

THE NEW GATE



Georgia's life is swinging in a good direction. After what she says is about 40 mugshots being in and out of jail for a year and then two solid years in prison, she's ready for happy pictures.

Now with a growing relationship with God, Georgia is a resident at Exodus House Tulsa where she's working the program and cherishing a time to get re-acquainted with her children...boy/girl 16-year-old twins, and a nine-year-old daughter.

"My son wants to take me deer hunting and fishing. My daughter wants to teach me how to golf. I went bike riding with my 9-year-old for the first time."

Celebrating 20 months of sobriety, she tells that God has really blessed her with this program and especially with Estelle Turbyfill (Site Director) who roleplays conversations with her on how to handle life's tough situations. Georgia tries to avoid times of loneliness as that's when her brain and "the o' devil" start trying to trick her mind. That's one of the reasons she's happy with her new job as a barista at a nearby coffee shop that employs former inmates.

"With God's help, the help and support of family, and this program, I've decided that I'm going to turn over a new leaf."



Exodus - Departure from the Old



Grant takes nothing for granted. "I've taken credit for everything in my life," he shared. "This is the first time to sit back and look at all the blessings I've received. It's not me this time. God is blessing me with the things I've got in this life."

After eight years of incarceration, Grant feels guided to Exodus House OKC. He explains that he grew up in a church but now he's taking steps to really strengthen his relationship with God.

Grant met his own dad at age 13 after his dad had served 10 calendars in prison. "I'm not going back. It's nice that mom is saying she's proud of me and believing in me again."

While working the program, he set some goals that he's praying about....clean up credit so he can buy a house, stay sober, getting a career not a job, and building a healthy relationship with his kids. "I want to be ready when they (kids) are."

He feels that he knows his value now while he's building a solid foundation for re-entry back into the world.

"I'm no good on drugs!"

OKC EXODUS HOUSE



Members of Wesley UMC

I have watched all our apartment sponsors and our local churches living our mission, and our motto of Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Hands to countless people over these 12 years and I am HUMBLED, BLESSED and GRATEFUL for ALL of You!! To watch each of you in action and know we all have struggles in our life but God's call on our lives to be His hands and feet, to break those chains, to love all people, is a call we choose NOT to ignore!! Lives are being changed!! What better joy than to see a father and a mother hold their child, to eat a meal with family, to grow in their spiritual journey through your love and mentorship. To share in a Thanksgiving meal, a Christmas picture or gift, a meal with those they love. To see and experience those moments are my absolute favorites! You are my favorite people!! Thank you for being a light of Christ in a dark place for those we serve! Thank you for being a part of our CJAMM Ministries and to our Exodus House families. We hope your holidays are filled with God's blessings, His Grace and those moments of reflections of the joy of His Presence throughout your lives and those lives you have touched. Thank you for being a light of Christ in my....our lives!!

We want to thank all of our apartment sponsors. We could not be a success without each of you. Also, we want to thank Wesley UMC for the beautiful remodel they did on Apt # 6. We are grateful for all the hours you all put into getting the apartment ready for our new resident. Special thanks to New Covenant and First UMC OKC for contributing Tuesday night meals.

Please call Robert to arrange to pick up donations locally, in Edmond and surrounding areas or drop your donations here at Exodus House.



Thanksgiving Dinner at Wesley UMC November 10, 2020 @ 6 pm.
Christmas Party for our Residents at Wesley also @ 6 pm on December 8, 2020.

Robin Wertz, Site Director _____ (405)-525-2300
 Robert Williams, Facility Manager _____ (405) 417-1189

PENN AVENUE REDEMPTION CHURCH—OKC

Happy and blessed Fall! Prayers for each of you to have a Thanksgiving filled with love and great food. I also pray for your holidays to be as "normal" as can be!

Penn Ave Redemption UMC is holding services on Thursday evening with Rev. Dr. Stan Basler leading us in worship and on Sunday mornings by our gracious and loving Pastor, Rev. Brad Rogers. Our church and community extend a "virtual hug" and a great big thank you to Rev. Brad and to Rev. Dr. Stan for their leadership, wisdom and words of encouragement. We are grateful for Rev. Brad's outstanding technical abilities so we may come together to worship.

The one element we are still missing on Thursdays and Sundays is our imprisoned members. Due to the Covid-19 those incarcerated are still not able to leave the centers to attend any off-center events. We have sent letters, cards and notes. We have been blessed to take hygiene/food sacks to Oklahoma City Community Correctional Center and to Clara Waters Community Correctional Center. Carver Center is no longer a private owned correctional center. It is now a women's center run by the state. They currently have approximately 50 women and are expecting up to 150 more women by the end of the year. We are in the process of collecting hygiene, clothes, shoes, specific food items, Bibles and faith-based reading material to take to this center. We thank the ladies of Mary-Martha UMW from Chapel Hill UMC, donations brought by Christy Taylor and Priscilla Davis; donations from First United Methodist Church of Yukon brought by Gwen Coley Christie; and all of you who have sent in financial donations! Words are difficult to convey how your blessings, love, prayers and support of our church and mission touch each of our church members. *Thank you!!*



Blessings,
 Marcia Manning

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE & PARSONAGE HOUSE

Daniel and I are pleased to tell you we are filling up our spaces finally. COVID-19 has sure put a different twist on all our activities. This reminds me of a saying that surely fits 2020, “Sometimes things have to fall completely apart so God can piece us all back together again.” What a wonderful thought of God piecing us all back together the way He wants us to be.

We recently had our first church event of togetherness here in the courtyard of the Exodus House. Our new Director Keith Dobbs was there to meet with all our volunteers and staff, it was a very intimate setting with all of us social distancing and masked up for safety.

Lots of good things are happening. We had a donation of a much-needed refrigerator for the Parsonage House by David Swain of Boston Ave Maranatha class. A great big thanks to them.

We thank Mary Sheets from Wesley UMC in OKC for donating five matching twin-bed sets all with sheets, comforters, and pillows.

Last year we were awarded a grant from The Hardesty Family Foundation that will allow us to purchase three stackable washer/dryers and upgrade a window unit. A friend from Boston Ave UMC has offered to bring us an electrician to help us get our electrical panel ready for these units.



Mark Collins, Boston Avenue UMC

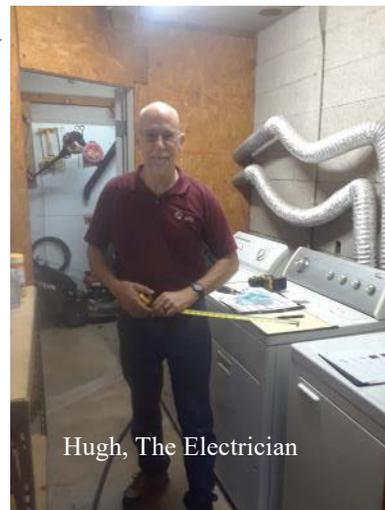
Mark Collins continues to bring grocery bags to all of our residents. He calls periodically to see if we have new residents so he can bring groceries.

Thanks Mark and Boston Ave.

What a great outpouring of love people have for our program. Thanks to everyone who contribute – for your love, prayers, and financial gifts. When COVID allows, we would love to have you come visit our facility.

There are a few items that we still need -- a water spigot and line run from the existing line to the front of the facility and a clean-out line in the front yard at the Parsonage House. We also are need of wooden pallets to stack furniture on in our storage area. If anyone is interested in that project or donating, I'd welcome hearing from you. Thank you!

—Estelle Turbyfill, Site Director—(918) 231-4013



Hugh, The Electrician

LAWTON REDEMPTION CHURCH



Dec 24, 1934—Aug 5, 2020

Yvonne Cannon was a long-time volunteer with Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church. She had a passion for serving those who were incarcerated. She faithfully worked in our clothes closet for several years. She also helped in the kitchen when possible.

In her last few years, she battled with heart problems, which finally took her from this life. However, before she left us, she wanted to do something that would continue to help this beloved ministry; therefore, she called and asked that we bring a group to her home in Lawton, where she had us load up and take nearly everything out of her house. This included tools, paintings, sketches, prints, paints, brushes, other art supplies, cooking utensils, bedding, towels and other linens and various other household furnishings. Her orders were specific; we were to sell whatever we could and put any money made towards the general budget of the Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church.

At this writing, we are in the process of going through all the items that she left us and are planning on a large sale as soon as possible. We have already been able to sell some of the art supplies to another artist in town, for which we are grateful.

Yvonne was a joy in our presence, and her memory remains a joy for us to hold and share.



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New Day Camp 2021 is scheduled for Thursday, June 10 through Thursday, June 17. Leaders will arrive Wednesday, evening June 9th or Monday, June 14. Due to scheduling, Camp Two will be first, June 10 -14 and Camp One will be June 14-17. Details are being worked out and will be in the recruitment letters scheduled for mailing in February 2021.

CJAMM SHOWCASE — A HUGE BLESSING



Former CJAMM Directors, Kristen Harlin and Rev. Dr. Stan Basler

We've heard that the first-ever virtual CJAMM SHOWCASE was a blessing to everyone who watched it. If you didn't get to see it, it's still available at: www.okumc.org/cjammshowcase

A special thank you for our clients who passionately shared their stories. And, kudos to Andrew Himes and Tabitha Beckman from the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church who captured those stories and so eloquently edited them into a masterpiece.

Behind the scene, you'd never believe the choreography of details that Lesa Rhoads and Kristin Terrell-Wilkes managed for the auction and the whole production.

Thank you to our donors, auction bidders, watch party organizers, Jack Terrell-Wilkes, and our board for supporting the SHOWCASE.

We especially thank Kristen Harlin for letting us recognize her with the Stan Basler Award, Shane Vaughn for the Volunteer of the Year, and Francie Ekwerekwu for being our inspirational keynote speaker.

Royce Alverson, Community Liaison, KI BOIS Community Action Foundation, Stigler, Oklahoma, summed it up best, "That's God's work."

Another powerful quote came from Heather Quintana, Editor, Vibrant Life. "Wow! We're so impressed. The showcase helped us know all about CJAMM and made us realize what a strong ministry emphasis it has! Way to go!"

--- Keith Dobbs, Executive Director



Shane Vaughn, CJAMM 2020 Volunteer of the Year