



# PACM

PRISON AFTERCARE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

## PACM News

### ReEntry Life Skills Ministry at NCCIW

*ReEntry is currently facilitated by PACM volunteers Gayle Carrington of Celebration Church and Barbara Miles of Crossroads Fellowship.*

To answer the cry heard from inside and outside prison walls, ReEntry Life Skills project was established for women at NCCIW/Minimum Unit to improve personal and employment skills. Nearly fifty women have attended the 18week classes. These women are diverse in age, race and family status. Few graduates have been in contact with PACM after being released; however, we have heard from some with very encouraging life change and career successes.

We continue to praise the Lord for his faithfulness to these ladies. Prison Fellowship Ministry (PFM) curriculum was taught in the first 2 years by PFM certified instructors. The material addressed

personal relationship with the Lord, family and employer relationships, interview role play, job application preparation and business leaders' roundtables. Beginning in 2015 Reentry Life Skills project partnered with another Bible based program: Jobs for Life. In addition to the PFM subjects, the Jobs for Life curriculum included self-assessments for career interests, inmate testimonies and "Champions" who support students with their weekly attendance, reviews their student's homework and offer encouragement. The Champion aspect of the program is a tremendous help for the students. The Reentry Life Skills project makes a difference. Anyone wanting to encourage women at NCCIW/Minimum Unit who seek change to their lives... just ask the Lord if this is a way you can serve Him.

### Grace Home Bible Study Update

Grace Home's current Bible study is being led by Robin Thorne of Crossroads Fellowship Church. She calls it "The Red Letter Bible Study" due to the passages chosen for the study. Each week group members have homework based on the very words of Jesus. Group members are learning how to break down Scripture passages and apply them personally to themselves. The homework includes finding information directly from each passage being studied to answer the following questions: the author of the passage; the time; location; key words; who is in Jesus' audience in the passage; what is the point Jesus is trying to make to His audience; how does the passage relate to you; what does the

passage reveal about Jesus' character; what does the passage say (summarizing the passage as briefly as possible); what does the passage mean (spiritual truths, lessons or warnings found within the passage); what does the passage mean to you (writing personal application questions based on the spiritual truths, lessons or warnings found within the passage); what is Jesus saying to you personally through the passage; what are you going to do about it?



### Bible Study

The Red Letter Bible Study meets on Monday nights from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Anyone interested in joining this study or leading one in the future, please contact Dawn Cummings at 919-706-5281.

*"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, so that you too will not be tempted."*

Galatians 6:1

*Please note that our privacy policy does not permit us to identify Grace Home residents in our publications.*

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## Volunteer Spotlight

*Lori Harrelson is a member of Greystone Baptist Church who volunteers as a mentor for Grace Home residents.*



Lori Harrelson

Although it happened by what I thought was an accidental encounter, looking back I see that getting to know *Anna*\* and participate in Grace Home was God at His most creative, putting people together at just the right time. I know that God sometimes leads us in one direction while we are headed in another and that was my experience.

I met Robin Thorne while at a women's prison orientation where I was volunteering for a different ministry within the prison. Robin told me a little about Grace Home and I was intrigued enough to give her a call. That led to a meeting with her and Dawn Cummings and shortly after, I became a mentor to Anna. I know God had this

plan in mind all along! Anna and I spent many hours together, and I was constantly impressed with her attitude, willingness to follow the guidelines set by Grace Home and her determination to become independent. We especially bonded during our hours together serving Meals on Wheels. My regular partner couldn't go with me for a few months, so Anna jumped right in and helped serve the community. We each have two daughters which provided endless hours of conversation, and her son is just a few weeks younger than my grandson so we traded many baby and toddler stories as well. I often told her she was a great listener which is not that common these days. She always asked about my family and was genuinely interested in my life. I very quickly stopped thinking of her as a young woman I was mentoring and just thought of her as my new friend, just Anna. A young woman who had made mistakes, paid for them and was moving forward with her new life.

*\*The Grace Home Resident's name was changed for privacy purposes.*

**"Anna and I spent many hours together, and I was constantly impressed with her attitude, willingness to follow the guidelines set by Grace Home and her determination to become independent."**

## What's Happening

### Grace Home Update

*By Dawn Cummings—Grace Home Coordinator*

In the past quarter at Grace Home all our ladies have been gainfully employed, participating in weekly Bible Studies, with most being active in the StepUp Life Skills program as their work schedules permit coupled with volunteer activities.

One of our ladies is a Marketing Coordinator with a prominent Raleigh Real Estate firm and also working a part-time job to supplement her future living obligations as she prepares to leave Grace Home to begin a self supportive life and meet all the obligations that come with being the sole provider of a household.

Another of our ladies, who will complete the year long Grace Home program in July, was recently

promoted to a management position at a local restaurant after having been employed with them since arriving at Grace Home. She has completed all the components of Grace Home's program as well as StepUp Ministries' Life Skills programs.

Our most recent arrival at Grace Home is employed with a local doughnut shop while also being active in the StepUp Program. She is looking forward with hope to her new future living for the Lord.

We are happy indeed that the Lord has provided us with applicants that will allow us to fill openings at Grace Home as they occur and have the privilege of sharing with the new ladies the importance of putting God first in their lives.



**Grace Home has developed a close relationship with StepUp**

## Grace Home Gets A Landscaping Facelift

A group of volunteers from Hayes-Barton United Methodist Church, as part of the church's local mission outreach emphasis, organized a spring project for Grace Home. This is the second year that Hayes-Barton UMC has included Grace Home in their spring outreach activities. This year's project provided a much-needed landscaping facelift covering both the front and back yard areas at Grace Home.

The project involved planning weeks in advance of implementation. This included donation of a property review and landscape proposal prepared by Cat Valand, who is a professional landscape designer, as well as walkway construction and other preparatory activities by Wendy Kanable and her landscaping team.

When the project workday arrived in late April, the team arrived early in the morning at Grace Home and worked continuously until mid-

afternoon digging, planting, and spreading gravel and mulch. At the end of the workday, the improvement was remarkable. Many neighbors passing by stopped to comment on the transformation.

PACM, along with the staff and residents of Grace Home, would like to thank Hayes-Barton UMC and the team of volunteers who worked hard to make this possible!

Many thanks to...

- Angie Thompson
- Carol Hagy
- Lynn McLead
- Dickie Thompson
- Sam Ravenel
- John Flowe
- Cat Valand
- Wendy Kanable



## A Need Fulfilled By A Caring Volunteer

There have been occasions when those who call Grace Home home find it difficult to climb the front porch steps. For example, one of the residents of Grace Home recently suffered a foot injury. But there was no handrail to provide support when going up or down.

Gary Hartman decided that it was time to install a handrail, so he gathered tools and materials and spent a day at Grace Home adding a handrail.

Gary attends Southbridge Fellowship Church and has been a long-time volunteer with PACM. He is a former chairman of the board of PACM and continues to serve in many ways. He is an indispensable handyman who fixes things that break and generally takes care of all kinds of maintenance needs at Grace Home.

Thanks Gary for all that you do for this ministry!



**Grace Home is a PACM ministry.** Located in Raleigh, North Carolina, Grace Home is a residence for women who are being released from incarceration and who wish to pursue a new direction in life based on their Christian faith. Grace Home provides an alternative that allows them to avoid returning to the unhealthy environments of their past. Christian values, confidentiality, and a commitment to a new life are the foundations of the program. The services provided here are for women who desire a Christian structured home environment and who demonstrate their sincerity by cooperating with guidelines established for the purpose of enriching their life experiences.

Please contact one of the following individuals to arrange a tour of Grace Home and/or to discuss with them the goals and objectives of the residence program.

Dawn Cummings Email: [Dawn@pacm-nc.org](mailto:Dawn@pacm-nc.org)  
Robin Thorne Email: [Robin@pacm-nc.org](mailto:Robin@pacm-nc.org)

**ReEntry Life Skills is a PACM ministry.** Operating inside of the NCCIW Minimum Custody Unit in Raleigh, NC, ReEntry Life Skills is a faith-based transition Initiative that is designed to help students face the challenges of life they will encounter when they are released from prison to rejoin their families and communities.

The teaching modules are furnished by Jobs for Life and Women of Worth Fellowship. Class size is ten students, with a champion/mentor assigned to each student. Classes are facilitated by a team of four instructors and a class coordinator.

Classes focus on topics such as accepting responsibilities, overcoming obstacles to success, taking pride in work, money management, interactive relationship development, goal setting, writing resumes, how to budget, etc. These topics are in our curriculum along with the comprehensive Jobs for Life curriculum.

The ReEntry team is committed to serving our students with excellence in instruction and providing Biblical principles by which to live.

## Prison Aftercare Christian Ministries

*"For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone and has not another to lift him up!"*

Ecclesiastes 4:10



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E-mail: [info@pacm-nc.org](mailto:info@pacm-nc.org)

We're on the web at:  
[www.pacm-nc.org](http://www.pacm-nc.org)

## Grace Home Residents Giving Back To The Community

According to the Webster Dictionary the word "Volunteer" is defined as a person who chooses freely to do or offer something. ....a person who chooses freely to enter into a transaction with no promise of compensation... WOW !

This description of a volunteer truly shows the heart and actions of the ladies that live at Grace Home as they go throughout the community serving as volunteers with organizations, churches, and social agencies in Raleigh and Wake County in a mighty way.

This quarter the residents have and will participate in projects and programs that are a part of Urban Ministries, the Helen Wright Center for Women, the Community Outreach Program and Food Pantry of North Haven Baptist Church, Raleigh Rescue Mission, and the North Carolina Museum of History.

The ladies are very humbled and honored to pursue these volunteer activities that the Lord has brought into their lives and welcome new opportunities to be of service.

*" We make a living  
by what we get..*

*We make a life  
by what we give."*

- Winston Churchill