



PACM

PRISON AFTERCARE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

PACM News

Overview of Grace Home Residence Program

Upon being released from incarceration, women are particularly vulnerable to the gravitational pull of their past. If you have no shelter, no money, no food, no job, no support...no hope, reverting to illegal or immoral behavior may be viewed as the only means of survival.

Grace Home provides a one-year residence program that gives women a safe-haven from their past and from the streets. Equally important, they are immersed in a Christian structured environment with a program that helps to prepare them for a life of purpose and shows them a refuge from discouragement and temptation through God's promises.

Women in the program attend church and Bible study weekly. They are paired with a

Christian mentor who gives them guidance and support throughout their term at Grace Home.

Residents are required to participate in volunteer activities to realize that even while they are recipients of assistance while at Grace Home, they are still in a position to help others in need and in doing so to experience first-hand the blessings that come with service to others.

If a resident's background included substance abuse, they are required to attend a regular group counseling session (either AA, NA, or Celebrate Recovery). Professional Christian counseling is also made available to residents who struggle with issues related to their past.

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Volunteers Bring Bible Study to Grace Home

The staff of Grace Home has developed a year-round schedule of studies that offer our residents the opportunity to grow in understanding of God's word and to seek a deeper understanding of His will and purpose for their lives. With the help of volunteers, a weekly Bible Study is conducted at Grace Home.



Bible Study

There are many volunteers, along with Grace Home staff, who together work to offer the Bible Study program. The current study is *The Magnificent Obsession* by Anne Graham Lotz. Betty Smith and Brenda Betz from Hayes-Barton UMC have volunteered to lead this study. We are all thankful for their experience, their loving hearts, and their cheerful smiling faces.

"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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Grace Home Lends Helping Hands to North Haven Outreach Programs



Over the last two years, the residents of Grace Home and the Grace Home Coordinator, Dawn Cummings, have been active volunteers weekly in the North Haven Church food pantry. The food pantry operates four days a week to serve those in need. In addition, there is a monthly community outreach program held on the third Saturday of each month. The monthly outreach provides 250 families with food, clothing, medical screening, and housing referrals, co-mingled with Christian love,

devotional opportunities, and individual counseling sessions.

The residency program at Grace Home requires that residents engage in volunteer service activities during their term in order to understand the importance of helping others as we are commanded to do, and to experience the blessings that come with serving one another as we are taught through the words of Jesus and by His example.

The residents and staff of Grace Home are grateful to North Haven for the opportunity to volunteer in this wonderful ministry!

“Prior to being in jail, I used to volunteer, and thought I was doing something really great. But since coming to Grace Home, I am seeing volunteer service very differently. I see that it fulfills fundamental needs of real people.”

- A Grace Home Resident

Overview of Grace Home Resident Program

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Residents are provided with financial counseling which includes Biblical principles as the basis for goal-setting and decision-making. They receive assistance with budget preparation and tracking, and education on the pitfalls of unplanned or impulse spending.

Women usually arrive at Grace Home with virtually no personal belongings. During the first week clothing is purchased at local thrift stores or donated by volunteers; and any needed hygiene and personal items are purchased.

Also during the first week, or as soon as possible, an appointment is made with free medical agencies for a medical evaluation. If the resident has a history of mental-health issues, an appointment for a psychiatric evaluation is also arranged.

To assist women with the process of finding and maintaining employment, PACM has developed a relationship with StepUp Ministries who provide a variety of life-skills training programs. The Grace Home residence program requires that residents attend StepUp's

Jobs Week which prepares participants for the process of finding employment. This includes such things as résumé writing and interviewing skills.

After completing Jobs Week, residents are required to continue with the nine-month Life Skills program at StepUp which provides a series of education modules that can qualify participants for assistance in finding a rental home or apartment (through the Ready-to-Rent Program), home furnishings (through the Green Chair project), a car (through Wheels for Hope), and continuing education scholarships at local educational institutions.

To summarize, women who complete the full one-year residence program at Grace Home, leave with a stronger spiritual foundation, a church family and network of Christian supporters, a job, assistance in securing a place to live, home furnishings, and transportation. Through God's grace and the generous contributions of volunteers and donors, they will have come a long way from the vulnerable situation in which they arrived at Grace Home.

Release from prison often means starting with nothing!



Grace Home has developed a close relationship with StepUp

PACM Adds Two New Board Members

PACM has been truly blessed by its volunteers and staff who serve out of heartfelt compassion for those who are in, or recently released from, prison. We are thankful for these hard-working men and women who come from a number of local churches...

- Celebration Church
- Capitol Community Church
- Christ Baptist Church
- Crossroads Fellowship
- Greystone Baptist Church
- Hayes-Barton United Methodist Church
- Hope Community Church
- Providence Baptist Church
- Wake Chapel
- White Memorial Presbyterian Church

We have recently been blessed by the addition of two new board members: Audrey Burnette from Wake Chapel, and Angie Thompson from Hayes-Barton United Methodist Church.

Audrey brings a strong record of prison ministry service from which she has acquired much-needed insight into the difficulties that our residents with substance-abuse backgrounds face upon release from prison.

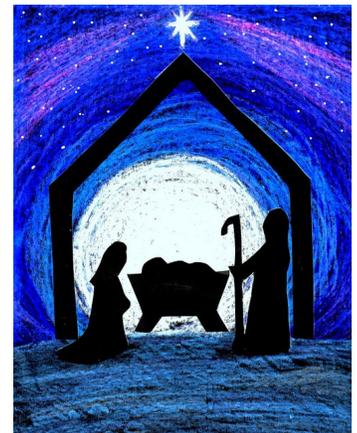
Angie brings a wealth of experience from her background in teaching and financial planning. In addition, Angie serves on the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission for the City of Raleigh. She is also the wife of newly elected Raleigh City Councilman Dickie Thompson.

**PACM welcomes
Audrey Burnette
and
Angie Thompson to
its Board of
Directors!**

Holiday Events

Residents of Grace Home had many opportunities to serve and celebrate Christ's birth during the holiday season, including the following: North Haven's Food Pantry Ministry's special Thanksgiving dinner and program for the homeless and needy, Christ Baptist Church's Christmas Luncheon, the Humble Hearts Bazaar at Hayes-Barton UMC, White

Memorial's Christmas luncheon, Christmas services at Hayes-Barton UMC and Church of the Good Shepherd, the Justice Project's Black Nativity Christmas program, Hanging of the Greens at Hayes-Barton UMC, and the Triangle Brass Band Music for the Season concert.



Boylan Heights ArtWalk Comes to Grace Home

The community of Boylan Heights comes alive at Christmas time! The Boylan Heights ArtWalk is now in its 24th year. The outdoor event is held annually on the first Sunday in December. It is a juried show featuring over 250 artists and craftsmen that draws thousands of people to Boylan Heights to peruse, purchase, or otherwise enjoy the arts and the artistic ambiance.

Again this year, as in the past several years,

Grace Home has served the community as a host home. Artists display their pieces on the front porch and in the front yard while Grace Home residents act as hostesses to participants and ArtWalk visitors. It is an opportunity for Grace Home to strengthen its bond with other members of the community.

Mark your calendars for next year. You don't want to miss this outdoor extravaganza!



Artwork on display at the annual Boylan Heights ArtWalk festival

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
Robin Thorne

Tel: 919-441-2549
Tel: 919-818-8239

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, goals 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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Christmas Social at Grace Home

Volunteers and Grace Home Residents gathered at Grace Home in mid-December for a Christmas pot-luck dinner.



The Grace Home residents and our Grace Home Coordinator, Dawn Cummings, had decorated the home with beautiful ornaments and trimmings throughout.



Everyone brought a dish and enjoyed an evening of good food and fellowship.

With all of the hustle and bustle that comes with the Christmas holiday season, it was a welcome opportunity to es-

cape from the hectic pace and focus on the true meaning of the season in the company of like-minded Christian brothers and sisters.

