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TULSA REDEMPTION TEAM ATTENDS WORKSHOP

Six volunteers of the Redemption Church-Tulsa team have recently completed training for the “Getting Ahead While Getting Out” program. The program is a derivative of the “Bridges Out of Poverty” program. “Getting Ahead While Getting Out” is specifically tailored for the incarcerated and the unique problems inmates face due to generational poverty.

This initiative is being sponsored by The Salvation Army in Oklahoma, which organized the training. It is a plan for collaborative organizations representing social services, healthcare, criminal justice, career development and faith based communities working in conjunction to mentor and educate participants. Participants will be selected by committees that will work with them and their families in targeted clusters to influence them in areas such as middle-class work ethics, language and motivation to change before release through the three years post release.

“THE BOOK AND PROGRAM HAS HELPED TO COALESCE OBSERVATIONS FROM OVER THIRTY YEARS OF VOLUNTEERISM, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INCARCERATION EXPERIENCE INTO A DEFINEABLE MODEL THAT CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLES LIVES WHO ARE TRAPPED IN THE POVERTY LIFESTYLE. ‘BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY’ IS A BOOK EVERYONE SHOULD READ AS A PRIMER ON VOLUNTEERISM WITH THE POVERTY COMMUNITY.”

The quote above is from Stan and Pat Mills, two of those who attended the workshop last month. Others attending from our team were Rev. Ken and Rev. Judy Bradford Smith, and Rev. Richard and Karolann Whetsell. All were excited about the concepts presented.

A one day workshop is scheduled on September 24, 2015 at the Tulsa Community Action Council. For more information, or to pre-register, contact Lisa Jeannel at: 918-699-4421.

—Dolores Ritter, Education Coordinator and Virginia Gray, Volunteer Coordinator



THE NEW GATE



From the Director:



Greetings in the name of Christ!

Can you believe 2015 is one third over? Where does the time go? I give thanks to God for each and every one of you and pray that your lives are going well. This has been a busy time for CJAMM. Thanks to our innovative board, we now are an active social media presence. If you have not gone to our Facebook Page or Twitter Feed, please do so. Recently, your CJAMM Director got the



Adam Leathers just hanging around.

opportunity to rappel down the Sandridge Energy Building for an organization called Shatterproof to raise awareness for addiction. In September, I will be competing in a rock climbing competition in Arkansas and will be using that as a fundraising opportunity for CJAMM. I will be asking people to pledge a certain amount per foot that is climbed. More details to come! Both Lesia Rhoads and I also represented the Oklahoma Annual Conference (along with three other employees) on a relay team in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon. It was a great opportunity to represent the UMC. I have also been able to be in a church pulpit, talking about the great work you all do, 3 out of 4 Sundays. If I have not been to your congregation yet please contact me.

What is Happening in the Life of CJAMM

Our Board has had their first official meeting and welcomed our new board members. They have already gone to work dividing up into sub-committees so they can empower and equip our staff and volunteers so you can continue to do the great work that you do. The Board has also decided that their next meeting will be held at Canyon Camp during New Day Camp I in June. This will give them a chance to see one of our ministries up close and share their time with these very special kids. I am very excited that our board has elected to do this.

Back: Carlos Ramirez, Andrea Reid, Jeremy Basset
Front: Lesia Rhoads, Adam Leathers



Our Board has also decided to focus on advocacy this year. Our staff and volunteers do an amazing job working with people who have been released from prison or who are about to be released. However, in order to effectively deal with the incarceration challenges in Oklahoma, we believe now is the time to engage the causes of our mass incarceration and barriers our clients face when re-integrating into society.

I also wanted to take this time to let you all know that our Associate Director, in Tulsa, Rev. Rick Forthman, has been called by God to another ministry. We give thanks to God for the time that we have had with him and pray that this new opportunity will be a fruitful one. We will also welcome our new Associate Director, in Tulsa, Rev. Greg Boyd. We have been working with the OK UMC cabinet and believe Rev. Boyd is the right person for this job. We are excited to welcome him into our CJAMM Family

How You can Help

New Day One (June 7-12) and New Day Too (July 19-24) are coming up soon and we need volunteers! Most importantly, we need musicians. If you or someone you know would like to offer hope to these forgotten victims of crime, please contact us. Also, we invite you to make a contribution to New Day Camp. New Day Camp is not funded by apportionment dollars and subsists entirely on donations from generous people, just like you!

I pray God's blessings upon each and every one of you and look forward to continue to partner in ministry.

Your brother in Christ,

Adam



Calendar of Events 2015

CJAMM Board Mtg
June 9 2 PM
Canyon Camp-Hinton

New Day Camp I
8--11 years of age
June 7-12
Canyon Camp-Hinton

****Please read New Day Camp article on page 3*****

New Day Camp Too
12-14 years of age
July 19-24
Cross Point Camp-Kingston

Labor Day Reunion
Tulsa Exodus House
September 7 4 PM
2624 E. Newton, Tulsa

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OKC EXODUS HOUSE

Exodus House OKC would like to thank Jim Kauffman and all our VIM Men, New Hope UMC and all those who helped to complete building our second staircase. We are so excited to have them completed and hopefully we will get them painted in the near future. We have been rained out our last four times and think we will wait for the hot summer months to set our next paint day.

We were also happy to have our Leaders in Training here for New Day Camp with Director Steve Byrd to prepare for Camp and to show them around Exodus House. They were here the same day as our VIM Men were so it was a wonderful opportunity to share in fellowship and different mission projects.

Exodus House OKC Staff and Tulsa Exodus House Staff, along with our CJAMM Director Adam Leathers had the chance to go on a retreat to the Wichita Wildlife Refuge and cook out, fellowship, enjoy the sites and talk about our goals and our visions for the future. Adam Leathers, Tony Altizer did all the cook-



Adam Leathers, Tony Altizer

ing, what a treat!! Thank God he didn't try to get us to do any rock climbing!!

We continue to stay full and have a waiting list as well. We are happy to report our outcomes continue to get better and our numbers are on the rise with 13 residents here currently and 7 residents obtaining their driver's license, 5 graduates and 5 extensions to date. We currently have 7 children with regular visits and one living here full time.

We also would like to thank Russell Kline and Yukon UMC for having Tony Altizer, our new Facility Manager out to speak to their Men's group and for their help with his apartment remodel and all the volunteers from New Covenant UMC, Choctaw UMC and Dale Krumme



L to R: Virginia Gray, Steve Byrd, Darlene Williams



Tony Altizer, Robin Wertz

from Church of the Servant with their help. We continue to ask for any men's groups or any crews that may be interested in helping with the remodel to please contact Tony at 405-417-1189 to discuss that project.

We invite anyone interested in taking a tour of Exodus House or anyone who would like us to come speak about our ministry to please give us a call. We would love to share our stories and our mission with you!

We are especially in need of beds, dresser's, T.V. convertor boxes and antennae's, microwaves, coffee & end tables, kitchen dining room sets, towels and washcloths and any furniture and household items.

Special Thanks to all our sponsors and to those who I may have left out. **Thank You** so much all for your continued support, your prayers and your many gifts to us. God Bless You!!

----Robin Wertz, Case Manager
(405)-525-2300

----Tony Altizer, Facility Manager
(405)-417-1189 (Donations)

OPERATION HOPE PRISON MINISTRY

Operation Hope Prison Ministry (OHPM) staff and volunteers continue to strive towards the mission of providing counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and support services to the men, women and children who have been impacted by incarceration. There have been several Operation Hope post-release clients that were assisted with the basic needs that are now steadily gaining ground through finding jobs, reconnecting with their families, and becoming more stable in their lives. One client was able to get her own apartment, and OHPM staff provided donations of the needed furniture, bedding, and kitchen supplies. The client expressed her gratefulness for all the help Operation Hope provided. Recently, OHPM has helped some clients get off the street and into transitional housing. The clients are doing well and enjoying a place to lay their head. Praise the Lord! Also, Chaplain Remer at Jess Dunn Correctional Center asked Operation Hope volunteers to teach a new Cage Your Rage class, and the class is doing very well. The participants are learning to define the root of their anger, how to control it, and channel it in constructive ways. The class facilitator stated that the class is very responsive and are continuing to learn.

In March, OHPM transported 28 children to see their mothers at Eddie Warriors C.C. for a fun filled day of love and bonding time between mother and child. The event turned out to be a blessing for all participating. There have been increasing fundraising efforts for Operation Hope's upcoming Fall Fundraiser event on October 9, 2015, as well as networking with area outreaches. All of this has been supported by our new hard working Administrative Manager Laura Cochran. She is continuing to excel and learn her new position. OHPM is truly blessed to have her on board. In addition, OHPM and St. Luke's Redemption Church worked together to hire an AARP enrollee, part-time, because she was too good to let go of! Her name is Deloris Crawford. She continues to be a valuable asset and wonderful blessing for both organizations. Operation Hope staff and volunteers continue to grow in numbers as our organization becomes more streamlined and efficient as we strive to reach out to an increasing number of people in need. OHPM is truly grateful for all of our supporters, volunteers and staff that have a heart for this ministry and help us continue in our efforts to make a positive impact and help lower the incarceration rate in our state.

—Heather Sisson-White, OHPM Director

LAWTON REDEMPTION CHURCH

This has been an exciting time at Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church. On a personal note, to start out, as senior pastor, I have been working towards my M.Div. at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. That part of my journey is about to come to an end as I will graduate on May 16, 2015. We will be having a family get-together in Tulsa, so Steve Byrd will be covering for me on Sunday, May 17, 2015. I also was approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry to be commissioned as a provisional elder at the next Annual Conference.

However, more importantly, we continue to grow and develop new programs here. We have recently found a person who has received her training through the Dept. of Human Services to teach parenting classes for the Comanche Nation. She has also agreed to begin teaching the same thing for us and we have already spoken with people at LCCC about having those classes for the men who need them. Next, my hope to have a UMM group formed here is coming closer to existence. We have 10 offenders who have signed up to participate in a UMM group and we have been in conversation with two other local churches about assisting us in establishing this group. This should be up and running by no later than June of this year. Finally, we are beginning to see some additions not only to the Redemption Church side, but also to the Aldersgate congregation. We have added two new members since January, are about to have an infant baptized, and have two other families that have begun attending recently. We are excited about the new prospects.

Our prayer is that we continue to do God's work for God's creation. —Lory J. Fahle, Senior Pastor

OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

It has been two months since the Manos Juntas Medical Clinic opened the doors at Penn Ave Redemption UMC. It is such a joy to their clients receiving the caring medical care that they are in need of. Reminder ~ all those wishing to be seen need to be signed-in no later than about 11:30 PM each Saturday. We welcome you and encourage you to come by for a visit ~ and to see one of the medical staff if you have a need ~ as well as share the good news about the clinic. Reminder – the clinic is only for individuals without health insurance. One need the Church continues to have is hygiene for those incarcerated. If you have shampoo, deodorant, soap, lotion, toothbrushes, shaving cream, razors and mouthwash you would like to donate, it would be most appreciated! The specifics are: no alcohol and no aerosol cans. Please call the church office at 405-528-0963 with any questions you may need answered. One other need we have is for a vacuum cleaner that is in really great condition! The one we have is close to non-working. With so much traffic through the church, it is an important item for us to have one that is very dependable! We send out congratulations to our pastor, Brad Rogers, who will be graduating from Saint Paul School of Theology this May. Well done, Pastor Brad! We are all so very proud of you! We are honored to have you serving at Penn Ave Redemption UMC!

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

Spring storms bring the promise of another beautiful Oklahoma summer. Exodus House is buzzing with activity as residents and staff prepare for the upcoming season. This year Exodus House will be the recipient of Owasso's First United Methodist Church, "Change the World Weekend." There will be 5-10 gardeners working hard to beautify our flower beds, the work group will provide hot dogs and beans for all. We can't wait to see what wonderful changes are in store for our courtyard!

Once again, Tulsa's Exodus House and St. Luke's Redemption Church have been blessed with the gift of a new bus. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. We thank God for helping our benefactor recognize our ministries' great need. The bus has come at a time when we knew we had to retire our yellow school bus. Isn't it amazing how God provides?



Tulsa Exodus House is proud to show off their new bus!

Congratulations are in order for Graduate Lewis Love and his sponsor Boston Avenue's "Maranatha Class". Lewis continues to volunteer at St. Luke's Redemption Church and Tulsa Exodus House.

As always, we thank all the volunteers who selflessly offer their time to make this ministry so successful. We also thank those who donate furniture, household items, clothing and money.

We hope to see you all at our yearly reunion on Labor Day, Monday September 7 at 4 PM. We will have plenty of food and good fellowship. You can bring a salad or desert or just yourselves. We are looking forward to a big turnout so come and join the fun! Our address is: 2624 E. Newton Street, Tulsa. If you can't make the reunion but would like a tour of Tulsa Exodus House just give Darlene a call at 918-231-4013. We would love to see you!

----Darlene & Virginia

IMPORTANT NEWS



Due to the flooding, New Day Camp One, June 7th-12th will be held at Canyon Camp this year, instead of Cross Point Camp. Canyon Camp is located at 31600 Camp Road in Hinton. The dates and schedule will all remain the same. Please keep Cross Point Camp in your prayers.

years old. He makes each of his quenta flutes himself. The ones he played at Redemption were made from ebony wood from Africa. His talent is amazing and his music is beautiful! Thank you Marcelo for being with us in Oklahoma City!



It is such an honor to be a small part of the work Christ does through CJAMM and OKC Penn Ave Redemption UMC. A huge thank you to each of you for your positive influence, your tireless spirit and the ever faithful heart you bring to this ministry. Our volunteers are so faithful and generous in giving of their time, talents and love. We so appreciate all you do! I say this often and will continue to tell you: THANK YOU for your faithfulness, commitment, your heart and your presence! We would not be able to provide the level of ministry we do if it were not for YOU. You definitely bless us ~ but most importantly you bless those we are here to minister to. God bless each of you.

—God's blessings, Marcia



Exodus House Facilities Manager, Virginia Walkup is hard at work keeping Tulsa's Exodus House beautiful.