

MISSION GATE UPDATE

Turning Lives From Crime to Christ Since 1985

DECEMBER 2024



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Rick Mathes, Founder – We have only just begun



Rick and Trish Mathes

This journey God has brought us on continues to press on toward the prize. Everyday we are blessed with seeing miracles from our residents receiving restoration with their children and family members, healing of their hearts through the Christ-centered classes and counseling. Their house becomes a home with the love and acceptance they are shown by our staff, community, churches and donors. Only Christ can bring a lost alley cat man like me to his knees, into repentance and a new life. It's been almost 40 years that Trish and I sat at the table and knew God was calling us into this ministry, it all started with taking the first step. We hope you continue to join us on this adventure you will surely never forget.

"They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God."

3 John 1:6

Falon Ford – Running home



Falon and Terry

Over the past 2 years, my son and I have faced several adversities in our lives. Two of the most impactful events were the losses of my son's Maw Maw (my mother) age 53 and his Uncle DJ (my brother) age 29. After my mother passed, trying to navigate through life was so hard then 8 months later, God called my brother home after he died from an overdose. I began falling into a pit of despair and further away from God. I was so angry; I didn't understand why this happened and why this would happen to my son's Maw Maw who he lived with most of his life.

I felt as if I had nowhere to turn, lost and hopeless once again. Then a small voice told me to run home, return to Mission Gate and get closer with the Lord. In July of this year, we ran home and couldn't be happier, fulfilled and thriving. I do not have to understand God's reasonings for things but

have learned to trust in His decisions and know that they are good. My son loves living with me at Hannah's Ranch and we are growing closer together everyday.

Brooklyn Lucky – The love of Christ (Christmas Angel Mission)



Brooklyn (red hoodie) and her family

"Some of my fondest memories as a child during this time of the year are of the Christmas Angel Program! The way a group of strangers could love our community so much and to make sure every child not only had a gift, but to be introduced to the biggest gift of all and that's the love of Christ! I am thankful and blessed to have been able to experience their program and love they continue this tradition year after year."

Brooklyn now works at the local supermarket and is in high school. The impact of your generosity truly lasts a lifetime, not only for our residents but for our community. Christ lives and our works come from Him alone. We thank you for the bottom of our hearts. (Go to our website to see a video of Brooklyn and her sister when they were younger dancing at our Angel party.)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" - John 3:16

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Shawnya Blankenship– Rehabilitation rather than incarceration

Sitting in the courtroom I was pondering about life and how God works. I was there to testify on the progress of one of our ladies and to present the life-changing opportunities that Mission Gate offers. When I stood in front of Judge Pelikan, I emphasized how it could provide a pathway to rehabilitation rather than incarceration. What made this moment so powerful was that I had stood in a similar position, facing judgment and uncertainty not long ago.

Judge Pelikan listened intently then shared with us that he is a man of faith and said, "God speaks to me too." He urged our resident to complete the program and to return to him with her certificate. He also stated that this accomplishment would help guide his decision regarding her sentence.



Our Hardy volunteers



Redemption Road Church is a faithful church always helping Mission Gate at Promises of Hope Ranch which is home to 24 women and their children. Volunteers, as like many churches serving our ministry, teach life skills classes and supply various needs. Each year a member from Redemption Road Church who owns a tree cutting business, drops wood off at Promises of Hope. Just recently members split and stacked it for our outside Hardy wood stove that we use to heat our homes... the main house and Mary's Promise. Last year, Redemption Road Church built a woodshed to keep our wood dry for burn-

ing. Staff and residents tend to the Hardy every morning. The church's faithful volunteerism will keep the ladies and children warm throughout the winter months and also reduce our heating bill by half!



"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." - Leviticus 27:30



Coming together



Flood

So far Mission Gate has raised \$5,000 of the \$40,000 needed to restore the 12 cabins from water damage due to the flood last month. We thank our community for caring so much for the men who have been displaced and are bunched up together in other homes on the campus. Even though it is an inconvenience for all, we are amazed by the sweet spirit that remains in their hearts. We give thanks for your prayers and special recognition to our staff, community, faithful donors, and residents. Churches including Rich Greenlaw from Greentree Community Church, Big Boys Ministry, Steelville Baptist, Pastor Josh Sanders from Cuba Christian Church and Joe Bruno from Delhi Baptist Church. Special thanks to Bob Arb's church and the hardworking and skilled members at Oak Bridge Church who even brought their own tools and worked all day for two full Saturdays.



Restoration

Necessities for moving in:

Financial donations for continued restoration of cabins from November's flood damage

∞ Chest of drawers ∞ Love seats ∞ Recliners ∞ Microwaves ∞ Toasters ∞ Tools ∞ Good quality pots and pans ∞ Apartment/full size refrigerators ∞ Small coffee tables ∞ Lamps ∞ Shower rod/curtains ∞ Showerhead ∞ Small bathroom vanities and sinks

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14