

DISMAS House

Community Connections

Who We Are

Dismas is Family. Dismas housing programs and services offer hope, understanding, and opportunity for men recovering and rebuilding their lives after years of addiction, incarceration, and homelessness.

Dismas House in Worcester offers supportive, transitional housing and reentry services.

The Dismas Family Farm in Oakham offers vocational rehabilitation and supportive housing on a working farm.

The Father John Brooks House in Worcester and the **Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House** in Oakham offer permanent, supportive housing to graduates of Dismas programs.

BAR None provides civil legal assistance to former prisoners from throughout Worcester by addressing barriers to reentry.

Countless community partners help make the Dismas mission a reality. In October, Dismas Family Farm resident James F. was awarded a vehicle from a Concord non-profit, Second Chance Cars, to support him in his return to work and school. James' US probation officer nominated James in recognition of his dedication to rebuilding his life. Students from Worcester Technical High School meticulously serviced and rebuilt the transmission on James' car. James is enrolled in school and plans to become a certified alcohol and drug counselor. Thank you to all who made this happen, and congratulations James on the road ahead!



Probation Officer Jason Nelson, above left, James, and Farm Program Coordinator Mike Kenny



Dismas Volunteer MVP!

In June, treasured Dismas volunteer Gail Pryce was honored by the New England Patriots Foundation as a Myra Kraft Community MVP! This award recognizes volunteers who go "above and beyond" to serve their communities. Gail and her husband Dick have been serving meals with their church at the Dismas Family Farm for 15 years. Sharing a meal with residents of Dismas House or the farm is a great way to support the residents of Dismas as they reenter society. See *Ways to Connect* to find out how you can help!



Gail Pryce, left, and Andre Tippett at the Myra Kraft Community MVP Award Ceremony in June



Donate online at www.dismasisfamily.org

Resident Spotlight



Dismas resident Darrell Williams serves as a Reentry Navigator and Life Coach at *Legendary Legacies*

Darrell Williams has been a valued member of the Dismas community since 2021, proudly serving as the house manager at Dismas House in Worcester. He maintains a steady, reliable presence, extending to his peers incredible guidance, support, and leadership. Additionally, since June 2023, Darrell has served as a reentry navigator and life coach at *Legendary Legacies*, a Worcester non-profit that focuses on gang rehabilitation and re-entry programming. In this role, Darrell has embraced the challenges of working with a vulnerable population who often face significant insecurity and alienation. Darrell's deep compassion and sincere dedication to his work and to his housemates fosters a sense of hope and resilience that is an inspiration to all.



SAVE THE DATES!

JUL. 11 + 25 & AUG. 8 + 22, 2025

New! Sober Suppers at the Farm

OCT. 4, 2025

Dismas Family Farm Fall Harvest Festival

NOV. 29 + 30 & DEC. 6 + 7, 2025

7th Annual Dismas Family Farm Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale



Dismas Board of Directors

- Jill Sullivan, President
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Heard Around Dismas. . .

In my time as a fellow at Dismas, I have learned first hand how the *Dismas is Family* motto is no exaggeration. The residents and staff form a tight knit community which I have been proud to be a part of. It has been a transformative experience to live and work alongside the men of Dismas, to hear their stories, to share in the joy of their successes and harvests of the farm. The most remarkable part of the organization is how it has been embraced by the greater Worcester area. It is so special how volunteers come nightly to share meals and dine with Dismas residents—which illustrates perfectly the Dismas mission of a two-way reconciliation between former prisoners and society through the building of community.

-Sam Howland, Fellow at the Dismas Family Farm

I am grateful to the Dismas Family Farm and the entire staff for helping me find a way to break free from a past I could not change. That past became a cycle of crime, violence, and over 50 years of incarceration that left me broken in ways that I am just starting to see and understand. It has taken a great deal of time to learn new behavior and to form healthy relationships and to move on with a life of freedom. I was at the farm for only six weeks and during a house meeting I became very emotional and said, "I am so grateful to be here." One of the staff looked me in the eye and said, "You are right where you belong." That statement has changed my life forever! And every single day I am grateful for the gift of recovery at the Dismas Family Farm!

-Resident at the Dismas Family Farm

**Dismas is
Family!**



By the Numbers

- 37** The number of years Dismas has been a beacon of hope for former prisoners in Worcester County.
- 300** The number of volunteers from families, churches, and local schools, that help out at Dismas programs each year.
- 700** The number of former prisoners the BAR None program serves yearly through workshops and individual counsel.
- 12th** The birthday celebrated by beloved farm dog Hobbes this year.
- \$25** The donation to Dismas that can buy work boots or a state ID for a new resident.

Dismas House of Massachusetts
Post Office Box 30125
Worcester, MA 01603
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dismas Wish List

- ✓ New twin-sized sheets and blankets. New pillows and bath towels.
- ✓ Laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, and other cleaning supplies.
- ✓ New men's work boots, sneakers, and gloves.
- ✓ New men's sweatshirts, sweatpants, and t-shirts (sizes large-XXXL).
- ✓ Fuel gift cards to help with transportation costs.

Please contact us to arrange drop-off or pick-up of donations. Thank you!

Ways to Connect

- ✓ On our website at www.dismasisfamily.org
- ✓ On Facebook at 'Dismas House'
- ✓ On Instagram at [@dismashouseofma](https://www.instagram.com/dismashouseofma)
- ✓ By email at cmdismashouse@aol.com
- ✓ By phone at (508) 799-9389 or at the farm at (508) 882-0000



Donate online at www.dismasisfamily.org
Thank you for your support!