“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”

- 2 Corinthians 4:15-16

Program Overview

Dismas House (a program of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul) was founded in 1988 after discovering that community level support is crucial to the transitional success of post-incarcerated, returning-citizens who may also be in recovery for substance use disorders.

Named after the “Good Thief” the Dismas Transitional Program maintains a clean, supportive environment, that is a departure from the institutional setting. Our environment is one that fosters well-being, safety and is conducive to the recovery efforts of those men who come to recognize the need for change and are motivated to do so. In an effort toward achieving independent living, Dismas House offers its residents a six-month admission and provides: “good orderly direction,” needs assessment/fulfillment, employment assistance, in-house counseling, opportunity for fellowship, short and long-term goal setting, progress evaluation, budget assistance, social/recreational events and post graduate outreach.

Requirements & Eligibility

Residents must submit to random alcohol and/or drug screening; seek, obtain, and maintain “on the books” full-time employment; establish a budget; participate in fellowship meetings and acquire a sponsor, if needed; attend in-house counseling sessions with the Case Manager; establish a healthy support system with friends, family, and peers; demonstrate an ability to make positive decisions and strive to address those underlying issues that may have precipitated and/or perpetuated criminal justice involvement and/or a substance use disorder.

Males at least twenty-one years of age, in recovery from a substance use disorder, able to work full time, unassisted by S.S.D, S.S.I, or D.S.S. (EXCEPT FOR MEDICAL REASONS ONLY) currently homeless or will be homeless upon release from prison or jail are eligible to apply for admission. Those with psychosis, OR those needing psychiatric/medical supervision, methadone maintenance, OR those who deliver their medication by injection OR those on medications that mimic a narcotic effect OR those requiring sex offender registration/ counseling OR those with arson backgrounds are not eligible for the Dismas House Transitional Program.

Contact

Referrals may be made by prospective candidates, treatment or criminal justice agencies, advocating community organizations, or affected family members by writing Dismas House: 157 East Clinton Avenue, Roosevelt, NY 11575, or calling a member of the staff at Dismas House at (516) 623-5710. Those in need of assistance must apply within a minimum of 90-120 days before release.
Success Stories

John

John first heard about Dismas House through the chaplain at Wallkill Correctional Facility, but was admittedly apprehensive about entering the program; would a place like Dismas House allow the independence he needed to get his life on track? After all, he had his commercial driver’s license (CDL) since 1994, but needed to become reacclimated to the road if he planned to return to his driving career.

Immediately, John knew he made the right choice. “I slept so well my first night as Dismas House,” says John. “I had my own room, a comfortable mattress and I felt safe and warm.” In the weeks that followed, John got his first job out of prison, and was able to attend Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

In May of 2018, John graduated from the program, moved into his own apartment, and saved up enough money to purchase a car, which allowed for greater career opportunities.

Ray

Ray’s journey to Dismas House began with a moment of clarity in prison. As someone with long-term substance abuse issues, Ray knew he needed to get clean if he ever wanted to truly change his life. At Fishkill Correctional Facility, Ray committed to sobriety, served as a teaching assistant and earned his college degree in organizational management.

Still, his first nights at Dismas House required another internal change. Years of hardship taught Ray to become reserved, and he struggled to reach out for help. Gradually, Ray leaned to put his trust in others. “I swallowed my pride and asked a million questions, about technology, about how to use an iPhone, about everything that changed,” he says. “I never liked having to ask for help, but I knew it wasn’t going to be the be all and end all for me.”

With help from his brother, Ray was able to secure work as a bookkeeper at an accounting agency in Manhattan. Before long, he moved to his own apartment, and achieved his goal of becoming self-sufficient.

“Jesus ... comes to save us from the lie that says no one can change” – Pope Francis
Dismas House
A Program of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
157 East Clinton Avenue ~ Roosevelt, NY 11575
(516) 623-5710

APPLICANT PRE-ADMISSION FORM

NYSID# ____________________
NAME: ____________________ DATE: ______________

Social Security# ————- ————- Date of Birth: ______________
Place of Birth: ____________________ Are You a U.S. Citizen - Yes [ ] No [ ]

PERSON TO CONTACT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Name: ____________________ Relationship to You ______________
Address: ____________________
Telephone Number: (Home) ____________________ (Work) ____________________

MEDICAL INFORMATION

General Health: Excellent [ ] Good [ ] Fair [ ] Poor [ ]
Do you have or have you ever had Tuberculosis [ ] Hepatitis [ ] Venereal Disease [ ]
If Yes please explain: ____________________
Do you have any allergies? ______ If yes, than what type? ____________________
Any special dietary requirements / food restrictions? ____________________
Are you taking any medications? ______ If yes, than what is it for ____________________
Do you have any type of medical insurance? ________
If yes, Company Name: ____________________

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Have you ever been tested for H.I.V.? Yes [ ] No [ ]
When and Where ____________________
If yes, what were the results? Positive [ ] Negative [ ]
If yes, than what type of medication are you taking? ____________________
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION

Name of the facility that you are currently in ________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

Nature of your present offense _____________________________________________

How many years have you been involved in the Criminal Justice System? ________

Number of Arrests? __________________________

Total number of years that you have been incarcerated: ______________________

Have you ever been arrested for: Arson: Yes [ ] No [ ] Sexual Assault or Misconduct: Yes [ ] No [ ]

Will you be on Parole or Probation when you are released? ______________________

Name of Parole or Probation Officer (if known) ________________________________

Telephone #: __________________________ Expected Release Date: ________________

Have you attended any Alcohol and/or drug program since your incarceration? Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, kindly explain ______________________________________________________

Name of Contact Person or Counselor ________________________________________

ALCOHOL and DRUG HISTORY

How long have you been using Alcohol and/or Drugs? ________________________

Primary Drug of Choice ___________________________ Secondary __________________

Number of years used ___________________________ Number of years used __________

Have you used any other type of drugs? Yes [ ] No [ ] Do you smoke or vape? Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, kindly name them and how old you were when you began to use them _______

___________________________________________

Have you been involved in A.A. or N.A.? Yes [ ] No [ ] if yes, how long? _______

PREVIOUS TREATMENT HISTORY

[ ] Outpatient Substance Abuse ____________________________________________

Location ______________________________________________________________

How Long ______________________________________________________________

[ ] Outpatient Alcohol __________________________________________________

[ ] Detox ______________________________________________________________

[ ] Residential / In-Patient _______________________________________________

[ ] Therapeutic Community _______________________________________________

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Have you had any Vocational Training? Yes [ ] No [ ]
If yes, What type ____________________________
Where were you trained ____________________________
How long have you worked in that field? ____________________________
If no, what other types of jobs have you had in the past? ____________________________
Which one was for the shortest period of time? ____________________________
Which one was for the longest period of time? ____________________________
How many jobs have you had in the past? ____________________________
What type of job would you want now? ____________________________
What type of job would you be willing to take to get started? ____________________________

INCOME
Do you have any income now? Yes [ ] No [ ]
Do you have a Savings Account? Yes [ ] No [ ] Amount? ____________________________
Unemployment Insurance? Yes [ ] No [ ] SSI: Yes [ ] No [ ] SSD: Yes [ ] No [ ]
Social Services Yes [ ] No [ ] Social Security Yes [ ] No [ ] Other Income Yes [ ] No [ ]

EDUCATION
Any College? Yes [ ] No [ ] Degrees? ________________ Credits Earned? ________________
High School Grad? Yes [ ] No [ ] G.E.D Yes [ ] No [ ] Highest Grade Completed? ________________
Misc.: Any other information that would help us assist you? ____________________________

Have you ever applied to or been enrolled in Anthony House or Dismas House? Yes [ ] No [ ]
If yes, which one ____________________________ When ____________________________ Resident Yes [ ] No [ ]

APPLICANT SIGNATURE ____________________________ DATE ____________
INTAKE SIGNATURE ____________________________ DATE ____________
General Rules

- Any use of alcohol and/or other psychoactive drugs, or suspicion of use by staff can be grounds for immediate discharge from the premises.

- Any abusive attitude, violence or threat of violence toward residents or staff is grounds for immediate discharge.

- Smoking of any kind in the house is immediate grounds for discharge.

- You must be in the house at the scheduled time established by staff. Unscheduled lateness may result in your not being permitted to enter the premises.

- Other resident’s rooms are off limits to you. Do not enter any room, but your own. Mind your money and financial information. Lending and borrowing money to/from staff or other residents is strictly prohibited.

- The staff rooms (bathroom, pantry, office, boiler room) are off limits to residents.

- When in shared living area of the house and yard, sleeveless shirts, spandex shorts, bare chests and/or feet are not permitted.

- No hats or ‘Doo Rags’ are to be worn in the house. No clothing with writing or pictures suggesting substance abuse or vulgarity will be permitted.

- Food and drink consumption is limited to the dining area only. Dining room and kitchen are closed at 10 pm every night.

- Do not congregate/or hold conversation in the kitchen. Except one-to-one with staff.

- Ask staff permission to use the phone, and respect the other residents phone time. Sharing the phone is sharing the time. Do not monopolize the house phone.

- Front yard is not to be used to congregate at any time. The back yard is for residents use. Advise staff if you will be spending time in the back yard.

- Leaving the premises without staff approval is grounds for discharge.

- Sunday - Thursday, the main floor of house is closed at 11:30 pm. Friday and Saturday, Living-room and basement areas can be used until 1:30 am.
Recovery

If you are in recovery for an addiction, the basis of your recovery is personal honesty; honesty with yourself and others around you. You need to work a program for the recovery of yourself and your best interests, in order to attain this level of honesty. You earn these things through the time you spend in the practice of your program.

- You must attend a self-help program while residing at Dismas House
- It is your responsibility to be involved with the program, including sponsorship.
- It is your responsibility to engage in O/P counseling
- There is mandatory attendance at all in-house group meetings.
- After an agreed upon period-of-time of the following steps above while working your Program and fulfilling your recovery goals, you may become eligible to attend meetings (2X/wk) with your sponsor/support group member.

When you start working

- You must be in the house by 6:30 pm, unless prohibited by your work schedule. If you are on parole, you must abide by ALL schedule restrictions and curfews as set forth by your PO / DOCCS.
- You will regularly review a budget with a staff member, accounting for all money earned. You will be required to let Staff make copies of each pay stub received by you while participating in the program, until discharge.
- You will reimburse the house for any personal items purchased by the house for you.
- You must open a savings account with regular deposits, and provide an accounting of any accounts by letting staff make copies of All bank statements received AT LEAST on a monthly basis.
- You are charged for all transportation costs provided by Dismas House prior to your first paycheck.

__________________________
Resident Signature

__________________________
Resident Print

__________________________
NYSID #
Dismas House
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157 East Clinton Avenue ~ Roosevelt, NY 11575
(516) 623-5710

HOUSE CONTRIBUTIONS for DISMAS HOUSE

House Contributions are not Rent, and program participants are not renting or leasing their room. House Contributions cannot be 'waived' or 'refunded' at any time. They serve three purposes within the Program. First, they offset some of the costs of the Program. Second, they prepare the participant for allotting funds for expenses in the 'real world'. Third, they help to create the mindset of comparing expenses, i.e. "I can spend $80 a week to stay at Dismas, or I can make the leap to my own space for a bit more." The six key points of how the House Contribution requirement works are below and takes effect 6/1/2018 for ALL program participants.

1- All residents must acquire ON-THE-BOOKS employment in the first 30 days. Failure to do so will result in Discharge to Parole. Program participants are NOT permitted to make use of D.S.S. resources for a housing stipend or food stamps.

2- Residents must focus on SAVING with minimal extraneous expenses for months TWO and THREE. Each paycheck will be copied and put in Casebook, as will copies of Bank Statements and Deposit Slips. This is key to tracking progress and is NOT negotiable.

3- At the 90-day mark, a program participant will be evaluated for progress and compliance. If continuation in the program is MUTUAL, the participant will be responsible for a $60/week House Contribution, paid weekly, in advance, and falling behind is not acceptable. Program compliance will continue to be assessed on a monthly basis.

4- At the 120-day mark, a program participant will again be evaluated for progress and compliance, and if continuation in the program is still MUTUAL, the participant will be responsible for an $80/week House Contribution. Program compliance will continue to be assessed on a monthly basis, but there will be a new emphasis placed on preparation for Discharge and seeking an acceptable living arrangement.

5- At the 8-month mark, a participant will be assessed for either Discharge at the 9-month mark, or Continuation up to a possible 12 months. The House Contribution will remain $80/week up to month 12. Finding a new living arrangement will continue to be a focus.

6- Any resident who is assessed with a need to stay past 12-months will be subject to an increase in House Contribution to $100/week. Participant will continue to be assessed on a monthly basis, but the 'unofficial' maximum time in the program will be capped at 15 months.

NYSID# __________________________

Resident Print                                      Resident Signature

Date ________________________  Page 6                  Staff Initial