



FOOTPRINTS

NEWSLETTER

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The Bryan Clay House Gets a New Sign



Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Franklin Moore, our Special Projects Manager, the Bryan Clay House now has a newly renovated sign. Franklin has been working diligently on repurposing the existing sign in the front of our property, to better reflect our location and mission of providing a transitional home for men. Since our beginning in 2018, we have been serving Cullman and the surrounding areas with our re-entry addiction assistance program to provide services to improve the physical, mental, and spiritual health of those reentering the community from incarceration, rehabilitation, or homelessness. We are excited about all that God is doing in the lives of the men who come through the Bryan Clay House. It is a privilege and honor to work side by side with the community to make a difference and to see men's lives forever changed. We would also like to thank the many people who came along side of Franklin to make the newly renovated sign possible. We could not do it without you!



The Bryan Clay House

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.

Special thanks to the following:

General Manager Brittany McGhee of Marvin's of Cullman and to the of Marvin's, who donated their time, talent, and materials to help renovate our sign.

CEO and Owner of Creative Design Signs and Wraps, Mike Pitts and the staff at Creative Design Signs and Wraps for their time, talent, and materials.

Receptionist Elizabeth Rogers for her great helpfulness in answering numerous questions and helping our project move forward.

Richard Baker and his invaluable expertise.

Printer Mike Mason for producing a excellent finished product.



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J.F. Ingram State Technical College Job Fairs

Program Director John Means attended the Job Fairs hosted by J.F. Ingram State Technical College on April 25, 2024 at Bibb County Correctional Facility and at the Draper Instructional Center on July 25, 2024. The Job Fairs were for current students and former students within one year of release. This was a great opportunity to personally meet and share with the students about what is available to them upon release at the Bryan Clay House. It was great to share with the students that we are here to help them as they make their transition from incarceration to successfully re-enter society. Thank you to J.F. Ingram for the opportunity to attend!



Town Hall Meeting for LifeLink CORE at Hamilton A & I Executive Director Albert Pugh and Program Director John Means attend Town Hall Meeting for CORE Program at Hamilton Aged & Infirmid.



Program Director John Means with Chaplain Curtis Browder and Faith Crusade Ministries at revival June 7-8, 2024 at Fountain Correctional Facility in Atmore, AL.



CREAA Executive Director Albert Pugh speaking at Cullman Lions Club



CREAA Program Director John Means sharing words of encouragement at the April 2024 House Meeting



Class by Tim Pierce on Emotional Intelligence

Jimmie Batemon — A Helping Hand



One of the foundational beliefs of the Bryan Clay House is that we are not a hand out, but a hand up. We are very intentional to provide opportunities for our residents to learn to be self-sufficient and to help them lay a solid foundation, so that they can live a successful life after they leave the Bryan Clay House. It is a process and it takes time, but the results are always a blessing and the seeds that are sown are bringing a tremendous harvest.

Yet, in that process, it takes a community working together to make this possible. Without the staff, the volunteers, and the many supporters of the Bryan Clay House, this would not be possible. We would like take the time to recognize and thank one of the many people who work hard behind the scenes to make this become a reality.

Jimmie Batemon came to the Bryan Clay House in November of 2023 as a resident. Jimmie's sister set it up through the Cullman County Sheriff's Office with Captain Potter and then Executive Director Albert Pugh. When Jimmie was released from Florida, he took a cab from Florida to Cullman, paying \$500.00 in cash to come directly to the Bryan Clay House. After a period of time, Albert Pugh recognized the leadership qualities in Jimmie and asked him to begin serving as a driver. As more time passed, Albert promoted Jimmie to be the Transportation Manager for the Bryan Clay House.

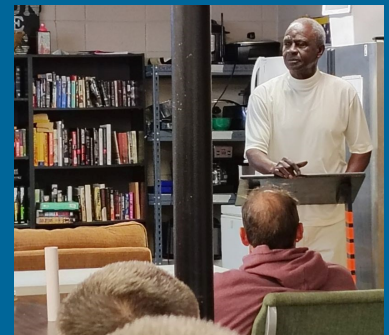
Jimmie has been a tremendous asset working with the staffing agencies in Cullman, helping the residents obtain employment with the many employers here in Cullman. Through his hard work, Jimmie has cultivated excellent relationships with the staffing agencies and this has opened doors for the residents to obtain good steady paying jobs that begin the process of laying the solid foundation for our residents move on to a successful life beyond the Bryan Clay House.

Thank you, Jimmie, for your dedication, determination, and diligence in helping make the Bryan Clay a helping hand to those that God places in our care. You are a blessing and we thank God for sending you to us all the way from Florida! And thank you God for always providing exactly what we need and for being our ALL-KNOWING HEAVENLY FATHER!



Jimmie with Executive Director Albert Pugh receiving his certificate for August 2024 Resident of the Month

CREAA Sunday Morning Church Service





Can you say

BINGO!

A Birthday Party to Remember!



On July 18th 2024, St. Andrews held a birthday bash for the residents of the Bryan Clay House. It was a great time filled with great food, great fellowship, and a few very lively games of BINGO! Winners won five dollars each and game show host Bob Burgess kept the games entertaining to say the least! Thank you to St. Andrews and to all who made this event a huge blessing! We are ready for Christmas!



Congratulations



APRIL 2024
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Bryan Brown



APRIL 2024
MOST IMPROVED RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Mark Thomas

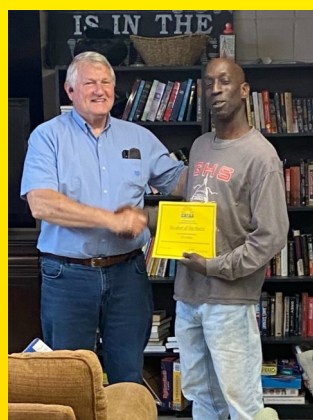
Executive Director
Albert Pugh
proudly congratulates
these
outstanding residents



MAY 2024
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Paul Luker



MAY 2024
MOST IMPROVED
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Blake Needham



JUNE 2024
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Eric Wilson



JUNE 2024
MOST IMPROVED
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Joshua Bloodworth



JULY 2024
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Jimmy Foster



JULY 2024
MOST IMPROVED
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Jesse Poole



AUGUST 2024
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Jimmie Batemon



AUGUST 2024
MOST IMPROVED
RESIDENT OF THE MONTH
Stanley Parker

Meet **WILLIE MONTGOMERY**



After 46 years of incarceration, how does it feel to finally be free?

"I give all thanks to God that I am free at last. I knew from day one that God had a plan for me and would make a way for me. I can't describe the great feelings and the opportunity to meet new people in my church family."

What has been your biggest joy?

"What I have lived for and prayed for all these years, was for God to keep me healthy and alive; to finally be able to meet my youngest daughter and spending time with all of my girls, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; and getting home to eat at all of these new fast food restaurants and eat good home-cooked meals with my family and friends."

What has been your biggest surprise?

"My biggest surprise has been how much things have changed and how many new places there are to eat."

How has the Bryan Clay House helped you since your release?

"God has delivered on His promise to take care of me while I was incarcerated. Now God has put Mr. Albert Pugh and Mr. John Means in my life to help me as I begin this next chapter of my life. It has been so great living here, getting to know the other residents and participating in the various classes and church services held here at the Bryan Clay House. I have also enjoyed meeting the other volunteers and church groups that are involved in the Bryan Clay House. They have truly been a God sent present to me and I am so blessed to be here."

What are some of the key things that you have learned?

"I came close to dying in 2018, so I made a promise to God that if He pulled me through and let me rejoin my family, that I would do my best to walk and serve Him. The biggest thing that I have learned is forgiveness, patience with others and most of all trying to learn to be a real Christian in my walk with God. I have learned that there are some real Christian brothers in Mr. Pugh, Mr. Means and the other guys that love and care for God's people no matter what."

And what would you want others to know about the Bryan Clay House?

"The first thing to know and understand is that the Bryan Clay House is run by some great Christian men with big hearts, who don't mind giving you a chance to restore your life. I also know that and whatever your past was, it is in the past. I am from Montgomery, Alabama. I have 4 daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren waiting for me, but I am not ready to move back any time soon."

THE INSPIRATION TO BE AN INVESTOR

During the almost three years I have been on staff, time after time, I have been inspired by the men whom God has placed in our care at the Bryan Clay House. It has been a worthwhile investment of our heart, our time, and our love. I am always in awe of how God uses this ministry to transform lives and give men a place where they can come into their own. We have a great opportunity to provide the men a place where they can become the men God called and created them to be before the foundation of the world. What an awesome God we serve, who never throws in the towel and never gives up on us! He sees what we cannot see and He knows the end from the beginning. He does not look at our past mistakes as the end of the world, but as an opportunity for Him to get the glory, by turning an impossible situation to work for our good and for His good.

I have experienced this in my own life, where time after time God turned what seemed like an impossible situation to work for my good and for His good. I give God all the glory for bringing me through those many impossible situations. And I have been inspired as I watch the men grow, to witness those revelation moments, where they discover for themselves that God has a plan and a God-given purpose for their lives; to learn for themselves that God is not finished with them yet; and because God so loves them, that they have a future filled with hope and possibilities. How amazing is that!

So, with all that said, I want to briefly share some thoughts that came from some of the lessons we are studying from our Roundtable groups on Thursday nights, where we look at a different value principle each week. The two value principles that have drawn my attention are **Inspiration** and **Investing**.

In every Roundtable session, each person in the group takes a turn reading a paragraph. I would like to quote from the lesson on **Inspiration** found in the first and second paragraphs, which I believe capture the heart of our mission at the Bryan Clay House. The first paragraph quote reads:

"Inspiration brings hope to people's lives and instills the belief that dreams can become a reality...We give that person hope for a beneficial future. We provide that person the tools needed to grow and a good environment for personal development."

I believe that it does not get any plainer than that. The Bryan Clay House is providing a good living environment, where men are inspired to dream and believe God to live out their God given purpose; and that there is indeed a better future for them. The Bryan Clay House is a place of refuge, where men can develop and grow; and day by day, take the necessary steps towards a better and brighter future filled with hope.

And from the second paragraph:

"All of this starts with caring about people and wanting the best for them. People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care".

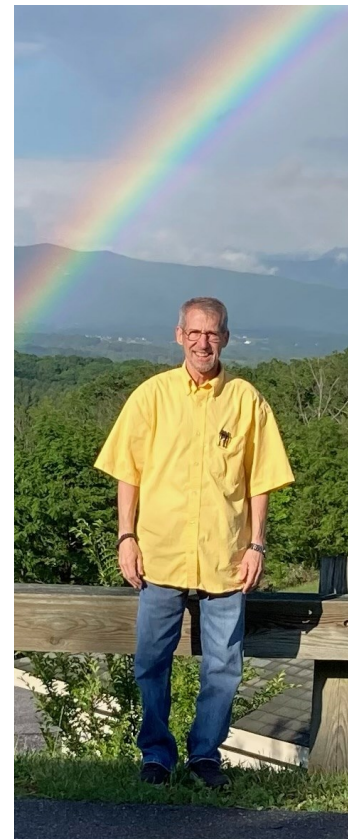
What a difference the demonstration of the love of God makes. At the Bryan Clay House, we believe that this is the most important thing that we do. The demonstration of the love of God is always a life changer. It certainly changed my life and I have seen this same change in the lives of the men who come to the Bryan Clay House.

In the lesson on **Investing**, I would like to share from the second paragraph which reads:

"There is a proverb that says, "It is possible to give and become richer. It is possible to hold on too tightly and lose everything," Giving of ourselves, our ideas and our resources will lead us to experience greater and better things personally and collectively. However, if we refuse to share these things, we will miss out on what could have been and limit our potential. If we do not invest in others, we will stunt our own personal growth."

How true that has been for me. I have personally been blessed beyond measure by the many people who have poured into my life. I would not be the man I am today, if not for the people who believed and invested in me. This is why I believe in investing in the men at the Bryan Clay House. I have experienced much personal growth and I am forever richer and grateful for **"Investing"** in the men at the Bryan Clay House.

So, I will leave you with these final thoughts to ponder and asked yourself: ***"What opportunities is God calling me to, so that I can be an inspiration to others? And how can I be an investor into others around me?"***



JOHN MEANS
CREAA Program Director

"There are no self-made people. You must understand that you are here because of a lot of help then you also understand that now is the time to help others"

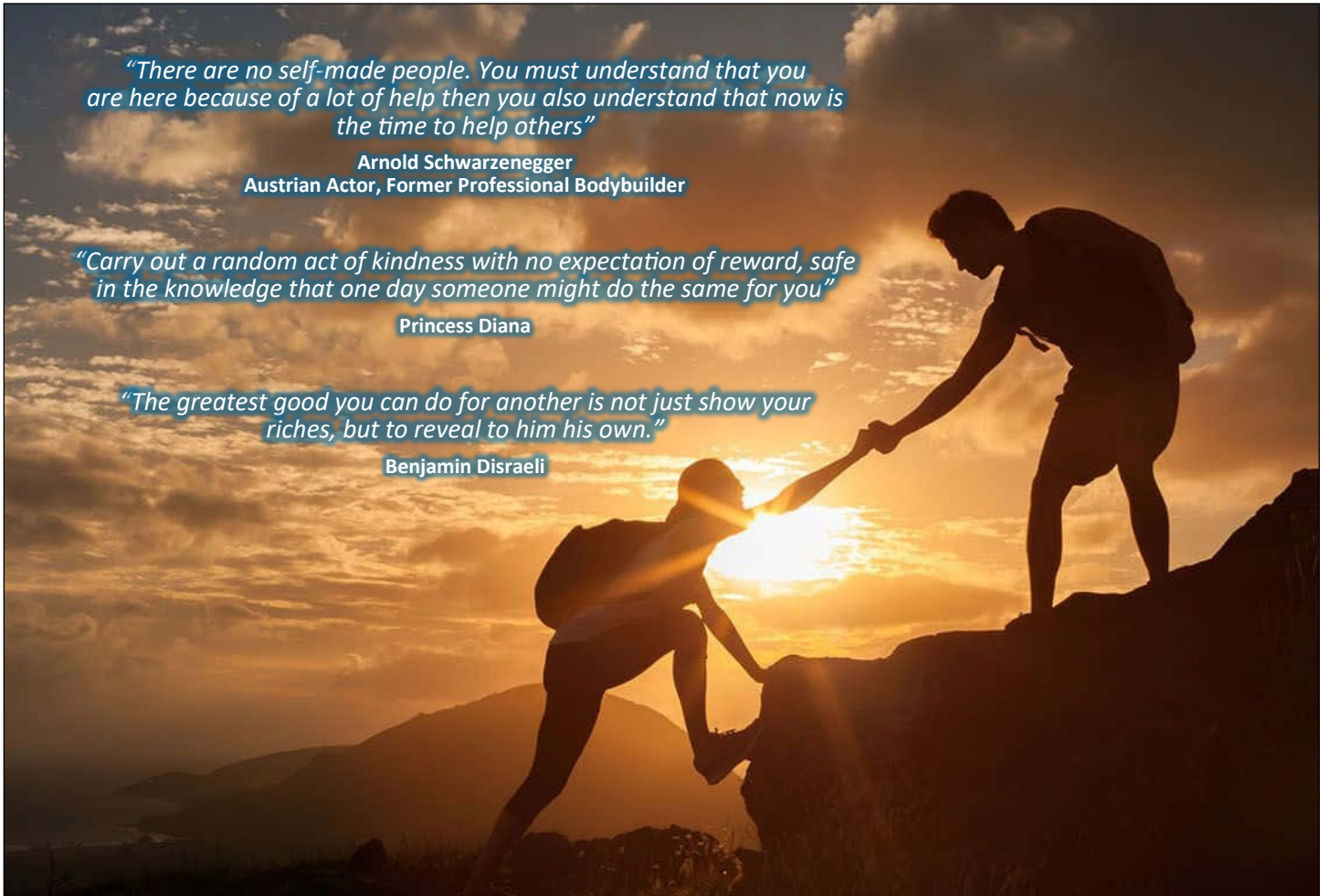
Arnold Schwarzenegger
Austrian Actor, Former Professional Bodybuilder

"Carry out a random act of kindness with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you"

Princess Diana

"The greatest good you can do for another is not just show your riches, but to reveal to him his own."

Benjamin Disraeli



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