

# Grace Notes

Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. Newsletter



Summer 2008

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

## Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. Announces Contract Awards



SGM Acquires  
2104 Bailey Ave.  
adding 6 beds



“Grace House” Buffalo, N.Y.  
Transitional Residence

### Inside this issue:

A Word from the Director.....	2
An appeal.....	3
How You can help...	3
Corporate compliance	5
Grace lodging House	5
4 new staff members	6
“Grace House” Incentive Program	7
“Grace House” Rochester and “Grace House” Syracuse	8

The Erie County Department of Mental Health in cooperation with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice announced that Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. is awarded a \$170,000 contract award through December 31, 2008. The contract award is anticipated to continue through 2009 and provide up to \$280,000 in additional annual award funding.

SGM, Inc., is grateful to receive the supporting aftercare housing and support services to the County Parolee population. SGM, Inc., has become a leader in its field servicing special needs, high risk parole cases. Accordingly SGM, Inc., as a signature member of the Erie County Reentry Task force has worked diligently to address systemic reentry needs to which suitable housing remains a top priority. The funding allows SGM, Inc., to provide 8 congregate care beds and maintain 20 scattered site apartments.

Funding includes support staff and required expenses to maintain, manage and administrate the post release housing care-coordination guiding parolees towards independence.

Additionally, Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. has been notified that we are awarded an enhancement contract from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Program (OTDA) to supplement and support additional services to our existing OTDA contracts. The funding adds over \$103,000 per year for five years. The funding allows SGM to hire a Housing Care-Coordinator specializing in housing assistance, housing retention and offering emergency housing assistance for Grace House graduates who find themselves in trouble, nearing eviction and in need of supportive service up to one year after graduation from the initial “Grace House” program stay.

The State funding response provides a tangible signal that recognizes the impact SGM, Inc. is having upon the parolee returning population. The funding provides need support and financial resources assisting men beyond the primary program and to maintain independence.

SGM, Inc. is humbled and grateful to further our partnership with NYS HHAP and become a contractor to Erie County Department of Mental Health, OASIS and the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Reentry initiative.

***Rev. Terry King recently shared the mission and ministry of “Grace House” at the Elim Fellowship International Pastor’s Conference in Lima N.Y. aptly titled “New Wineskin’s for a New Day” . Rev. King was immediately followed by key note speaker Rev. Jack Hayford .***



**“Grace House” Rochester Opens and “Grace House” Syracuse seeds are sown details page 8.**

**A Word from the Director****Rev. Terry King**

Since 1999, Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. has remained faithful to the call God placed upon our hearts to serve men from prison. Today, many of the same challenges remain: not enough volunteers, people apprehensive about connecting with offenders, an ongoing need for after-program housing opportunities and of course employment. Yet, "Grace House" survives, grows and inspires us that without the "GH" experience, 350 plus (per year) men from prison in Buffalo, NY alone would not have opportunity to seek a new way of living life.

I am overwhelmed by the growth of SGM, Inc. Entering 2008, **we surpassed all expectations** and move forward on solid ground both financially and with a passionate developing staff.

By the end of June 2008, "GH" Buffalo consisted of 7 properties providing daily housing for 49 men in program beds and 12 men in the "Grace Lodge" a residential lodging house owned and operated by SGM, Inc., Buffalo; 61 men total served daily.

SGM was awarded a contract through the Erie County Office of Mental Health to provide direct residential service placements with 8 congregate care beds and provide 20 scattered site apartments for reentry Parolees serviced by the Erie County Reentry Initiative to which SGM is a signature member. During 2007, SGM, Inc., acquired over \$140,000 in property acquisition and nearly all property acquired is paid for.

The ministry was able to grow with the assistance of First Niagara Bank and by steadfast cash management and the faithfulness of the Board of Directors to see the vision, believe the vision and support the mission of SGM, Inc.

SGM, Inc. experienced a increase of \$240,000 in revenues during 2007. Our capital budgets for 2008 are expected to exceed \$600,000. We project that SGM, Inc., Buffalo will exceed a \$800,000 operating budget in 2009. It remains a miracle of God to witness the supporting funding agencies that support SGM, Inc., from the local donors, churches, foundations, City, County and numerous State agencies that provide program contract monies allowing "Grace House" to impact lives and provide a tangible solution to one of societies greatest challenges.

As we grow, I am painfully aware that to maintain the growth and program integrity, SGM, Inc. must remain an agency meeting or exceeding all contract compliance issues and become a program model by implementing "best practices" and exhibit a willingness to accept constructive program criticism and work towards program improvements.

During late 2007 and into 2008 SGM, Inc. instituted an "exit interview," allowing clients an opportunity to "rate" "GH" and share experience. We review each exit interview, discuss benefits and explore improvements. We instituted a new program initiative called the "GH" Incentive Program. Attending a State sponsored training I came away understanding SGM, Inc. had become good at sanctioning clients for unacceptable behavior. Our clients are aware how to live life being punished. (jail, prison, violating court orders, treatment sanctions etc), however, we were not doing a good job at introducing clients to rewards for appropriate behavior. In cooperation with the New York State Division of Parole we have instituted an incentive program rewarding parolees for meeting program expectations, goals and to develop a person transitional plan leading towards independent living and a free life; phone cards, Tim Horton and Burger King gift cards along with gift cards from Wal-Mart, Target and Applebee's serve as rewards when program milestones are met. NYSDOP has also agreed to offer incentives such as a week off from parole report, weekend pass to visit family and other tangible incentives designed to encourage and foster a new path to a free life. Continued on page 7.

***Eph 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think....."***

**Saving Grace Ministries****2008 Capital Campaign.**

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

SGM Inc., grows. With 8 facilities, housing 59 clients in SGM Inc. owned and operated program beds, and 20 scattered site apartments, we will service nearly 380 parolee clients during 2008. SGM Inc., was recently awarded a contract with the Erie County Department of Mental Health to service 8 congregate care beds and 20 scattered site apartments. SGM Inc. was also awarded a enhancement contract award through the New York State of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to provide housing care-coordination and eviction prevention assistance to program graduates of 'Grace House'. The contract funding has added to the agency impact, growth and ability to provide for the basic needs of the parolees we serve. 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.

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 on-going Capital campaign needs:**

Infrastructure improvements. Buildings and grounds	\$15,000.00
Driveway paving, walkways, lighting, security, signage	
Christian curriculum materials and publications	\$5,000.00
Christian outreach, drivers, recreational activities	\$5,000.00
SGM Building fund new building counseling center/community center	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
<b>Total 2008 capital campaign fundraising needs</b>	<b>\$75,000.00</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  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Saving Grace Ministries, Inc.

Note: Please consider organizing sending, & participating in a ministry missions emphasis project. We have ongoing construction projects, some small, some large, some take a few hours, some a few days, we appreciate and need your help. We need you....can you come.....

**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 Inc. has **immediate needs for household items and appliances in good working order.** SGM Inc. does not accept items in need of repair and accepts newer model appliances with energy star labels. SGM Inc. 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 2008, 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 your "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 Inc. may continue this vital work and afford opportunities to the men and families in need.**



***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

### Corporate Compliance

Alyssa George



An Auditor from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance recently came to review our performance under the Supportive Housing for Families and Young Adult program; the auditor was very impressed with how well the program is going and encouraged our application for supplemental funding from OTDA. We just got word that our application for that funding was accepted, resulting in a new five year contract with OTDA.

Our new contract with the Erie County Department of Mental Health commenced, allowing for the hiring of a new case manager to oversee re-entry cases that go through the “Grace House” program, in both congregate care and scattered site housing locations. This contract requires extensive tracking and data collection, which will be extremely useful in continuing to track former program residents for follow-up assistance.

Another great data collection tool that SGM now has access to is the Western New York Homeless Alliance’s BAS-Net system, which provides an internet-based tracking system for clients served by SGM and other community agencies that serve the homeless in Erie County. This system, which will be up and running at SGM this fall, will be an invaluable tool in tracking service provision for program clients and avoiding duplication of services.

We’ve spent a significant amount of time reviewing exit interview surveys that outgoing residents complete upon discharge from program. The staff is working to improve those areas where we are lacking and is consistently striving to continue doing well in all other areas. I am planning an in-house training for all staff members on compliance issues this coming fall, to assure that we continue to provide excellent service in accordance with each of our contracts.

*Note: special congratulations to Alyssa having graduated this spring from the University of Buffalo receiving a Juris Doctorate in Law.*



1900 Bailey Ave.  
“Grace Lodging”

### “Grace Lodging House”1900 Bailey Ave.

Opened during 2007, 1900 Bailey Ave serves as aftercare housing for program graduates of the “Grace House” Transitional Residence Program. The facility maintains 12 beds, is licensed by the City of Buffalo as a “Lodging House” and license by the Erie County Department of Health. Commonly referred to as “1900” the facility has maintained 100% occupancy, with a waiting list. Seemingly as someone moves the room is immediately filled with a parolee. Each man rents a private room,

shares a common kitchen, bathroom and common areas. Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. provides bedding, toiletries and cleaning supplies. The Boarders are responsible for their own food and laundry. “1900” has proven such a success that we are considering developing a second “Lodging Home” facility in 2009.

### Expansion Prayer needs:

Sometimes it’s important to simply step back, pray and allow God to guide. That is where SGM inc. finds itself. Expanding, hiring staff, needing significant office space, classroom and staff support space, we are prayerfully considering what to do. We believe with the support of our Board of Directors that SGM Inc. needs to establish an office, community center/church building located near our center of impact on Bailey Ave. Through the efforts of City of Buffalo Councilmember Fontana, he is supporting consolidating approx. 8 lots near “Grace House” to provide sufficient land to erect a SGM Corporate office building, counseling center and community multi-use facility. We are planning to meet architects and builders to explore this option while continuing to examine existing area buildings and potential conversion to our ministry needs. Please pray for discernment and wisdom as the decisions before us are made.

“Grace House” Happenings  
Rebuilding lives



Garage restoration



New van and trailer—donated by:  
Elim Fellowship with assistance by  
Westfield Dodge



Bible Study Rochester, NY  
“Grace House”

**A Problem that Needs a Solution**      **“Published—May 29, 2008” Buffalo Evening News**      Rev. Terry King

Nearly every community in Western New York is home to a registered sex offender. Offenders are living in our back yards. Erie County is home to approximately 500 Level Two and Three registered sex offenders; some are on probation, parole, or post-release supervision. Many have reached the expiration of their sentence and require no imposed monitoring. Whether we agree or not the reality is that these individuals served their imposed sentences and by law are returned to their communities.

The history of unsupervised level three sex offenders is not good and presents a risk to our communities and children.

Legislators responded to public debate and requests to do something. Housing ordinances imposed, Meghan’s Law instituted, and Civil Confinement laws passed addressing the re-institutionalization and governance of release for the most dangerous offender. While these efforts must be applauded, they do not go far enough to address the systemic problem our communities face when addressing sex offender management. The current laws fail to address housing, monitoring and treatment required in order for an offender to be accountable and to assure compliance with proven treatment regimens after sentences are served.

The Center for Sex Offender Management, a project of the US Department of Justice, reported in February of 2007 that “the proliferation of legislation that specifically targets the sex offender population – including longer minimum mandatory sentences for certain sex crimes, expanded registration and community notification policies, and the creation of “sex offender free” zones that restrict residency, employment, or travel within prescribed areas in many communities – can inadvertently but significantly hamper reintegration efforts.” In essence, the laws intended to keep us safe do not do so unless integrated into a comprehensive release plan with appropriate housing, surveillance, monitoring and zero tolerance for noncompliance.

The New York State Division of Parole does an incredible job supervising and monitoring the charges placed before them. During the last ten years, NYSDOP has had the lowest re-offense rate for parolees under intensive supervision. It is not the parolees under intensive supervision I am concerned with; it is the offender who no longer is under direct supervision, no longer required to submit to ongoing treatment and who refuses to comply with registration requirements.

As a father, grandfather, and member of the clergy, I remain confident that we can do more to protect our children, increase public safety and provide tangible opportunities for sex offender releasees to integrate back to community.

The first priority must remain public safety. Public safety is not about “pretend” legislation, (that’s where the government pretends to protect us and we pretend to feel safe) but applicable legislation that proves effective to the body it is intended to serve.

The Center for Sex Offender Management February 2007 report indicates that the first six months of release is crucial to the successful reintegration of a sex offender. There remains a direct correlation between effective supervision, secured housing and a comprehensive release plan to the successful reintegration and a sex offender from not re-offending.

Perhaps our elected officials will begin to examine the community strategic plan, address housing issues that provide appropriate housing options for this offender population linking their return to community with intensive supervision, active GPS monitoring, intensive clinical treatment and employment opportunities that guide offenders towards self sufficiency with accountability, all while significantly upgrading the protection of the public.

*A copy of this article was sent to all area elected officials.*

**SGM, Inc.’s Staff Corner**

Richard Lanier -  
facility caretaker



**Saving Grace Ministries, Inc. wishes to welcome 4 new members to our agency**



Vincent Phillips—Housing  
Care Coordinator

Joziah Hilkey  
Summer intern

and

Liz Leitner  
Bookkeeper



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

The growth of SGM, Inc. allows us to have a “voice at the table” sharing what works, what doesn’t and a challenge to state and local officials to help shape public reentry policy. This unique opportunity to be recognized by public service agencies is a miracle that God provided. To maintain credibility we must use wisdom, discernment and an awareness to speak out when SGM, Inc. can provide or knowingly assist with a tangible solution and not simply point out faults in the reentry systems. The faults are obvious. It’s the solutions that need to be walked out in “Steps of Faith and of Grace”

Walking in steps of faith and grace, we witnessed the opening of “Grace House” Rochester. It is exciting to see the baby steps and the growing process unfolding; lives being touched and “GH” Rochester making an impact. And of course, we have been invited to assist with the birthing of ‘Grace House” Syracuse and NYSDOP requests assistance to develop housing in the Southern Tier area, and on and on the need goes. It is all exciting, yet humbling to know none of this is possible without God and His mercy and grace.

Please know that we appreciate your support, your prayers and financial help. “Grace House” needs the community which we serve in order to grow and impact lives. Your financial support invests in lives, building a foundation for a new generation. We remain most grateful to you and those we serve.

Moving forward with anticipation.



### **“Grace House” Incentive Program**

“GH” staff does an excellent job holding men accountable to program requirements and comply with release mandates. The compliance of program requires sanctions be imposed on defiant clients. Sanctions run the scale from several days house restriction, to several weeks, to months with intensive day cd/treatment or some other loss of personal freedom.

Sanctions although a necessary and required part of program, tend to maintain a negative reinforcement. The population we service are accustomed to negative reinforcement from early in life and throughout their involvement with the criminal justice systems. Often the negative reinforcement confirms to the parolee that they are the “victim” “intended to be re-incarcerated”. The sanctions provide a barrier or systemic problem to move beyond the use of sanctions and simply have graduation from program the only reward. Many of our clients have never experienced success and the move to normalcy.

Working with NYDOP “GH” unrolled a series of initiatives we refer to as the Incentive Program.

The incentive awards program provides rewards that acknowledge a participants success, milestones and compliance with program. Rewards range from \$5.00 phone cards for clients successful completing intake and schedule initial appointments to a \$20.00 Wal-Mart gift card for 30 day program participation with no- write-ups and full compliance with release mandates. The incentive program is a success with clients eager to gain rewards and staff tracking reward dates rather than who needs to be sanctioned.

The Incentive program also provides graduation dinners and acknowledgments that client behavior is changing while instilling success.

Sanctions remain a necessary part of program design simply due to the nature of the population served. However, the introduction of a reward system brings forth a positive element of success reinforcement often not experience by our population and guides toward normalcy.

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

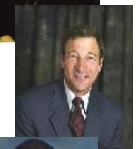
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Sisters Hospital  
Social Work



Carl Calabrese  
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Professionals Inc.,  
Director, Officer



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President, Elim Fellowship  
Love Joy Gospel Church  
Senior Pastor



Mrs. Lynette Galloway  
Residential program manager  
IV  
Buffalo Psychiatric Center



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





Founded April 20, 1999



### ***"Grace House" Rochester, New York***

Opened and serving the parolee population of Monroe County. A testimony to the steadfast dedication of Don Bourgione and Rev. Crowley and the SGM Inc. Rochester Board. A thanks to Mickey Mattle and Luis Perez for their dedication and commitment. The facility will eventually house up to 10 parolees. The board dutifully and discerningly elected to take "baby" steps focusing on providing a updated building, safe and secure clean residential facility. The building renovation are awesome and a witness to the churches of Monroe County coming together and working side by side. We thank you all who volunteered and generously donated to the mission. Greg, our facility caretaker is gift and passionate to serve the disenfranchised. SGM Inc. Buffalo remains committed to assist Rochester model our program intent as SGM Inc. Rochester impacts the community and lives are restored. Rochester is working with Monroe Reentry and NYDOP to secure clients and serve. We are excited about the future of "GH" Rochester built on a firm foundation.



### ***"Grace House" Syracuse, NY***

Michael and Jamie Santy visited with us in Buffalo, touring "Grace House", meeting staff and sharing their passion to serve parolees. Knowing what work lies ahead, I spoke frankly about the need and the challenges they face in starting another SGM Inc. site. Many people express the passion to serve yet few are called. Mike and Jamie returned to Syracuse to pray and consider what to do next. I can share that SGM Inc. received written word that they are committed to begin the process to seed and build "Grace House" Syracuse with the support of their local church and their church family. As we begin "baby" steps of Grace lets us share in this moment, exciting yet humbling to know that we cannot do this alone. Only God can build this ministry provided we yield to Him and serve His will.

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



Founded April 20, 1999

**Saving Grace Ministries Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 1013  
 Williamsville, N.Y. 14231