

# Grace Notes

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

## *"Catch Them Before They Fall"*

*Innovative thinking aligned with the "Word of God" provides tangible hope for two who were once lost but have now found their way. Guiding one another on this journey we call "Life" The "Mark" & "Tim" Story*

A community helps them .....step by step.

Mark and Tim arrived at "Grace House" nearly a year ago. Parole was not convinced either man would remain free for very long. Programming, planning and stabilizing were the matters at hand. Each man was questioning, apprehensive and confused. Those that struggle with mental illness and extensive periods of incarceration, develop skills necessary in prison to adapt and survive living a life of limited isolation and confinement. Returning to society an individual quickly confronts a changed pace of life and expectations he has yet to experience nor may possess the ability to process choice. As the year progressed Mark and Tim stabilized, programmed and became meaningful, contributing members of the "Grace House" family. Though each had early struggles and often faced daily dilemmas, today they have plans, learned how to cope with changes in life and established a network of friends who care about them to remain free men. During the course of their stay at "Grace House" they became friends learning to support each other and encouraging each other to stay on the right path of life.

So it was fitting that when it came time for them to graduate and leave, the Lord introduced a plan. With Parole time to serve remaining, we assisted Mark and Tim secure independent appropriate housing. Normally parolees cannot live together unless in a group home. A local neighbor "Pat" agreed to rent to graduates of "Grace House" We had an innovative idea. Could we place Tim and Mark in their own apartment and have them report daily to "Grace House" for counseling and day reporting. Presented to parole the plan was approved.... For me.... The reward was when their parole officer came to report that he had performed an early morning home visit. And to his surprise the two men were at their kitchen tables, bibles open, coffee served, a morning news program on the TV and all was normal. The PO stated "they were living like normal people" "it was nice to see" "I am not sure how you did it...but they are not the same men that came here a year ago" and so the journey goes.....to change the heart of man that only the Lord can touch. We did our part.

**For more information about our program policies and guidelines.....or to share the newsletter with a friend..... Visit Our Website at:**

**[www.sgmworld.org](http://www.sgmworld.org)**



*He makes all things  
beautiful in His time.*

*"I know the plans I  
have for you says the  
Lord, plans to prosper  
and not harm you,  
plans to give you hope  
and a future."*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

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## Expansion of Service .....through patience by trusting in the Lord

Rev. Terry King, Executive Director, Saving Grace Ministries, Inc.

As a man of faith, committed to serve and understand His provision, I am humbled to witness God bring forth his plans and build this ministry.

Not to many years ago, we prayed that God would bring forth a vision of “Grace House” a facility would be birthed to serve men from prison.

Today “Grace House” not only serves men from prison, but is serving men from prison who chose to remain free, with restored lives and families while assisting men find their rightful place in society.

From 7 beds to 15 beds to 22 beds, we now look forward to closing on the acquisition of two additional properties adjoining our current “Grace House I” The two adjoining properties will provide an additional 16 beds. Our current facility has run at full capacity for 24 months. We maintain an exhaustive waiting list. We currently receive on-average three referrals per day from New York State Parole that we cannot serve and must decline for lack of bed capacity.

**With the acquisition of these two properties the “Grace House” I capacity will increase to 38 resident beds. In 2006 we will serve nearly 140 clients and estimate serving over 200 in 2007.**

Simply put, we need more beds, more staff and more provision. However, I thank God he built this ministry slowly, with purpose and a firm foundation. Our growth has been in His time. Though I often didn’t understand His plans, I do appreciate His end product and His results.



Property to be acquired

As “Grace House” became solidified in the community, the program, the staff, and the operating model became known, accepted and included as community stakeholders various social service agencies, law enforcement and collaborating partners turned to Saving Grace Ministries to solve the prisoner reentry problem. Today Saving Grace Ministries, Inc., serves as a signature member of the Erie County Reentry Task Force, is a member of the Erie County Criminal Justice/Behavioral Consortium and I serve on the New York State Division of Parole Advisory panel. In November 2006, I am honored to travel to New York City and participate in a state conference sponsored by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice. The conference is state sponsored and designed to challenge the religious leaders of New York to establish community outreach to serve the inmate, parolee population. “Grace House” I is viewed as a State Model and presented to the New York community in hopes it too can be replicated in the five boroughs.

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The impact of “Grace House” is felt throughout our community. Nearly 80 percent of the graduates remain free men after one year. A far cry from the current statistics. Yet, the success of “Grace House” is far deeper than just numbers. We reach out to those men often written off and neglected by society. Men with mental illness and limited education or ability to live in main stream society. Men who have lived most of their adult lives in prison. Yet it is this very group we touch, embrace and succeed in witnessing them establish a new life and live freely in community abiding by society rules and learning to know Jesus and live by a new moral standard.

We are awaiting word from the New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance regarding our pending application for funding request that establishes and authorizes the construction of the 31 bed “Grace House” Special Needs Transitional Residence. This past June, all collaborative partners gathered in Buffalo along with OTDA application reviewers who performed a site review to determine if this project would be selected to receive funding. This is a competitive process with New York City projects often receiving the lion’s share of available funds. The collaborative working group acknowledged that the project was well presented and defined the need of our community and a project that offered a tangible solution to the burden of housing and reentry for men from prison presenting with special medical needs.



Property to be acquired



Property to be acquired

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## Catch " Them before they fall" What is .....The "Grace House' Transitional Residence Program

Founded by Rev. Terry King on April 14, 1999, Saving Grace Ministries, Inc was established with the core mission to serve the needs of those who are desperate. By providing housing, food, clothing and opportunity Rev. King believed every homeless client has potential, and opportunity to become a contributing member of society.

With the aid of the religious community and Corporate donors, foundations and individual donors, Rev. King solicited support for the development of "Grace House" located at 1932 Bailey Ave. Buffalo, New York . This support resulted in the

acquisition of property, total facility renovations with mechanical upgrades and establishment of a valued community resource referred to as the "Grace House" Transitional Residence Program.



Grace House , Buffalo

Since 2000, the "Grace House" Transitional Residence Program, located at 1932 Bailey Ave., Buffalo, NY, serves the community providing emergency shelter for homeless individuals returning from prison. "GH" invested over \$400,000.00 in renovations and improvements. The current facility maintains 22 beds and has run at full capacity for 22 months. The program impacts clients who now live independently. The shelter serves men with medical needs including mental health, poly-substance abuse and various medical conditions to include HIV/AIDS, cancer and emphysema. The agency shelter staff manages "intense supervision "cases that include individuals with violent felony offender status.

"The Grace House" program is a leader in its field and uniquely qualified to serve this population. The agency is a contractor to the New York State Division of Parole providing housing transitional services. The agency is a contractor to the City of Buffalo ESG providing emergency shelter and a provider of shelters services to Erie County Department of Social Services. The success of "Grace House: is the unique partnerships with the religious community, businesses, addiction treatment program, the Erie County Department of Social Services, various job training programs (VESID), literacy Volunteers and local employers working together to provide opportunity and a clear direction of accountability for program participants to become productive members of society with the life skills necessary to live independently .

"Grace House" will serve over 140 men from prison in shelter services in 2006 and anticipates housing and case managed services for over 220 men in 2007.

Today Saving Grace Ministries, Inc., serves as a signature member of the Erie County Reentry Task Force, is a member of the Erie County Behavioral Health Consortium and Rev. King serves on the New York State Division of Parole Advisory panel.

### Community benefits of "Grace House"?

Reduced recidivism: Fewer men return to prison, Crime reduction, men become productive members of society (restored families and pay taxes) and quality of life improves for us all.

### Why the need to expand?:

The 2006 Homeless Alliance of Western New York Gaps Analysis indicates a yearly need of 133 additional beds to service the chronically homeless, while the greatest areas of concern remain the unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition. Many clients are active in drug use and in need of psychiatric care. The New York State Division of Parole indicates an aggregate total need in Erie County of 18 homeless cases per month and 216 per year. Current available service providers are frequently full and unable to address the safety and security issues accompanying an individual under intense parole, post incarceration supervision or court mandated supervision.

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The Acquisition of the "Holy Name of Jesus Church" along with two adjoining properties provide for additional client beds, much needed administrative office space, a counseling center, and the opening of the "Grace Fellowship Church" meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of the local community.

**How can you help:**

By your gift of financial support, your assisting Saving Grace Ministries secure the acquisition of property necessary to serve the needs of our community. We cannot do this alone nor rely on government assistance. The church, religious community along with business and government working together will make this happen.

Simply Put! Every dollar raised during our fall 2006 fund raising campaign is allocated to the down payment of the property acquisition.

You will know that your donation provided bed space, support for staff and the ability of Saving Grace Ministries to fulfill the Godly mandate to reach those once ignored, forgotten and destined to return to prison.

Yes you can help. Please know that by your donation "That one man can be reached, be touched and forever change that he will never again commit crime, destroy our community or bring harm to one another."

**An offering will be taken during the concert that will be used to support "Grace House" and the Sarah Minnie Badger Foster Care agency.**

**We cannot do this alone:**

**Your ongoing financial support is needed. Please consider becoming a sustaining donor. Information and donation cards are included in the informational packet highlighting the "Grace House" program.**

**Together we can make a difference in Buffalo.**

Rev. Terry King  
Executive Director  
Saving Grace Ministries, Inc.



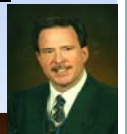
***On this rock I will build my church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it (MT. 16:18)***

**Grace House Buffalo, New York Ministry Staff .....**

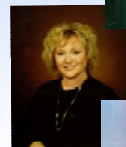


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**Left to Right: Larry Blakley: Caretaker, Rev. Melvin Taylor: Associate Director Grace House Buffalo, Rev Terry King: Executive Director Saving Grace Ministries, Pat Bishop: Office Manager, Rev. Rocky Munson: Teacher, Alyssa George: Corporate Compliance Officer, Sam Jackson: Caretaker, Annelle Washington: Office Intern, Sheryl King LCSW-R: Publications/ Ministry Associate**



**Expansion of Service Continued.....**

The acquisition of the “Holy Name of Jesus Church” site directly across from our current location continues. The summer brought together the community leaders, concerned neighbors and various stakeholders. The outcome was the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding that speaks to our expansion and provides comfort to our neighbors regarding public safety and other social service program operating on adjoining property. The ministry has an informal commitment of mortgage financing and we are in the process of securing the required down payment. We look forward to moving into the site in early 2007 with Corporate offices and staff moving into the rectory and the establishment of the “Grace Community Church” opened to serve the local community.

The footprint of “Grace House” is enlarging.....but it is through Christ that all is made possible.

Though I am grateful and humbled by the agency expansion, and reminded that it is all about saving one life and one soul. As we continue to move about the Lords work, thank you for your support, your prayers and walking with us on this journey. The journey has been one of patience and endurance. But in the end the cost is worth it if only for one man to be restored unto the Lord.



**2006 United Way Day of Caring**



**Thank you**

**Erie County Department of Senior Services & NYS Division of Housing & Community Renewal**

***Alyssa’s call to Saving Grace Ministries , Inc.***

*James 4:8 – “Draw near to the Lord, and the Lord will draw near to you.”*

I first read this verse in the church bulletin one Sunday last spring. I had been struggling to decide what direction my life should take, and more specifically, whether I should go to law school. When I read this verse, I realized that I was struggling because my thoughts had been focused on what *I* wanted to do with *my* life. The question for me should have been: What does *God* want me to do? What are *His* plans for me, and how will I obediently serve the purpose He has for me? That same Sunday, I prayed passionately for God to show me where He wanted me to go, and I immediately knew in my heart that law school was the first step.

A few weeks later, I was visiting another church when I saw Pastor Terry King speak. I knew before he had even finished his message that ministering to men on parole was what I was being called to do. When I found out that Saving Grace Ministries was based in Buffalo (where I would be attending law school), I was amazed at how God’s plans for me were coming together; all along, I needed only to stop and ask Him to reveal those plans to me. I contacted Pastor Terry about working at “Grace House,” and I started in February of this year.

Proverbs 16:3 instructs us that if we “commit to the Lord whatever [we] do...[our] plans will succeed.” Over the past year, I’ve renewed my commitment to live for the Lord and have seen how successful people can be when they commit their lives – and their plans – to God’s purpose. The real “saving grace” of this ministry is its commitment to the purpose and the service of the Lord, and the ability to achieve the seemingly impossible through hard work, prayer, and an endless dedication to helping men on parole build new lives.

Alyssa George





**A Partnership.....a deep understanding of respect...and a heartfelt thank you.**

Though we fervently hope that all men make the connection to remain free men. This is not always the case.

Recently one "Grace House" resident decided our rules, society rules and His own selfish desires overshadow all else and he decided that he alone was in control.

The decision was made that this client was no longer safe in community and was best served by being remanded to custody. He would be safe, society safe and help available for him to regain his spiritual and mental balance. I simply want to publicly express my deep appreciation to the New York State Division of Parole, Buffalo Area Office Bureau Chief, Special P.O.'s and the assigned P.O. that assisted us that day. Your professionalism, quick response and years of collaboration with our staff presented a clear understanding of the situation at hand. Your jobs and ours are often not easy.... Yet together what I witnessed was the collaborative effort of both agencies, meeting the need of a struggling client but never losing sight that maintaining public safety was job number one. For that we thank you.

**Visit us on line at :**

**[www.SGMWorld.org](http://www.SGMWorld.org)**



**Saving Grace Ministries**

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