

# Grace Notes

*“If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed” John 8:36*

## The Mission, the challenges, the reward..... Serving a community in need.

A Word from the Executive Director,

Rev. Terry King

We entered 2007 with anticipation, excitement and a plan for growth. Though SGM Inc., was excited to enter into a second contract with the New York State Division of Parole, we were not prepared for the breakthrough expansion that God was orchestrating.

Entering 2007, I was reminded by the Lord, SGM Inc., must remain obedient to our mission: **“to provide men from prison with housing and discipleship”**. It is a simple call to ministry, yet a challenging call, especially when many in society believe that those we serve are often best served by remaining in prison or ignored as if they will go away.

As 2007 closes I am reminded of Moses, telling the people he was called to serve, Exodus **24:7**; **“Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!”**” and to that end, SGM has remained obedient to the call and a witness to the miracles only God can do to provide and effect the change in lives.

SGM Inc., Buffalo has experience monumental changes; In 2006 SGM Inc., purchased 1938 Bailey Ave along with 1920 Bailey Ave. These acquisitions allowed SGM to move our corporate offices to 1938 Bailey and provide much need office space and allowed for installation of support equipment, computer server technology and security equipment.

The primary “flagship” “Grace House- 1” now serves 25 parolees in program services supported by two state contracts issued by the New York State Division of Parole. “Grace House – II”, 1920 Bailey serves 8 parolees. This facility is utilized for specialized parolee case load housing needs. “Grace House – III”, 1938 Bailey supports the office and administrative staffing of SGM Inc. Capital improvements were added. Nine staff members work out of this facility.

In 2007, the NYS Office of OTDA and the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) granted SGM Inc., two contracts to serve the homeless needs of our population. The contract funds provided staffing salaries and associated costs like case managers, transitional housing assistance and life skills training. Classes are now taught such as financial management, employment and family reintegration. I have often stated the success of “Grace House” is not “how many men we process, but how many men we are able to effectively transition to appropriate, safe and secure independent housing. The recognition by other state agencies acknowledges the impact “Grace House” is having to assist parolees and reduce recidivism in Western New York. Continued page 7.



**I Chr. 29:13  
“Now, our God,  
we give you  
thanks, and  
praise your  
Glorious name”.**



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“Grace  
House”  
5 & 6

Buffalo,  
New  
York

Open  
Fall  
2007



**Saving Grace Ministries , Inc. Announces  
the opening of “Grace House” Rochester,  
New York, Fall 2007**

**Page 6 New Staff Join the  
Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. Team**

**“Grace House” Programs serve  
over 250 men this year!**



## A View From “Inside”

Chaplain Don Snyder, Wende Correctional Facility, NYS Department of Corrections



The Chapel suddenly becomes quiet and everyone present focuses on the subject. That is because “Grace House” is mentioned, and all want to know ‘what’s up?.’ The mention of “Grace House” at the Wende Correctional Facility causes the room to *brighten* as if by a power surge.

The reason for the intense interest is that most of the men at Wende are doing long sentences. A significant number of them are from Erie County. Only a few, however, will have a home to return to. The process and long time take their toll on “home” that was. Many have to begin all over again. “Grace House” provides the transitioning link to begin again.

*Every “Grace House” bed in Erie County is a ray of hope for the men.* “Grace House” is also a place to adjust from the culture and structure of prison to the free world—a ‘safe’ place, with understanding and experienced staff to help.

The Chapel *brightens* even more at the mention that a “Grace House” Rochester is expected by early 2008. Many men at Wende are also from Monroe County. This is special good news for them! When men are paroled, they are normally returned to the county from which they came.

“Grace House” puts the *light of hope* at the end of some long tunnels.

*Jesus Said...*

**“I am the Light of the world”, Jn8:12**

## Contract News



I look back on the past year at SGM Inc. and am struck by how many things have changed. A year ago, SGM, Inc. had 5 full time and 2 part time staff members, and one facility which housed 22 men. Today we have six facilities, a capacity of over 50 men, and a staff of 10 full time and 4 part time. SGM Inc. has implemented a medical benefits plan to its full time employees and has moved its corporate offices into a new building (providing some much-needed room to continue growing).

Over the past twelve months, SGM Inc. has been awarded two contracts with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. One contract, geared towards provision of services to young men ages 18 to 25, allowed SGM to hire a full-time Youth Advocate Case Manager. The other, which has a broader focus, provides for a full-time Discharge Planning Coordinator. The Youth Advocate and Discharge Coordinator have been working together to do intake interviews and formulate case management plans for each resident as they enter the program.

SGM Inc.’s relationship with the New York State Division of Parole has continued to strengthen as the number of available beds has increased. SGM Inc. has been awarded a 15 bed contract with Parole for community-based programming, as well as having our initial 10 bed contract for resident stabilization programming renewed in September of this year.

During the past year, SGM Inc. staff has had a number of in-house training sessions and staff in-service meetings to emphasize the importance of documentation of activities and events for legal purposes. Policies which have long been standard in the “Grace House” program have been formally published and the resident Policies and Procedures manual has been completely revised to reflect updates in program policy and to provide a more accurate representation of what is expected of program clients.

Despite all these changes, our core purpose remains the same: SGM Inc. is committed to providing ex-offenders with a smooth transition to community life by offering case management, housing, and a structured program of accountability and personal responsibility. As we prepare for another year, the SGM Inc. staff is continuing to increase our focus on providing long-term aftercare and follow-up to successful program graduates, and working to improve the services we provide to current residents on a daily basis.

Alyssa George, Corporate Compliance



**Saving Grace Ministries****2 007 Capital Campaign.**

**To our Donors, supporters and community partners.....  
Your support is needed....**

SGM Inc., has experienced significant growth, expansion and ministry opportunity. Since 2002 SGM Inc., has nearly quadrupled and now services nearly 250 plus parolees per year. SGM Inc., has received state contracts that support direct parolee reentry housing and case-management services. The contract funding has added to the agency impact, growth and ability to provide for the basic needs of the parolees we serve.

During 2007 we witnessed SGM Inc., increase our bed capacity from 22 to 53 available beds in Buffalo alone. SGM Inc., currently owns and operates six (6) facilities on or near our Bailey Ave. operations center.

SGM Inc., relies on the community of faith in providing support and financial resources in order that SGM Inc., can deliver the gospel message and provide opportunities both for ministry and Christian based curriculums that inspire men to forever change their lives and become productive members of society with Jesus in their hearts.

After prayerful consideration, and in consultation with our SGM Inc., Executive Board, we are requesting our donors, partners and community stakeholders to join us in our 2007 capital fund raising campaign and to help us meet our needs.

Government will not fund nor can they do so, fund the work of the church. We need your help as SGM Inc., expansion has brought about a significant need both for Christian staffing, ministry needs and infrastructure support required to maintain the SGM Inc., integrity we are built upon.

**The following is a breakdown of Capital fundraising campaign needs:**

Infrastructure upgrades. Buildings and grounds	\$15,000.00
Driveway paving, walkways, lighting, security, signage	
Christian curriculum materials and publications	\$10,000.00
Christian outreach, drivers, recreational activities	\$10,000.00
Purchase newer minivan	
Christian curriculum teaching staff	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
<b>Total 2007 capital campaign fundraising needs</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>

Please consider how you may help...in our fundraising needs...your support is vital and appreciated. However you chose to assist either a one time gift or as a sustaining monthly partner, we are grateful and blessed that you are taking these steps of faith to impact the lives of those we serve. Your contribution is fully tax deductible as SGM Inc., is a registered 501© (3) organization. Thank you for partnering with us and continuing on the journey.

Rev. Terry King, Executive Director

**Your Help is needed! You can help in many ways. Financial support is needed.....so are many support items. Please consider soliciting items from within your church community, workplace, neighborhood, family, friends and community.**

**ONGOING:**

prayer support  
funds for special projects  
special event meals  
help with hot dog sales  
resident special events

**CLOTHING:**

new socks  
shoes  
shirts (casual/dress)  
pants  
outerwear

**FURNITURE:**

dressers  
twin beds  
dining room tables  
chairs  
couches  
twin size sheet sets  
pillows  
pillow cases  
rugs  
window treatments

**APPLIANCES:**

refrigerators  
microwaves  
toaster/toaster ovens  
coffee machines  
tools

**OTHER:**

pots and pans  
dishes  
silverware  
cleaning products  
laundry detergent

Considering the large increase in clients served SGM has immediate needs for household items and appliances in good working order. SGM does not accept items in need of repair and accepts newer model appliances with energy star labels. SGM has started a household items inventory sufficient to add program graduates with basic household items in order to equip their first apartment and begin independent living. There is an ongoing need for furniture, beds and kitchen supplies. Clothing is needed, remember this is 2007, not 1975....the men are grateful for newer clothing and contemporary fashions.

Perhaps you are unable to volunteer directly at "Grace House", you can still help...organize a clothing drive, food drive or bedding drive..... Men's toiletry drive..... Or recreation special event....such as a UB Basketball game...help us in some tangible way continue to help them....the men in need. We cannot do this alone... We need our community supporters.

**Please let us know if you decide to allocate you "gift" to a specific capital project, event or to use for general agency purposes. Below, please find a donation card. Cash, checks and all major credit cards are accepted.**

**Thanks you for your support, your prayers and walking with us in order that SGM may continue this vital work and afford opportunities to the men and families in need.**



Founded April 20th 1999

**I'D LIKE TO HELP!!**

**My One-Time Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

OR

**Monthly Supporting Partner Pledge:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**I authorize Saving Grace Ministries to bill my credit monthly for my supporting Partner Pledge.**

Credit card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Authorized card member signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all supporting partner checks payable to Saving Grace Ministries: P.O. Box 1013, Williamsville, New York 14231

## A Public Debate.... Can we choose who to serve? Rev. Terry King, Executive Director, SGM, Inc.

Much has been written, TV coverage presented and civic leaders debate which state parolees “Grace House” should or should not take. Saving Grace Ministries continues to serve as we are called. Community donors, stakeholders and community partners know the impact SGM and “GH” have upon the community of Western New York. The SGM mission is simply to serve men from prison by providing housing, direction, guidance and accountability for those individuals electing to remain “free men.” During the last several years, SGM has been requested by NYDOP and related community partners to avail program services to the “sex offender” parolee population. While I remain sensitive to the community safety concerns, public debate and ongoing sentiment to “not in my back yard” I realized that this parolee population was already in our backyard and due in part to stiff City residency rules and enacted local laws governing so cases, housing residency options are slim, difficult and often non-existence. One of the greatest challenges faced by NYDOP is the residency placement of Sexual Offenders. The term sexual offender is broad in nature. Representing all gamut’s from sexual assault to child molestation and a chronic pedophilia.

As “Grace House” expanded, staff grew and the program matured, I became painfully aware that the community needed our program, the structured service and the parolee accountability in spite of public debate and concerns.

Weaving program intent and program implementation to serve the greater community need while meeting the concerns of local neighbors, leaders and partners became our primary goal.

Though our agency capacity is increasing, we have elected to service a limited number of parolee offenders with a sexual offence history. We limit both the number of offenders housed at any one time as well as limit the offense to those cases registered level I or level II. From time to time, on a case by case basis and in communication with local leaders SGM has served Level III offenders that either are elderly, present with current medical limitations or are unable to move about the community due in part to some form of behavior or medical limitation.

SGM has a proven track record working with difficult and intense parole supervision cases. Part of the SGM model of success is the agency ability to stabilize parolees upon arrival, engage them in treatment and avail them to needed community services while transitioning parolees to appropriate aftercare housing.

When asked “what alternative is their in Buffalo” for the SO population, I realized it is limited if not non-existent. Individuals are forced to solicit family members, friends or anyone to live with them, or live alone. For some “fresh” out of prison, in need of support and accountability this represents a dangerous precedent. One shelter provides for 30 so parolees with no food support or case management. I often hear, “I don’t want them in my backyard” or “there are children in the area.” I am empathetic to these concerns yet a realist to know that there are presently over 500 registered offenders in the City of Buffalo. Only 40 registered level III offender are currently on parole and mandated to supervision and treatment. The rest of the SO cases are subject to complying with SARAH laws, parole/probation and registering with the New York State SO registry reporting laws. The chances are a sexual offender is already in our backyards and near our children. We need to work diligently to hold this population accountable and appreciate the need for ongoing treatment and day reporting least the alternative is to re-incarcerate individuals unwilling to comply with oversight and intense supervision.

While working on a home project this past summer, my neighbor asked me this question? Which one would Jesus say no too.....having heard the public discourse and the conflict often from within the church community I realized the answer was simple. Jesus would not turn them away..... Yet Jesus would find a way to serve their needs.

Housing sexual offenders is a highly charged public issue. We have learned that intense supervision, coupled with intensive clinical day treatment provides the best results for sex offenders to complete parole supervision and not re-offend. Saving Grace Ministries is working to build and operate a state of the art residential treatment program facility the “Tonawanda Street Project”. The project answers the needs of this population and provides a program model for our community, representing a tangible solution and a significant community asset. The public debate will continue, “Grace House” continues to serve, Parole continues to supervise individuals released from prison. As an agency of faith, moving forward through the ministry of Christ let us rest in the hope that just one offender will agree, change and never commit another offense again. To deny individuals the opportunity to be held accountable, assisted and regain a rightful spot within our community simply because “we believe” they do not fit, endanger our children, or we personally fear them is simply not acceptable within our core ministry beliefs. We cannot solve, impact, reduce or diminish the Sexual Offender re-offense rates unless we are willing to become involved and establish a higher standard of accountability, reporting and support for all involved. Back to the question.....Jesus would not turn them away? .....no..... He would find a way to assist them and serve the greater good. (Mt. 9:12) ***“It is not the healthy who***

***need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but the sinners.”***

***“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick” Mt 9:12***

### Fine Tuning the Ministry Instrument

Rev Melvin Taylor



This has been a significant year SGM, Inc. at the "Grace House" Transitional Residence for Men. We have expanded our borders and we are strengthening our stakes as we are in pursuit of fulfilling our purpose in ministry. Not only are we experiencing growth through the expansion of real estate properties we have added to our ministry team Case Managers, Discharge Planning Coordinators and a bi-lingual Secretary which gives Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. the necessary resources to assist residents of Grace House in their preparation for independent living.

2006 graduates of Grace House did so without the preparation of some basic life skills such as how to create and adhere to a budget, how to interview for a job and sometimes without the knowledge of what services are available to them in the community. Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. Discharge Planning Coordinators and Case managers has coordinated a comprehensive plan for each man that begins from the date of the individual's arrival to GH through the day of program completion. The Case Managers educate the men on basic life skills to encourage self sufficiency and introduce them to available resources upon release from program. Additionally the Discharge Planning Coordinator provides follow-up with those living independently to assist with any needs that may arise after discharge.

SGM Inc.'s future projects involves working relationships with community partners to provide ongoing services tailored to meet the individual needs of our client/residents by assisting them in developing a plan for community re-entry. Case Managers will work with assigned residents for 9-12 months in the community to assure ongoing compliance and to assist resident/client in finding employment, housing, and access to other services.

Prayerfully through all our endeavors we are assisting men with the tools needed to become productive law abiding citizens which will make our communities a safer place.

When I look back on the last two years of my employment with SGM, Inc., I see that a lot has taken place. I remember when there were around 18-20 men in one house to now having double the amount of men and several housing units.

With the addition of staff we are able to specifically target the immediate needs of our residents assuring a measure of success when that person leaves Grace House. To whom much is given much is required. *We are fine tuning the ministry to focus on the basic most immediate needs of the men we serve, that which will give them the resources to lead to productiveness and responsibility.*

### SGM, Inc.'s Staff Corner

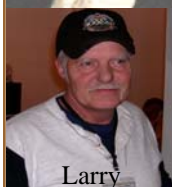


Gene



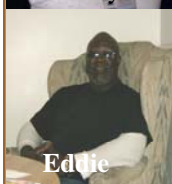
Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. wishes to **welcome** 3 new members to our agency staff:

**Gene Baes:** Case-management  
Gene was married to Nancy Nov. 3rd, 2007  
Congratulations and God Bless you !



Larry

**Larry Cole:** Maintenance/Facility Caretaker



Eddie



Nathan

**Eddie Howard:** Facility Caretaker

**Nathan Haberer:** Intern from Buffalo State College

*"...that they may be one as we are one"*  
**John 17:22**



SGM, Inc. Newsletter lay out & design: Sheryl King



**A word from the Director ..... "The Mission" continued.....**

SGM Inc., acquired 244 Brinkman (Grace House-IV) a four bed facility with live in care taker. The facility provides aftercare housing for specific parolees who have graduated the primary 'GH-I' program yet are in need of additional assistance. The SGM Inc., staff coordinates the case management of these clients and continues to monitor parolee progress and provide assistance toward independent living.

During August of 2007, SGM Inc., acquired 1920 Bailey Ave, (Grace House – V) a six bed facility. The facility operates identical to "GH-IV" provided aftercare housing. Both facilities are supported by arrangements with the New York State Division of Parole aftercare housing and the Erie County Division of Social Services.

In September 2007 SGM,Inc. acquired 1900 Bailey Ave. (Grace House – VI) a ten bed lodging house providing ten parolees with independent living with a live in facility manager.

Grace House – VI provides ten program graduates with independent living accommodations with added support and a structured environment.

SGM Inc., began 2007 with 22 beds in service. We end 2007 with 53 beds under management, six facilities, a full staff support network and significant contracts with community stakeholders supporting the work of SGM Inc., to provide housing and accountability for men from prison. During 2007, SGM Inc., invested over \$150,000 in capital acquisition with an additional \$60,000 invested in capital improvements, system upgrades and programming improvements.

Behind the scene efforts continue to develop and seek local City rezoning approvals to begin the "Grace House" Tonawanda St project. The project has brought about significant public debate and discourse forcing city leaders to address the ongoing need to formulate a strategic plan to address the sex offender housing issues and provide a tangible solution to this problem. This is often an "uphill" battle. We know that if God is in this, this too shall pass and the appropriate licensing will be issued in God's timing. The "Tonawanda St. project represents a new facility serving 30 residents with specific parole supervision needs specific to sex offender management.

Additionally, SGM, Inc. continues to work with community stakeholders to acquire nearly \$2,000,000 in public financing to build the "Grace House" Special Needs Facility. The proposed facility is to be built on our property in Buffalo and is designed to service parolees presenting with specific medical needs.

Additionally, I am grateful to announce that SGM Rochester, Inc., located at 20 Amherst St., Rochester, NY is acquired and preparing to open in November 2007. The Rochester work is in the infancy steps, yet with prayerful guidance, direction and oversight from Buffalo, we believe SGM,Inc. Rochester will soon become a tangible community partner replicating the work of SGM,Inc. and serving the needs of parolees in partnership with the New York State Division of Parole. The expansion into Rochester, New York represents nearly 5 years of steadfast efforts to establish "Grace House" Rochester. I personally want to thank Rev. Crowley, Rev. Perez and Don Bourgione for their tireless commitment and not giving up on what God had in store. I look forward to sharing in future articles as to the testimony the Rochester work is having both in the community in lives the ministry impacts.

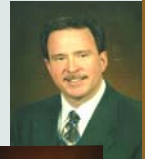
Let us not forget that the Lord has blessed us and this ministry. The real blessing is not the growth of the ministry but the lives that have come to know Jesus. Graduates of "Grace House" living lives with meaning, purpose, remaining crime and drug free. This is the fruit of Saving Grace Ministries, Inc.

Entering 2008 I am astonished at the firm foundation the Lord has laid. Eager to "get to work", excited by the future SGM, Inc., plans and humbled by the impact "Grace House is having upon the region.

Sincerely, Rev. Terry King, Executive Director

**Saving Grace Ministries, Inc.  
Board of Directors**

Rev. Terry J. King  
President,  
Executive Director



Sheryl L. King, LCSW-R  
Secretary,  
Sisters Hospital  
Social Work



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Rev. Ted Howard  
Edison Baptist Church  
Senior Pastor



Chaplain Don Snyder  
Wende Correctional Facility  
Oak Orchard Assembly of  
God, Associate Pastor





During 2007, **SGM formed a partnership with the Community Health Center of Buffalo.** CHCB provides medical, dental, and pharmacy services to members of the Buffalo community regardless of ability to pay, and has agreed to serve the participants of the “Grace House” Transitional Residence Program.

This partnership provides a valuable resource for SGM, Inc. to provide much-needed medical services as soon as possible. CHCB will provide medical, dental, and pharmacy services for all “Grace House” program residents, allowing residents to access immediate medical care and assuring that each incoming resident is given a complete physical and any existing medical conditions are assessed and treated. Thank you GHCB for serving our community.

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**“Grace House” Rochester, N Y,** announces the opening of the facility, 20 Amherst St., Rochester, NY.. With guidance from SGM, Inc. Buffalo and in partnership with SGM, Inc. Rochester, we anticipate renovations to be completed sufficient to allow for parolee residents to begin arriving in early December 2007. Plans are underway to hire a facility caretaker, solicit community support, engage a support staff, continue ongoing facility upgrades and begin replicating the program services of SGM, Inc. Buffalo to Rochester area parolee's. SGM Inc. thanks the NYDOP for their ongoing support and partnership to serve those in need .

**Visit us on line at :**  
[www.sgmworld.org](http://www.sgmworld.org)

**The Housing/Employment Symposium was 6.6.07; The landlord meeting was 10.23.07** The symposium brought together housing providers and encouraged landlords to consider renting and avail housing opportunities to the parolee population referred by SGM, NYDOP and other community stakeholders.

Erie Co. Re-Entry Task Force Housing Sub-committee: Chairman, Rev. King, SGM, Co-Chair Alyssa George, SGM, Co-Chair Warren Delling – SGM, Mike Young - SGM, Jay Swarhout - Erie Co. Dual Recovery Coordinator, Lake Shore Behavioral Health, Eric Weigel – Erie Co. Housing Coordinator, Lake Shore Behavioral Health Donna Crawford - Program Manager, Transitional Services, Inc. Pedro Hernandez – NYS Division of Parole, Gena Goosman - Head Social Welfare Examiner, ECDS **We wish to thank all who participated.**



**Saving Grace Ministries**

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