waiting.

**From the Director's Corner** *Continued on Page 2*



## Previews Of Coming Attractions!



**December 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

Quarterly Celebration Participant of the Quarter Dinner

Tunnell Hall, Georgetown Presbyterian Church,

North Bedford Street, Georgetown. Bring a covered dish!



If You Would Like to Receive This Newsletter By Email, Contact Joy Spicer at: (302) 856-9870 or [officemanager@thewayhomeprogram.org](mailto:officemanager@thewayhomeprogram.org)

## Accolades for a Graduating Way Home Participant, TWH Program, and TWH Case Managers!

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It was an important day for one of our Way Home participants. After months of hard work, he graduated from the Treatment Access Center (TASC) on a sunny November Friday afternoon.

Sometimes it is hard just to keep on doing the right thing, day after day. Getting to work, getting to Probation, TASC, and Aftercare appointments, getting to the support groups that nourish the soul and fire up our motivation, keeping track of all the many details that go into establishing a steady, crime-free life.

This is a lost art in our modern world. Today, it seems that everyone is plugged into cell phones, blackberries, I-Pods. We download movies into laptops, text while driving, talking, working, reach for the computer instead of the phone book, and have a wealth of information at our fingertips.

We are not used to waiting. But sometimes, waiting is exactly what is required.

Much of our work is involved with helping people find their own personal and communal strategies for overcoming impulsivity and addictive patterns. We work with our people, helping them develop sound decision-making skills, financial planning skills, and relationship skills that will serve them in good stead, not only in the weeks ahead, but throughout their whole lives. We may never see the harvest. We may see only the seeds of potential, the rough ground ahead waiting for cultivation, the tools that we place in waiting hands, and the uncertainty of the weather ahead. It is a season of waiting.

But there is such a richness in this time! Just as the trees draw their strength inward, letting their leaves go and preserving their vital sap, there is often an unspoken, unnoticed, but none the less real and vibrant vitality waiting to mature and flower within our lives and the lives of those we serve.

There is a passage in Scripture that I have come to love more and more. It comes from the book of Isaiah: 42:3 "A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice." New American Standard Bible 1995

As we work and as we wait, our prayer is that these men and women who are much bruised, these who are not yet aflame with inspiration, but who are showing the first tentative sparks, will not have their hopes and dreams extinguished.

Let us work and wait in reverence and respect...together.

Barbara Del Mastro

This particular Way Home Participant always shows up early when we are having our Quarterly Dinners, asking what he can do to help. You will see him helping us clean up after everyone else has gone home, straightening chairs, doing the little things that add up to make a big difference. He always has a smile on his face and a positive attitude. Even after all that he has been through, he takes time to try and make life a little better for those around him in whatever ways that he can.

Tony Neal and Bill Corning were there to celebrate his graduation from TASC. As he stood before the judge, something unexpected happened: **The judge commended him on his hard work, and then stood and applauded both him and The Way Home** for their help and support for this man who had been working so hard to change his life. Both received standing ovations from the Judge and everyone in the courtroom that day!

When our work seems frustrating beyond belief, when we try to teach and people don't seem to listen, when we wait for hours for someone, only to be told later that they already got a ride home, when we help someone put in 30 or 40 job applications, only to receive lukewarm responses, when we get calls at midnight for problems that we could have done something about earlier in the day -- we can take a deep breath and remember that day in court, that compassionate Judge, that changed life.... And keep on going.

Profiles in Courage: Gordon's Story

By all accounts, Gordon had a brilliant future. At age 19, he bought his own truck and moved overseas freight from New Jersey ports to the five boroughs of New York City. Growing up in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Gordon's mother was the principal motivating factor in his life. "My mother was supportive and extremely protective. She always provided a nice home, I had nice clothes, and she instilled my spiritual life," he explains. "My mother's prayers kept me straight."

But what Gordon's mother didn't know was that in junior high, Gordon started using and then selling marijuana. "I was curious and when I first smoked

„weed,“I loved it. It took the sense of fear away,” he remembers. “But weed is a highway drug – it leads to ther drugs. I started sniffing heroin. Through the years, I have damaged nasal passages. The membranes of my nose were completely burned out and I had to get plastic surgery,” he continues.

At age 20, Gordon married his childhood sweetheart and they had a daughter. “On a material level, I was a wonderful support for my family. But I didn’t respect my wife. I ran around with other women and continued using drugs. I was in the heart of my addiction.” After 12 years, they separated and divorced and he became estranged from his daughter. “After separating, I was high every day. My family didn’t matter.”

Gordon moved back with his mother and felt he was getting his life in order and was maintaining a positive life style. With his mother’s death in 1992, Gordon began a life of petty crimes starting with shoplifting work boots and jeans and continuing for three years in and out of Trenton, New Jersey jails. He continued to use heroin. His business fell apart. “I was suppressing feelings. I didn’t choose to work and got on unemployment. When I did work, I used heroin to get to work and kill the emotional and physical pain.”

Gordon’s sister helped him by feeding him and letting him take a shower at her home. “She used a „Tough Love“ approach but I couldn’t live with her. I lived in homeless shelters,” he admits. He sold newspapers in the early morning to get enough money for his drug of choice.

One morning, he met a couple whose mission was to help alcoholics, drug addicts, and the homeless. Although approaching middle age, the couple took Gordon under their wings. “They were like parents. They were heaven sent.” They suggested he contact Sojourners’ Place in Wilmington, Delaware. Unlike shelters, where residents have to leave after a specified period of time, Sojourners’ Place provides shelter and an individualized program for residents to become gainfully employed and become responsible for their own lives until they are ready to leave.

Remaining in Wilmington for almost two years, Gordon found an apartment, a job, started a relationship...and began using heroin again. Once again, the addiction cycle took a turn for the worse. He met several young men who enticed Gordon into “muleing” drugs by car from Philadelphia to Wilmington where they sold the drugs. “Police suspected the boys had drugs in the car and waited for whoever went to the car. I told the police a friend wanted me to move the car,” Gordon explains. Gordon was charged with possession,

**Since 1998, The Way Home has helped hundreds of ex-offenders stay out of prison, providing comprehensive case management for participants for less than one-sixth of the cost of incarceration. The Way Home aims for no more than five (5) percent recidivism among participants and seeks to eliminate recidivism among participants altogether.**

**Aside from the cost of crime to the community, Delaware taxpayers are paying approximately \$30,000 per year to house one inmate in prison.**

**The Way Home Program provides case management services for a participant for approximately \$5,000 per year, one-sixth of the cost of incarceration.**

**In 2006, the University of Delaware (UDE) released the results of a 5 year study that compared the recidivism rates of ex-offenders who participated in The Way Home with those who did not. The study found that The Way Home participants were less likely to return to prison, especially during the first year of release. In 2004, the recidivism rate for Way Home participants (10 percent) was approximately half that of Department of Correction’s clients (21 percent).**

**The Way Home grew out of a church-sponsored prison Bible study where volunteers realized the desperate needs of men who were being released from Sussex Correctional Institution and took action to make a difference. The program began formal operation in 1998 under Children and Families First. After the first year of operation, The Way Home then became affiliated with the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware and in 2006 became an independent, non-denominational, non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.**

intent to sell, and maintaining a vehicle for selling drugs. He served 90 days at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in Smyrna and six months at Sussex Correctional Institution in Georgetown.

“That was when I met Bill Corning when he came to see another prisoner in The Way Home program,” Gordon continues. “Bill gave me a brochure, helped with my treatment program at SCI, and mentored me when I got out of prison. He motivated me to get off drugs.”

Gordon lives in a Millsboro transitional home and works in a Selbyville chicken plant, working five days a week from 4:30 p.m. to 3:30 or 4:00 a.m. “I work every day. I am focused, more spiritual and closer to the Lord.” He slices chicken wings and drumsticks into three parts, fills up a 40- to 50-pound box with 70 to 90 pounds of chicken, and lifts the boxes onto a conveyor belt for shipment to another department.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, his mother’s birthday, Gordon completed probation. “I’m in a good spot, thanks to The Way Home. I am determined to make it come out different this time. I don’t want to do any more jail time...and I am back in my daughter’s life,” he concludes.

By: Jessica Clark, Way Home Volunteer for December 2009  
“Friends of The Way Home” Quarterly.



### Meet Your Board Members

Bernard Baruch, who made his fortune on Wall Street, counts among his lifetime accomplishments serving as renowned surgeon chief on Robert E. Lee’s staff during the Civil War and serving his country as economic adviser and as a confidant to six presidents during both World Wars I and II. He was also known as the “Park Bench Statesman” and he once said, “A man can’t retire his experience. He must use it.”

That quote is immensely appropriate to describe TWH Board member and licensed clinical social worker, Lee Dogoloff.

Mr. Dogoloff earned a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and his government service began with the Department of Corrections for the city. As Deputy Administrator of the Narcotics Treatment Administration, he supervised 410 professionals and para-

professionals refining treatment delivery and implementation of new treatment programs, opened new treatment centers, and implemented a model screening, referral and diversion program for heroin addicts in the criminal justice system. The program that began serving only 100 people daily ultimately served 4,500 people daily.

From there, he moved to the Nixon White House serving as the Associate Director of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention. He next served as the Director of Community Assistance at the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare where he supervised and managed all federally-funded treatment and rehabilitation programs, started new programs, and established an agency in each state for drug abuse planning, coordination and funding.

As the Deputy for Federal Drug Management in the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, he provided policy direction and advised President Gerald R. Ford of drug issues, directed a project to determine the effectiveness of treatment, and established and led interagency work groups including employment, prevention, and criminal justice.

As Drug Czar in the Carter administration, Mr. Dogoloff provided policy direction and coordination of all Federal health, law enforcement, and international drug programs. “During this time, the importance of prevention and education as a deterrent to alcohol and other drug use, abuse, and dependency became the forefront. Prevention was a major force in supporting parent groups across the country,” Mr. Dogoloff explains. “Working with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Drug Administration, and the National Institute of Health, a policy was instituted where physicians could only prescribe controlled drugs for 30 days at a time,” he continues.

Rounding out his Washington-area career, Mr. Dogoloff served as Executive Director of the American Council for Drug Education and as President of Employee Health Programs, Inc., in Bethesda, Maryland providing drug-free workplace programs including medical review of drug testing, employee assistance and corporate wellness programs for both private and government organizations.

Upon completing three careers in the Washington, D.C. area, Mr. Dogoloff moved with his wife full-time to Dagsboro. In keeping with Baruch’s advice, retirement,

however, is not in Mr. Dogoloff's vocabulary. He continues in private practice to see clients on a part-time basis. He is the Vice Chairman of the 38<sup>th</sup> District Democratic Committee, President of Shore Democrats of Eastern Sussex County, volunteers for a community food drive; for Adopt-a-Highway, for Meals on Wheels; and CASAS, working on behalf of children in the court system. And, of course, as Vice Chairman of the TWH Board of Directors, proving clinical case reviews for TWH case managers.

Asked if he missed the hustle and bustle of the D.C. area and the challenges that his career afforded him, he replies, "It was an honor and a privilege to work in the executive office of the president in the White House for 12 years. It is a privilege to be allowed into people's lives as a practitioner and work with them to find peace in their lives."

Regarding his volunteerism on TWH Board and the accomplishments of TWH, he offers, "The Way Home reaches out, both emotionally and physically, to the most needy offenders, and provides for them a better life. A balance is created between the staff and the provision of expectation from the client – such as going to meetings, following house rules, and being held accountable. For many participants, TWH is the first time in their life that someone cared for them and cared what happened to them."

BY: Jessica Clark, Way Home Volunteer for December 2009 "Friends of the Way Home" Quarterly.

#### In the Poet's Corner

Judy Prest, originally from Delaware and now a retired social worker from Duanesburg, New York, recently conducted with Barbara Del Mastro a full-day creative writing workshop at the Delores J. Baylor's Women's Correctional Institution.

Ms. Prest holds a certificate in Expressive Arts and is the author of "Sailing on Spirit Wind," a book of poems and essays. Among the valuable information that Judy provided in the workshop was this quote:

"To follow Story is to understand  
the path of healing.

Each of our stories is a universe.

Each one of us is a living story.  
To discover  
its shape and essence  
to soul making."

Deena Metzger

Below are some of the workshop participants' writings:

I Am the One

"I am the one who hides between the flowers  
watching and waiting patiently.

I am the one who loves to run freely under the palm trees  
in the sand,  
Feeling the ocean spray against my face...the wind  
blowing a cool breeze.

I am drawn to things that glow gold...like the sunset over  
the ocean.

I search for a calm place where I can find peace by myself.  
I hear the waves crash as I run until I can't catch my  
breath-  
only to find that my surroundings never change.

I am the one who lies under the sky at night,  
breathing fresh air,  
Thanking God for my peaceful thoughts."

Lisa

"I am the one who realized that I'm at the right place at the  
right time.

I am the one who realized that my faith, family, friends,  
and fun are a major part of my being.

Where I came from has made me who I am today and has  
played a significant role in how I view my relationship  
with God, my family, friends, and enjoying life.

What I would like to say is...life is but a vapor, here today  
and gone tomorrow.

I pray that we all learn to focus first on eternity because  
there is truly life after death.  
Trust in God, love yourself, love and respect your family,  
honor friendships and live everyday as if it were your last!

Live full of Joy, Love, Peace, Humility, Compassion,  
Gentleness, Kindness, Self Control, Laughter, and Fun!"

Rhonda L.

#### **Interactive Call for Meaningful Sayings**

You, dear readers, are invited to email me  
(jclark165@comcast.net) or Barbara Del Mastro  
(barbara@thewayhomeprogram.org) or mail to or call The Way  
Home office (302-856-9870) with your favorite quote, bumper  
sticker, or other sayings that have uplifted you or just gave you a  
chuckle.

...to everyone who plays such a vital role in helping The Way Home  
 keep reaching out to those leaving prison!  
 ...and the many individuals who give of their time, talent, and treasure!  
**This list cannot name everyone.**  
**Please know that you are truly appreciated.**

Churches, Synagogues, and Centers of Worship Across the State of Delaware



**We  
 cannot  
 thank  
 you  
 enough!**

All Saints Church & St. Georges Chapel  
 Booker Street Church of God  
 Christ Episcopal Church, Milford  
 Dagsboro Church of God  
 Georgetown Presbyterian Church  
 Grace United Methodist – United Methodist Women  
 Lewes Presbyterian Church  
 Little Church By The Side of the Road  
 Ocean View Presbyterian Church & Sewing Circle  
 St. David's Episcopal Church  
 St. Mark's and St. Martin's Churches  
 St. Martha's Episcopal Church  
 St. Mary's ECW  
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
 St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
 Wesley United Methodist Church  
 Westminster Presbyterian Church  
 Episcopal Diocese of Delaware  
 God's Way

Episcopal Church Women of Delaware  
 Lewes/Rehoboth Association of Churches  
 The Southeast Sussex Ministerium  
 First State Community Action  
 Delaware State Housing Authority  
 RSVP

Speer Trust Foundation  
 Laffey-McHugh Foundation  
 Milton & Hattie Kutz Foundation

Department of Corrections  
 The Office of Probation  
 Criminal Justice Council

Good Samaritan, Inc.  
 The Christian Storehouse  
 St. Vincent de Paul Society  
 Female Benevolent Society  
 Children & Families First  
 Village Improvement Association  
 Georgetown/Millsboro Rotary Club  
 Sussex County Council  
 Cooperative Mortgage  
 Discover Bank  
 Hocker's Grocery and Hardware Store,  
 Ocean View and Millville  
 Megee Motors  
 Individual Donors  
 McDonald's, Georgetown  
 Our Anonymous Patron





The Way Home is always looking for individuals willing to:

- Make a tax-deductible contribution.
- Mentor a participant.
- Visit someone in prison who receives few visitors.
- Be a participant's pen pal.
- Help with transportation.
- Help organize a clothing/coat/necessities drive.
- Work with your church or civic organization to hold an annual fundraiser or give an annual pledge to the Way Home.
- Serve on one of the Way Home committees.
- Help with job search/job contacts for The Way Home participants.
- Pray for ex-offenders, all work in correctional institutions, and the community.

### **Ongoing Support Groups**

Everlasting Hope  
Wednesday nights  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Booker Street  
Church of God  
Georgetown

Bridges to the Future  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month  
7:00 to 9:00 pm.  
Georgetown Presbyterian  
Church  
North Bedford Street  
Georgetown

Way Home Women's Group  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month  
4:14 to 6:15 p.m.  
Georgetown Presbyterian  
Church  
North Bedford Street  
Georgetown

**HOW TO REACH THE WAY HOME**

**P.O. Box 1103**

**Georgetown, DE 19947**

**www.thewayhomeprogram.org**

**Phone: (302) 856-9870 or (302) 856-6850**

**Fax: (302) 856-9871**

**Tony Neal, Lead Case Manager**

**Barbara Del Mastro, Director**

**Bill Corning, Case Manager**

**Joy Spicer, Office Manager**

**The Way Home  
P. O. Box 1103  
Georgetown, DE 19947**

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