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Cullman RE-Entry Addiction Assistance, Inc.
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The Bryan Clay House



**Albert Pugh
Executive
Director**

CREAA FOOTPRINTS

Introduction

Dear supporters of the Bryan Clay House. This is the first of what I hope to be many newsletters from us here at CREAM. CREAM, as we all know, is the brainchild of our esteemed director Albert Pugh. It was through his faith and vision that many lives have been changed. We the staff here at CREAM find it a pleasure and a privilege to serve in such a ministry. We also, thank the board members, the donors, our prayer partners, and the community that welcomes us. Without you none of this would be possible.

This Quarter

Every quarter here at CREAM has its own challenges, and of course, some are more challenging than others. This quarter, however, has been prosperous and fulfilling. Many people don't realize that even a nonprofit corporation like CREAM has to be run like a business. We have utilities, repairs, and many other expenses like any other business. One of our greatest challenges this past quarter was the rising cost of gasoline. That single commodity took us far beyond the strain we felt when we stood at the pump. It also affected the prices of everything we had to have to make our program run. Nonetheless, through much prayer and perseverance, we moved on to realize the benefits that we provide to our clients. With the help of our Heavenly Father and diligent staff, we still met the needs of our forty clients.

Our transitional home is not a handout, it is a hand up, and a way forward for those that truly want to re-start their lives. Our first Board of Directors meeting was held October of 2017. From that first board meeting we have not stopped, opening our first transitional home for men in Cullman, Alabama on April 1, 2018.

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Expanding God's Kingdom

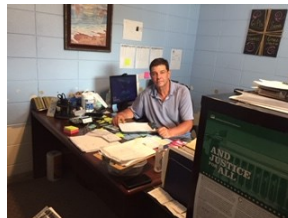


***Kelly
Riggs***

***CREAA
Assistant
Director***



***John Means
Office
Manager***



***Mike Simpson
House
Manager***

***“CREAA,
moving
forward
to expand
the
kingdom.”***

In the opinion of this writer, the most important part of a ministry is the expansion of God's Kingdom. As believers, we should always be looking to find what God has for us to do every day. Here at CREA, we have been led to advance and expand our services to prisoners who are and will be facing the Alabama Parole Board. In the past, we have appeared at the Parole Board sharing what we do on behalf of prospective clients, who are incarcerated. Although, a home and job plan are big elements in parole considerations, there is so much more to be done. This past month, our Director Albert Pugh and our Assistant Director Kelly Riggs got together to form a plan. Known to many, our Assistant Director, Kelly Riggs, also serves as the Director of the Federal Innocence Project. Using his legal expertise, Kelly Riggs reviewed two cases that were up for parole and formulated both a legal presentation and an extensive home and job plan. Michael Simpson, the House Manager at the Bryan Clay House, wrote and presented a well-prepared statement in which he described our services and the personal characteristics of the two parolees. Susan McDonald, from The Federal

Innocence Project, prepared and presented the details of the criminal case and the benefits of possible parole.

On June 28, 2022, we represented both Richard and Tommy Jacobs in Montgomery, AL. Their case is considered a violent case and we expected them to be set off for an additional five years. Both Michael Simpson and Susan McDonald delivered a powerful representation that electrified the room. Even with the protestors vehemently advocating for a maximum of five years, the Alabama Parole Board delivered a decision of a two and half years set off. We were all disappointed that the brothers were not released. But, outside the chambers, we and the family all agreed that a two-and-a-half-year set-off was a great victory. Also, noted is that our victory was the only two and a-half year set off. All others were held to the maximum five-year set-off, which is usual for the present Parole Board.

Going forward we at CREA, with the continued assistance of The Federal Innocence Project, will be offering our extended representation for prisoners who feel they would prefer a more complete representation.

Current Ministry Needs

We know it is difficult to imagine what goes into running a large-scale and complex organization like The Bryan Clay House. As many of you know we operate primarily out of a rural church that we purchased in Good Hope Alabama, a year ago. Our church, like most rural churches, only operated two days a week. Our church now operates as a transitional home for men twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. That as you may imagine puts a great strain on the facility systems that have never worked that hard before. Just last month we were required to repair our sewage system due to increased use. Now our air conditioning system is in great need of upgrading. Our systems are about twenty years old and undersized for the building they are servicing.

We need to purchase a new system which is estimated to cost \$15,000. Although, we have several thousand in our general budget we are still far short of covering our needs. We believe that the Lord will provide and with the help of our believing supporters and prayer partners, we have no doubt that our needs will one day be met.

We at CREA are now planning to build a chicken house for the production of eggs. This sounds like an easy thing to do. But the reality of things is that we need expert advice on size, construction, and caring

Grants and Donors

Grants and donations are the financial backbone for any non-profit organization. We here at CREA are primarily self-sufficient, but we also need financial support for our daily operations. And, we have never been short in meeting our needs. This is because of all of you who have supported our mission. We want to give a special thanks to everyone out there who has supported these young men and our mission. When a community supports a mission like this one, you support the men who use us for support. This also helps in fighting crime and recidivism. When a donor gives to a ministry like this they are directly involved in a societal solution to homelessness and incarceration.

CREAA Transportation Vehicles



New Field Lines



Donated Challenger Trailer



Roundtable Small Groups Launched

Shortly after Easter 2022, the Bryan Clay House began implementing Roundtable Small Groups every Thursday night. Each week, one of a collection of 40 vital principles that, when practiced, produce a foundation of proven ethical values in each individual are studied and discussed. These principles are taken from the Global Priority project based on the course called “Foundations for Achievement”, a course authored by **John E. Schrock**.

There are 40 values such as attitude, understanding, inspiration, humility and hope that are the topics for each Roundtable. These values are guiding lights that help us stay on the right path. We all live by a code of values; we each choose what those values are for ourselves. Our current life and circumstance are a result of our code of values. If we want a better life, then it is imperative that we adopt a new set of values.

The purpose of Roundtables is for each participant to discover a better way to live his life and to learn and adopt values that guarantee a better future; to understand that each one of us struggles with similar challenges in life; to recognize that we are a brotherhood and we have value to add to each other’s life; to accept that I must change my thinking if my life is to take a different course; for both facilitator and participants to be transformed and experience personal growth through self-awareness; to accept that we need someone close to help us stay on course.

The benefit of Roundtables is that it is a way for personal growth to happen every week. It is the opportunity to make a significant investment in others. It assists you in building relationships and trust and it increases awareness, especially in the area of your blind spots. It allows you to learn from others as well as encourages you to re-prioritize your thoughts, to change your thinking to what really matters

A Roundtable Session is successful when discovery takes place and participants encounter “aha” moments; when each participant becomes authentic and is respected and appreciated; when new thinking patterns are birthed and new daily habits are formed. All of this is taking in the Roundtable sessions.

One other important note about the Roundtables. A big thank you to the LifeLink Core Program, a two-year Re-Entry program at Bibb County Correctional Facility, for being instrumental in helping the Bryan Clay House launch Roundtables. Currently, two CORE graduates recently released in 2022 are serving as small group leaders, giving back what the LifeLink CORE program instilled in them while incarcerated and participating in Roundtables. Special Thanks to Pastor Randy Walker, Joe Campisi, Mike Burns, and Chris Rothoff for coming to the Bryan Clay house for the day to train us as well as providing training and teaching materials on how to do Roundtables.





The Life of A Graduate

My name is Macon Keen, I am thirty-five years old, and I am from Mobile, Alabama. Roughly 3 years ago I had a great life with a wife and two daughters. We were living the dream. We had a nice home, new cars, good friends, and fulfilling careers. One day, after sixteen years in a monogamous relationship, I happened to find messages that indicated that

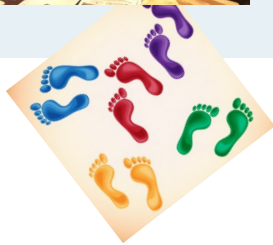
my wife was having an extramarital relationship with another man. Ultimately, this led to a divorce. This had a very deep and profound effect on me. In just a matter of a few months, I lost everything that I worked my entire life for.

To make matters worse, my best friend died around this same period of time and the combined events took me to a place, emotionally, that was very dark. I began drinking very heavily, using Meth, Heroin, and L.S.D. I was homeless therefore I had to rely on friends to provide me shelter. Eventually, my friends and family grew tired of my self-destructive lifestyle and turned their backs on me as well. I was truly alone. There was another lady that I had started a relationship with during the “dark days”, but this relationship was toxic and I found that she wanted me around only when she “wanted me around”.

One day I reached the proverbial “bottom” that I had heard other people describe. I had finally had enough and I wanted something different. I was literally exhausted and defeated. I could not stand the reflection that I saw in the mirror. I had six dollars and the clothes on my back to my name. I decided to trust God to help me until I could help myself. I reached out to my ex-wife to help me get to “The Link”. It was there that things began to change. I learned of a program called “The Bryan Clay House” and intuitively knew that this was where I needed to be. The sober atmosphere was exactly what I needed to begin to put the pieces of my life back together. They helped me to obtain all of my identification credentials, they helped me find employment, and they provided transportation to and from work. The classes that I took while in the program helped me to set obtainable goals and I could tell the staff really cared about my success.

I still attend classes there and try to give back a portion of what I have received. I am clean and sober. My wife and I have reconciled. I have begun to rebuild relationships that were damaged during the “dark days”, and there is no doubt in my mind that none of this would be possible without the help I received at the Bryan Clay House.

Macon Keen—Bryan Clay House Graduate



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE