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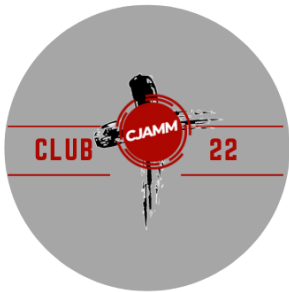
# The New Gate

We're excited to announce Club 22, a "new friends" platform to invest in CJAMM for 2022. CJAMM is a tried-and-true, successful, faith-based, re-entry program from incarceration to second chances as successful citizens.

Would you consider being one of 22 individuals or groups to give \$1000 to invest in the future of our society in Oklahoma?

Or, how about 22 cents a day for this year that would add up to an \$80+ donation! Any combination of 22 would allow CJAMM to continue providing valuable services.

Mail your check today to CJAMM (address on back) or through PayPal at [www.cjamm.org](http://www.cjamm.org). Would you consider asking friends and neighbors to support with 22 cents a day.....ask 22 friends!



## New Day Camp 2022

Guess what?!?!? The planning has begun for New Day Camp 2022 and we need your help.

**Scholarships:** \$350 per child (Actual cost is \$650, but \$300 is secured from Prison Fellowship.) Please make checks payable to New Day Camp.

**Supplies:** Email Kristin at [office@cjamm.org](mailto:office@cjamm.org) for the Amazon wish list.

**Volunteer:** Online registration at can be completed at <https://okcamps.campbrainregistration.com/>

Or maybe all three??

Camp dates are Camp Two, June 8-13 (volunteers will arrive on Wednesday evening and campers will arrive on June 9) and Camp One, June 13-16.



### Exodus House OKC

- ◆ end tables
- ◆ dining room tables
- ◆ dressers
- ◆ laundry soap
- ◆ dryer sheets

### Exodus House Tulsa

- ◆ laundry soap
- ◆ dryer sheets

### Parsonage House—Tulsa

- ◆ twin beds (2)
- ◆ twin sheets (2 sets)
- ◆ dressers

Need to arrange pick up, for OKC area call (405) 525-2300 or Tulsa area call (918) 382-0905.

# FULL CIRCLE

## Exodus House as part of Pilgrimage

Carol each week, many times being picked up by Carol until PJ earned her driver's license and purchased a vehicle.

Some life changes for Carol required a relocation out of the Tulsa area. In early January, Exodus House received an email from Jacques Cunningham, the president of the Pilgrimage Class, saying they would need to step down unless they could find someone to do the sponsor leadership role.

PJ tells that she was harried and flustered on her way to Sunday School on January 9<sup>th</sup> because of traffic and several other issues. However, the minute she walked into the church, she said she was overcome with a peace. During Joys and Concerns, it was announced to the class that they would discontinue the sponsorship after PJ's graduation on February 15.

"I felt impressed that I needed to say something. I didn't know exactly what, but I needed to say something," she shared. "So, I just said, am I member of this class?"

"Everyone unanimously said yes."

"I said, I'm about to graduate, why can't I be the apartment sponsor representative for the class?"

It was an Einstein moment, totally brilliant.

The class rallied around in conversations that they'd be willing to support being an

apartment sponsor, just no one had the availability to do the leadership role. Judy Rowell, also a Pilgrimage member, agreed to help PJ.

The mission of the Pilgrimage Class never lost a beat but was impressed with God's leading, timing, and call for their discipleship.

PJ knows the ins and outs of the Exodus House program and a front-row seat on what's needed to be an effective apartment sponsor. She tells that she had a great sponsor and it's what has her grounded in a church family now.

"She recently asked for donations of coats and hats for some folks who needed them," said Belynda Clanton, a Pilgrimage member and the director of welcoming for the church. "We rallied around and got her some to distribute before the last cold snap."

While participating in the program, PJ has also been working for Exodus House a few hours a week doing maintenance. Her full-time job is working as part of a construction crew with Crossover Development Company, a Christian organization committed to restoring North Tulsa through reconciliation, love and justice. They base their mission on Hosea 12:6, "Hold fast to love and justice."

PJ has come full circle on a journey with Exodus House and will be continually lifted up in prayers in her journey with spiritual service and growth. She will graduate from the Exodus House program on February 15<sup>th</sup> and the celebration will be held in the Asbury Room at Boston Avenue UMC.

## Positive Experience Generates New Apartment Sponsor

When Milton and Cissy Schulze witnessed the positive changes in Freddie Gaskey's life, they wanted in on some of the secret potion. Cissy has followed Freddie for many years as her daughter is married to Freddie's brother.

He actually calls her "Mom".

"We've watched him change. This Exodus House has turned this boy around," she said.

Freddie arrived at Exodus House Tulsa in September 2021. He immediately got a job at Service Recycling which is really close to the Exodus House. He even travels to churches occasionally with Keith Dobbs, CJAMM's Executive Director, to share his testimony. He's actively tried to prove his changes to his family and reintegrate into the lives of his adult children.

"It's a God thing. I couldn't do it without Him being in charge of this," shared Freddie.

The Schulzes met with Georgia Sparks, Tulsa's Site

Director, and Dobbs, on a Sunday afternoon in January. They wanted to know all about this program and how they could become involved. After meeting some of the other clients that day and hearing their success stories, they said to sign them up. They wanted to be an apartment sponsor.

The challenge for Milton and Cissy is what the decorating theme for the apartment should be. She wants the lodge-look and he's holding out for John Deere tractors. They are anxious for apartment A to get its first client.

"I'm baking a cake and coming to welcome the first client as soon as he or she arrives," she said.

"We want to come to the upcoming graduation so we can know how other churches and sponsors are doing it," continued Cissy.

The Schulzes are members of the Zion Lutheran Church in Stillwater and are anxious to get the pastor and other church members actively involved.



Left to right: Milton and Cissy Schulze, Freddie Gaskey and Georgia Sparks



Left to right: PJ Bennett along with colleagues and Exodus House graduates George Schober and Georgia Sparks

When PJ Bennett used to do service calls to repair the heating and air conditioning units at Exodus House Tulsa in 2006/2007, she had no idea how much this apartment complex would become a vital part of her life. Her brother Bill Bateman was in the program during that time so she would see him and help him with his projects. After completion of the program in 2007, he went on to operate Lifegate Homes, sober living facilities in the Tulsa area for men.

A series of things happened and on June 25, 2020, PJ landed in Eddie Warrior Correctional Facility. She was eventually transferred to Oklahoma Community Correctional Center. After a year of incarceration, she applied to the Exodus House. She was accepted and when released in July 2021, she was placed in Apartment D. Within hours of her release, she had a phone call with Carol Burnett, the representative from Pilgrimage, a Sunday School class at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa. Pilgrimage was the first apartment sponsor at Exodus House Tulsa when it opened in 2001.

PJ, her preferred name instead of Patricia, would attend Sunday School classes with

### *The Gift of Time*



Elaine Gragg, a member of the Mosaic United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City, has a special talent. She's a stole maker!

Elaine has a mission for every stole she makes...she makes them with a meaning.

gift of time they have to do something meaningful with their life.... their new lifetime!

Robin tells how Elaine started an internet fabric search and came across one with clocks on it.

"It was perfect," Elaine shared!

Elaine has already made nine stoles, the first two will be bestowed upon graduates Leann and Denise at their upcoming graduation on March 2.

"At Exodus House, our clients get the rest of their time in life. Time is so precious. We help them move into the future," commented Robin Wertz.

One of the beneficiaries of her talents are the clients at Exodus House Oklahoma City. It started at the last in-person Annual Conference when Site Director Robin Wertz and Elaine were discussing stoles for Exodus House clients. They first thought it would be appropriate to have fabric with chains on it. But, they soon decided that was a symbol of the past and not one with so much hope for the future.

They settled on something that symbolized time.... the time they've done while incarcerated, the time they'd lost with family, life, relationships., and the



P.O. Box 1149  
Oklahoma City, OK  
73101-1149

Keith Dobbs, Executive Director

keith@cjamm.org

Lesla Rhoads, Assistant Director

lesla@cjamm.org

Kristin Terrell-Wilkes, New Day Camp/Office Assistant

office@cjamm.org

(405) 525-3522

Scott Davis, Chair

CJAMM Board of Directors

www.cjamm.org

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*Pictured on Front Cover: CJAMM Staff and Exodus House graduates who transitioned into Wrap Around Care attending worship services at OKC First UMC.*



## Luis, Another Great Guy

Only in his mid-20s, Luis Quintana has a full story. When he arrived at Exodus House Oklahoma City, you'd think he was just your average good guy.

But, he's far from an average guy, he's a great guy!

Luis is one of the rare clients who arrived to Exodus House Oklahoma City with a valid driver's license. Shortly after he arrived, his California family delivered him a pickup truck so he could have transportation back and forth to welding school. Luis was only a couple weeks short of completing a program he'd started before incarceration.

Upon graduation from the school, Luis was offered employment with ACR, a heating and air conditioning company, a connection he'd made through Career Tech.

"Luis works hard, keeps his nose clean, does his assignments and works the program. He's a model client," stated Robin Wertz, Exodus House OKC Site Director. "And he's got a great personality!"

Luis has established a great rapport with his apartment sponsor Becky Efpensshade with Choctaw United Methodist Church. The Efpenshades hosted Luis to their home for Thanksgiving dinner and have been involved with his faith journey.



Luis is flanked by Hardy and Tammy Patton, members of First Church OKC. The Patton's special ministry is to provide birthday cakes and graduation treats for the clients. Luis got a chocolate cake on his December 22 birthday.