

THE NEW GATE



From the Director:

Upcoming Events 2017

Labor Day Reunion
September 4 6 pm
 Tulsa Exodus House
 2624 E. Newton, Tulsa

OKC Area Dinner & Silent Auction
September 12 6 pm—8 pm
 Nichols Hills UMC, 1212
 Bedford Drive, Nichols Hills

CJAMM Fundraiser Night
October 1 4 pm—9 pm
 The Delta Cafe, 4515 E. 51st
 Street, Tulsa—see back page
 for more details!



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Greetings!

This summer has been very busy, but very rewarding! As the fall starts to move in and things seem to calm after the summer months, I find that all areas of our ministry are thriving.

We had a total of 126 campers at New Day Camp I and Too. We are stocking our Supply Bank full of donated items for next year already! We are in need of clothing for older campers (men's sizes medium through extra large). We always need socks, underwear and sports bras (all adult sizes). We always are in need of toiletries ministry wide.

I am proud to announce that we have received a grant for a new program called Jubilee Jobs. This program will allow us to do job searches, build resumes, and get job opportunities for residents of Exodus House sooner than we have been able to do in the past. We are partnering with a nonprofit organization out of Washington D.C. for this program. Jubilee Jobs was started in 1981 in Washington D.C. and has provided amazing results in helping the homeless population to receive gainful employment. We are looking for volunteers in Oklahoma City and Tulsa to help us implement this program.

Our Redemption Churches are picking up from the centers and transporting to churches in Lawton, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. With implementation of several new classes, we are meeting needs that are currently issues that we are having as Oklahomans.

I did attend a Kairos reunion this summer at Mabel Basset Correctional Center and was able to see that God is very much alive and well in Prison. I also visited Oklahoma State Penitentiary, Lexington A & R, William McLoud CC, Oklahoma City Community Corrections and Davis Correctional Facility this summer. The amazing stories that I have heard about all of our volunteers entering our prisons have been phenomenal.

Thank you for all you do and all you have done. Our programs could not exist without you.

—Kristen Harlin

You are invited to the
Third Annual
Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries
Oklahoma City Area Dinner and Silent Auction
Honoring Mr. Lew McGinnis with the *Stan Basler Award*
September 12, 2017 at 6 pm—8 pm
Nichols Hills UMC, 1212 Bedford Drive, Nichols Hills, OK

RSVP by September 5, 2017 to Lesa Rhoads at lrhoads@okumc.org or (405) 530-2014.

TULSA MINISTRIES WELCOME NEW LEADER

Steve Bear began serving as the Tulsa Area Director on June 1, 2017. He and his wife, Rhonda both serve as advisory members on the CJAMM board. He owns and operates Claremore Auto and has been repairing CJAMM's Tulsa fleet of vehicles for many years. He was the 2016 CJAMM Volunteer of the Year and we are very happy to have him become part of our "team". Welcome, Steve (and Rhonda).

TULSA REDEMPTION CHURCH

As I reflected on my time at Redemption, the thought came to mind, "How do you measure a changed life?" Our residents come in fearful of their futures and remorseful of their pasts. As I watch our volunteers begin to minister to our people, a sense of peace and hope enters all of our lives. Fears pass and trust is developed. It allows us, all of us, to become family.

Doors are opened to begin building relationships with Christ and the walls of resentment begin to crumble. Fear is replaced with hope. We realize that God can redeem our pasts and rebuild our futures. As laughter fills the halls and prayers fill the altar, it is not long before it is hard to tell who are the volunteers and who are the residents. We just become family striving to serve God together. Now that's how you measure changed lives! Generational curses are broken, hope abounds, and we find new life in Him.

Way to go team. I am honored to serve with you.

Love you,

Steve Bear, Tulsa Area Director

OKC EXODUS HOUSE

Blessings,

I pray that everyone is doing well and you have all had a great summer and are enjoying this beautiful fall weather we are having!

Exodus House OKC has been very busy and we are happy to report that we have had 26 residents for our 2016-2017 year and of those we have had 13 graduations, 12 driver's licenses and have several more graduations coming up. We also have 12 current residents and are expecting 9 more by October. We are happy to say we are going to have more kids here this time around; two 12 year old girls and a 7 year old girl. We constantly have children here, with 5 of our former Exodus House kids and their friends coming to visit us quite often. They all feel safe and

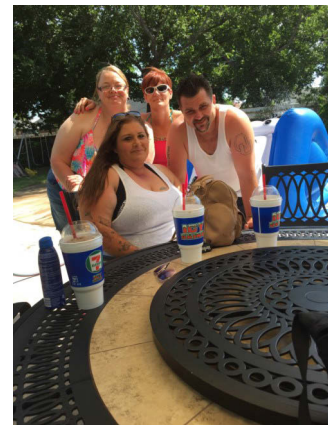


welcome here and we love to have them. I expect we will have quite the crew for Trick or Treating and the holidays.

We want to thank Rodney Indermill and First United Methodist Church/UMM for the hard work they did repairing, re-siding and painting our laundry room. It was not going to make it through the winter. We are so proud of your hard work and for your help with many of our projects.

adult silliness. It was a great way to show our residents how to have sober fun and show Christ's love for each other.

Special thanks to Lori Van Dyke for opening her home for our Annual July Pool Party. Our residents and kids had such a BLAST!! It was a beautiful day full of fun, food, karaoke and children's laughter and



We want to thank our sponsors for their donations to our TV project and their donations to provide Flat Screen TV's in their apartments that will remain in the apartment. This will help substantially in reducing replacement costs of convertor boxes. We are still taking TV's and are in dire need of dressers, coffee pots, microwaves, pots and pans and can openers.

We want to thank all of our Apartment Sponsor's : Yukon UMC/UMM, Seminole UMC, Connect UMC, Church of the Servant UMC, New Hope UMC, St. Andrew's UMC, First UMC Edmond, New Covenant UMC, Choctaw UMC/UMM. Your tireless work, prayers, love for our residents and our ministry are so appreciated by each of us... **Thank You for the light you shine, the love you share and the blessings you so freely give to all**

We would love to come speak about Exodus House and our CJAMM Ministry with your congregation, a Sunday School Class, your UMW/UMM Group or to give you a tour of our facility anytime. Please call us and we can schedule a time.

-----Director Robin Wertz, C.M., CPRSS -----(405)-525-2300

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

OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

The Lay Servant training is the last weekend in September. Richard Giles is teaching the basic class. We are excited that those new to Lay Servant Ministry will be welcomed and taught by Richard. Advanced Lay Servants will be learning how to effectively give a sermon.

We have been both honored and blessed to have several delightful souls fill our pulpit while Rev. Dr. Stan has been recovering and Pastor Brad has been on vacation. A great big thank you to Rev. Steve Byrd, Julia Cox, Richard Bowers, Lori Van Dyke, Kris Steele, Rev. Chris Noland and Richard Giles. We also had a wonderful worship service with the American Indian Justice Navigation Council. This is a new ministry that works to help those newly released from prison with jobs, family times for adjustment and reconciliation, education, substance abuse meetings and so much more. We were all delighted to meet David Littlesun and his team. We THANK YOU, EACH OF YOU! It is heart-filling and eye-opening to listen to your testimony and sharing of God's Word.

We are continuously blessed with clothing donations from so many kind, caring, generous people. Thank you to each one who brings these very welcomed gifts to our clothing closet. Our closet offers clothes to the incarcerated, not only those we bring to church but to also those who case managers contact us about. We also serve people leaving County Jail programs as well as the marginalized citizens of our area. Thank you all for keeping us with such an excellent selection of gently used wearables for those we serve.

Please consider yourselves hugged! Thank you to each one of you who supports Redemption Ministry in any way. This very special ministry does not happen on its' own! It takes a village, so to speak! THANK YOU for being such a valuable, special resident of God's village!

God's blessings, Marcia



American Indian Justice Navigation Council

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

The cooler summer temperatures have been perfect for work in the flower beds. Each year Exodus House residents take pride in sprucing up our campus and this summer is no exception. Staff and residents alike have been busy mowing, pruning and planting. It is truly a labor of love; a gorgeous courtyard is an ample reward!

Congratulations to graduates: Sherri Kayser, sponsored by *Christ UMC*, Oliver Perry, sponsored by *Faith UMC* and we anticipate a September graduation for Christina Jackson, who is sponsored by *Owasso's First UMC*.

Exodus House staff and volunteers are sad to say, "Goodbye" to Owasso Apartment's lead sponsors, Karolann and Richard Whetsell, who will be leaving us in September. The Whetsells are going to become full time RVers with no "Stick House". Karolann and Richard will be traveling between Seattle Washington and South Texas, doing good deeds along the way. They have joined a group called NOMADS VIM. These are folks who have RV's and want to do God's work where ever they are needed. We wish them all the joy and happiness they deserve!



Redemption Pastor, Steve Bear and Exodus House Resident, Oliver Perry at Oliver's graduation.

Exodus House residents are overjoyed to be the recipients of a new computer lab. We are grateful for the new technology which was made possible by a Woodworth Grant.

It's almost time for our yearly Labor Day Reunion here at Exodus House Tulsa. You are invited, so be sure to mark the date on your calendar. The fun begins at 6:00 pm on Labor Day, September 4th! We hope you will join us. We'll be having pulled pork and beans. You can bring a salad or dessert or you can just bring yourselves. We are located at 2624 E. Newton Street, Tulsa, OK. If you can't make it to the Reunion, we'd love to give you a tour. You can contact Darlene Lorenz at (918) 231-4013.



The children of Claremore 1st UMC delighted Exodus House residents & staff with a visit.

-Darlene Lorenz, Director & Todd Smith, Facility Manager



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Make an online tax-deductible donation!



If you would like to save CJAMM postage, you can receive the *New Gate* via email. Just send an email to lrhoads@okumc.org. Thank you!

NEW DAY CAMP 2017

Thank you to all who made New Day Camp possible this year—from the CJAMM staff, volunteers at camp, Cross Point staff, van drivers and riders, individuals who drove kids to meet vans, churches who helped find drivers, riders and provided their vans, donations of toiletries, clothing, towels, teddy bears, Bibles, backpacks, scholarships and prayers. The list goes on and on. THANK YOU!



**Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries
Fundraiser Night at
The Delta Cafe
Sunday, October 1, 2017
4 pm—9 pm
4515 E. 51st Street, Tulsa**

The Delta Cafe will donate 20% of your purchases to CJAMM. Just present the flyer to your server. For a copy of the flyer, please contact Lesa Rhoads at (405) 530-2014 or by email lrhoads@okumc.org. Thank you.

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