

*Our mission is 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.*



### Director's Corner

This new year of 2009 comes in, bringing so many changes! Our nation has elected the first African American President. Changes in the environment are on everyone's mind, and we are seeking ways to create and use sustainable energy. The housing market is changing rapidly, and some of the state's big employers are laying off workers. Delaware, like the majority of states across the nation, is facing financial challenges and budget cuts of a magnitude that has not been seen for many years. Everyone is trying to figure out how to do more with less.

**The Way Home, coming into the New Year after celebrating our Tenth Anniversary with a wonderful celebration just this past November, is well seasoned in the art of doing more with less!** It is a fact that The Way Home is saving Delaware taxpayers and the State of Delaware millions of dollars as we provide the support our participants need in order to avoid returning to prison. We are there to help Way Home participants get off on the right foot by meeting them at the prison gates. Our case management services include help with housing needs, addressing initial food and clothing needs, mentoring

and spiritual support, and help in getting to recovery meetings, counseling and medical appointments. We streamline the process of obtaining identification, often paying for copies of birth certificates and state ID's if necessary. **Also, we make sure people get to their probation and after care meetings – a common pitfall for a person just released is the difficulty in making their probationary commitments.** Transportation help provided by The Way Home is crucial. We also help our participants out on their job searches, often getting in the first interviews and applications on *the first day out of prison*. We follow up with helping our people get to work in the beginning of their employment, until they can arrange rides with fellow co-workers or get to work using public transportation.

Our program, continually in the process of doing more with less, seeks to engage the community in a number of ways,

drawing on strengths and connections that will benefit our participants. Let me give you just a few examples:

- ❖ Some of our participants need help with reading and writing skills. Donations of Laubach books have already come in, and we have volunteers who are willing to help teach.
- ❖ I appealed to the community for help with clothing articles and yarn for the inmate sweater project at the Delores J. Baylor Women's prison while speaking at a forum on Women in Prison at the Epworth Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach. Less than a week later, generous donations of socks and yarn were brought to the office by a community volunteer.
- ❖ A retired New York City school teacher, who is bi-lingual, has come to offer his assistance with participants who speak only Spanish. Our goal is to make the inmates of the Sussex Correctional Institution aware that if they are not fluent in English, there is still help for them through The Way Home program.
- ❖ Area churches open their doors for our meetings, dinners, and celebrations, making the people of The Way Home welcome.
- ❖ Del Tech interns complete internships with us. They not only help in our day to day work – they also learn and experience something of what it takes to help a person in transition from prison to community. This knowledge and sensitivity goes with them as they enter the fields of Human Service and Criminal Justice.
- ❖ A family from upper New York State vacations at Bethany Beach in the summer. This year, they learned of our program through a presentation at St. Martha's Episcopal Church, in Bethany Beach. The whole family took a day of

their precious beach time to come to our office to sort and organize clothing donations, freeing up staff to attend to other needs of our participants. We shared lunch together, inviting a Way Home participant to speak to the family about his experiences with prison, release, and how The Way Home has become like a second family to him. The family returned to New York, inspired and encouraged, sending a very generous Christmas donation our way to help with our mission.

These are just a few of the examples of how we are doing more with less. As the days lengthen and we set our sights toward spring, we will be looking for more and more ways help our participants on this journey – in spite of tough economic times. Your help – your ideas, your time, your talents, your dollars, and your prayers – are vitally important as we walk with our participants on the roads toward stability, productivity, and enduring freedom.





Thank you to everyone who plays such a vital role in helping The Way Home keep reaching out to those leaving prison!

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

*Individual Donors*

Episcopal Diocese of Delaware

*Our Anonymous Patron*

Lewes/Rehoboth Association of Churches

*Speer Trust Foundation*

The Southeast Sussex Ministerium

*Good Samaritan, Inc.*

*The Christian Storehouse*

*Cooperative Mortgage*

All Saints' Church & St. Georges Chapel

Discover Bank

*Laffey-McHugh Foundation*

St. Mark's and St. Martin's Churches

Georgetown Presbyterian Church

Sussex County Council

*Booker Street Church of God*

Dagsboro Church of God

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Martha's Episcopal Church

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Milton & Hattie Kutz Foundation

Female Benevolent Society

Village Improvement Association

*Megee Motors*

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Ocean View Presbyterian Church

Lewes Presbyterian Church

Children & Families First

Episcopal Church Women of Delaware

Quota International Club of Wilmington

Department of Corrections

The Office of Probation

Criminal Justice Council

RSVP

*God's Way*

Georgetown/Millsboro Rotary Club

*Our Dedicated Board, staff, volunteers,  
and mentors!*

**We cannot thank you  
enough!!**



## Important Lessons Learned

People are often surprised to hear me say that I learn more from inmates and ex-offenders who are participants in the Way Home program than they learn from me. Some might think that I am repeating a cliché or “just being kind” in saying this, but I know it to be true. Since I became involved in the essential and life saving work of the Way Home and joined a monthly prison Bible study in 2001, I have been so blessed, inspired, and nurtured by the staff and participants.

One lesson that I have learned is the reminder to respect the dignity of every human being, in practice not just in theory. We all make mistakes, but we are able to learn from them, develop better decision-making skills, and make a commitment not to repeat those mistakes. The prison Bible study and the staff and participants of The Way Home continue to affirm and strengthen my faith in redemption. We are all loved by God and possess human dignity in spite of our mistakes.

Another important lesson that has been taught is not to give up on people. The Way Home staff and volunteers are careful not to enable bad behaviors, but they are also willing to give a person another chance. We all falter in our recovery and progress, but with care and support we are able to get back on the right path. An inmate in our Bible study group told me he had been praying daily for two years for one of my troubled (and troublesome!) loved ones, long after most of her family had given up on her. A lesson of patience, persistence and compassion: We don't give up on one another!

I witness such courage, faithfulness and hope in the participants, staff, volunteers, and supporters of The Way Home. Miracles are happening with all of us who are involved. Thank you for your prayers and support that, with God's help, make these Miracles possible.

Faithfully yours,  
Father Max Wolf  
President, Board of Directors



## May the work they do speak for me

~Roger Crippen

I often ask myself how is it that I came to be open about my criminal and drug addiction. For me I thought this had been my best kept secret. It took me approximately fifteen years to discuss these issues openly. I could not bring myself to say it out loud. As if not saying it would make it go away. I watched other people with addictions, who were much more open than I was at the time, reveal their vulnerabilities. I wanted to be part of what they were building and what they were doing. I was behind prison walls in Georgetown watching a movement or community was being built. It was a diverse group of volunteers teaming up to

help us meet the needs and fears that we developed before and during our addictions.

These volunteers believe that none of us should be discriminated against, isolated, or treated cruelly merely because we were drug and

alcohol addicted criminals. They believed that it is necessary for this prison to build an environment of support, comfort, education and trust. I was part of that process, and in the center of its establishment stood two amazing people, Barbara Del Mastro and Tony Neal. While struggling with my own personal issues of addictions, I felt as if I were in some sort of limbo. I felt like Barbara and Tony had built a cocoon around me, for me. I felt warmed by them and so totally understood. These were people who understood my silence and yet felt my need to be heard. They gave me the comfort I needed and an ear when I

wanted someone to listen. They helped me grow stronger with the hope that one day I would be able to stand alone and still be safe. Empowered, I took from them all they were capable of putting out. I gave back to them what I had been given. It was as if I mirrored back what they had put out. I never noticed before in people this ability to care so deeply, for I thought they too had labeled us as cold and uncaring prisoners. Yet Barbara and Tony built a community of men: Black, White, Hispanic, educated, illiterate, robbers, murders, rapists, rich, poor, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, bisexual, heterosexual, and homosexual ~ all putting aside their differences and egos for a collective cause, to help ourselves.

I could not believe my eyes, right before me lay a model of how we, as a whole, needed to combat all the issues addiction brought, and we were building it from behind prison walls. We were the community that no one thought would help itself. Social outcasts,

because of the crimes we inflicted upon society and ourselves.

Barbara and Tony have helped us emerge from nothingness and given us a need to build the consciousness needed to save our lives. They have made a difference in our community behind the wall, and that difference has allowed me to survive my drug and criminal addiction. I now know the journey is from within. When I am able to summon the courage to come before the throne, the place where I have infinite wisdom, where every problem can be solved, I will ask the divinity within to give me whatever I need to be the best I can be and to do my greatest work. I affirm that I love myself, believe in myself, trust in myself and that I am powerful and in charge of my life. I am thankful for two wonderful and loving people like Barbara and Tony, who realize the work they have done and continue to do is part of God's divine plan.



My name is Carol. I'm a participant in The Way Home Program. The people in this program have helped me to accomplish a lot of my short term goals. Because of their continued support, I am looking forward to this New Year.

They met me at the gate both literally and figuratively, of the women's work release door last July. That day was not only my birthday, but the beginning of my new life. Since then, I have recently gotten my certificate of completion from the "Crest South Aftercare."

The Way Home Program has been instrumental in my returning to college, even after being away from school for 20 years. They gave me the encouragement that I needed and are there for me, even if it's just to say Hello! They have helped me tremendously and I can't thank them enough.

As I said, the great bunch of people at The Way Home is helping me to achieve so many of my goals, big and small, some known and some unspoken.

The biggest thing that they gave me is caring. I thank God for them; He has given me friends who, like a lamp, keep shining the light to help me find my way.

Thanks, you guys!

Carol

A New Year and a New Life



Presbyterian Church  
Tunnell Hall  
North Bedford Street

Hope to see you there!

Save The Date!!!

March 19, 2009



Quarterly dinner

6:30-8:30 pm

*Bring your favorite  
Covered Dish!*

Come celebrate with the  
Participant of the Quarter!

Georgetown

## HELP WANTED

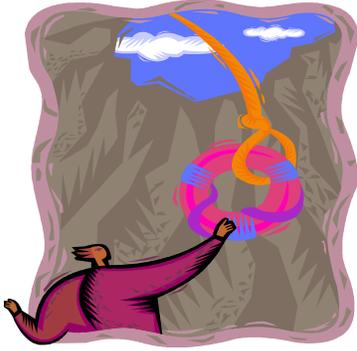
The Way Home is always looking for individuals would be willing to:

- ~be mentors to a participant
- ~visit someone in prison who receives few visits
- ~be a pen pal to a participant
- ~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 our committees
- ~help with job search/job contacts for Way Home Participants

~pray for prisoners, ex-offenders, all  
work in our correctional institutions,  
and the community

Website:  
[www.thewayhomeprogram.org](http://www.thewayhomeprogram.org)

### *Ongoing Support Groups:*



#### *Everlasting Hope*

Wednesday nights  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Booker Street  
Church Of God  
Georgetown

## NEWSLETTER

The Way Home, Inc.  
1 East Laurel Street  
Georgetown, DE 19947

P.O. Box 1103  
Georgetown, DE 19947  
Phone: 302-856-9870  
Fax: 302-856-9871

Barbara Del Mastro, *Director*

Tony Neal,  
*Lead Case Manager*

Bill Corning,  
*Case Manager*

Joy Spicer,  
*Office Manager*

#### *Bridges to the Future*

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Georgetown Presbyterian Church  
North Bedford Street  
Georgetown

#### *Way Home Women's Group*

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month  
4:14 – 6:15 p.m.  
Georgetown Presbyterian Church  
North Bedford Street  
Georgetown

“Every day, may not be a good  
day.

*but...*

There is something good in every day!"

- Anonymous



### A New Perspective

For those of you who have not yet met me, my name is Isaac Richmann, and I am the newest member of The Way Home Program. I am a student at the Owens Campus of Delaware Technical & Community College in Georgetown, and plan to continue my education all the way through law school.

As a requirement to graduate with a Criminal Justice degree, I am required to complete an internship that is somehow related to the field. My advisor recommended I give Barbara a call to see if they were looking for an intern for the spring semester, and lucky for me she was. After meeting with Barbara for an interview, I was invited to begin the following week.

I must admit there was some apprehension that first day interning with the program. For the most part, society never knows if they've been

in contact with an ex-offender unless they happen to be employed in law enforcement. Now here I was about to spend most of my days this semester around them. "What am I getting into?" It didn't take long to find out. Bill took me under his wing and within an hour we were on our way to Millsboro to pick up a client and take him to social services.

As I spent the rest of my first week meeting more clients and listening to Bill's words of wisdom, and some of his useless facts, I started to realize there was a lot more to The Way Home than I first thought. The program accepts clients who literally have no other place to go, some of whom only have the clothing they were released in and helps them with everything from finding shelter and clothing to providing food and transportation. I can only imagine how humbling it must be for a client to be released with nothing but the stigma that comes with being branded a criminal, and still be treated with dignity and respect by everyone involved with The Way Home. Although it may seem very small, in the grand scheme of things, it is the very first step in what hopefully becomes a long, yet successful journey from incarceration to becoming a functioning part of society.

I have had the opportunity to join in group sessions and attend both A.A. and N.A. meetings with clients and it has been amazing to see clients share their stories, and push themselves every day, in fact, every *hour* to keep themselves and their lives on track. Getting to know our various clients, and being allowed to share in their thoughts, feelings and struggles has given me an appreciation for what they are going through. Watching the team at The Way Home at work is not only an educational experience, but an inspirational one as well. They see strength in our clients that they themselves don't realize exists. The difficulty lies in finding the unique way that each client can realize that strength on their

own. The client must learn that everything in life, good and bad, presents them with an opportunity to make a decision, but that the decision is *theirs* to make. The Program teaches clients to trust in themselves to make the correct decision, and realize that the consequence or benefit of each decision is directly related to the decision they made.

Acceptance into The Way Home is not the final destination, even if our clients think it is. What the clients must be taught is The Way Home provides the methods for our clients to make their *own* way home, even if it's a home they've never known. A stable home, a safe home, a home free from the things that used to lead them down the wrong path in life can seem completely foreign to our clients, but something each of them can attain.

There is a saying that goes "You *can* go home again," Barbara, Bill, Tony and Nancy spend their days, evenings, nights and weekends showing our clients how true this statement can be for every one of them!

