



CONNECT



THE HARSH REALITIES OF RETURNING CITIZENS

Meet John, a lifelong Philadelphian. John completed his ten-year prison sentence last week, and with only the clothes on his back and a paper bag carrying his few personal belongings, John walked to the train station to purchase a ticket “home.”

JOHN: A TYPICAL RETURNING CITIZEN IN PHILADELPHIA

As a typical returning citizen in Philadelphia—an unmarried, thirty-year-old, African-American male—John will face several barriers in his efforts toward restoration. His family will hesitate to rekindle their relationships with him. It will be tough for John to locate safe, secure, and

affordable housing, and employers will be cautious about hiring him. In fact, a recent study of prisoner reentry in Philadelphia concludes: “At a time when more prisoners than ever are returning home...the challenges of prisoner reentry, the barriers faced by [returning citizens] appear to be growing.”

One of the first choices that John must make as a free person is whether to spend his evenings on the streets or at the local homeless shelter. Having been released from prison with no one to receive him, John is facing hardships that are shared by many others. While he could probably find a couch to sleep on for a few days, he cannot think of any long-term prospects for stable housing.

IN THEIR FIRST NIGHTS OF FREEDOM, PEOPLE COMING FROM PRISON OFTEN HAVE NO PLACE TO STAY BESIDES THE STREETS.

John spends the last of his money on dinner as he walks to the shelter. As John lays restless on his cot, he plans out his activities for the next morning.

continued...



He knows that public housing will not be an option; it is official policy that people with violent histories or drug convictions are to be denied service by the housing authority. A number of local organizations are already making a difference for people like John in educating neighbors, advocating for change, and preparing returning citizens for the roadblocks ahead.

But few, if any, organizations offer a comfortable place to stay for those returning citizens who find themselves to be homeless. As hopelessness begins to overcome John, he passes out from exhaustion.

**“EACH OF US IS MORE
THAN THE WORST THING
WE’VE EVER DONE.”**

Bryan Stevenson in *Just Mercy*

AN INTRODUCTION TO BARNABAS HOUSE

Redemption Housing is currently working to purchase a West Philadelphia property to serve as the location of Barnabas House, a reentry home specifically designed for returning citizens like John. Barnabas House will be the ministry’s flagship program, seeking to address recidivism in treating residents with the dignity, compassion, and attention they deserve.

According to a nationwide study in 2005, more than a third of returning citizens who are arrested within five years of their release are arrested within the first six months, with more than half arrested by the end of the first year. There is a great need for safe and supportive communities where returning citizens can develop the support circles they need to properly break free of crime, addiction, and homelessness.



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY
TO COMPLETE A VOLUNTEER
APPLICATION.**



We believe that Barnabas House will become a model for churches and faith-based community organizations connecting with Philadelphia’s often abandoned population of returning citizens.

The residence will be supervised by a team of people who are committed to:


- Affirming the humanity of residents.
- Creating a comfortable home.
- Encouraging participation in a faith-centered community life.

The program and facilities will also include the following advantages:

- Private and shared rooms.
- Walking distance to public transportation.
- A community room for group meetings and services, such as on-site addiction recovery meetings, individual counseling, job skills training, and spiritual counseling.

TO SUPPORT
PEOPLE LIKE JOHN
THROUGH
THE YEAR-LONG PROGRAM
AT **BARNABAS HOUSE**,
CONNECT WITH
REDEMPTION HOUSING
TODAY THROUGH A
MONETARY DONATION,
A GIFT OF TIME,
OR A CONTRIBUTION OF
EXPERTISE.

TOGETHER
WE CAN FILL THIS NEED
AND HELP GUIDE MEN
FROM INCARCERATION
TO COMMUNITY.

 Please detach and return with your gift.

I want to **PARTNER** with Redemption Housing to **PROVIDE** for returning citizens.

I pledge to give a recurring donation in the amount of \$ _____.

Instructions for Giving via Credit Card:

1. Visit www.redemptionhousing.org and click on “Donate” near the top-right corner of your screen.
2. Enter your desired donation amount and click the checkbox labeled “Make this Donation monthly.”
3. After submitting your email address and personal information, you will be redirected to complete the donation process via PayPal.

Instructions for Giving via Online Banking:

1. Visit your bank’s website to set up an automatic payment for Redemption Housing.
2. After choosing the frequency of your donation, enter Redemption Housing’s mailing address: PO Box 6326, Philadelphia, PA 19139.



Redemption Housing
PO Box 6326
Philadelphia, PA 19139
redemptionhousing.org
(267) 908-6850



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Every week I receive more than a dozen letters from men coming out of incarceration who are looking for a place to live. These are men who have become trapped in a cycle of poverty, homelessness, and incarceration.

Redemption Housing's board has spent many fostering community partnerships and exploring the best ways that we can fit into the vibrant network of support that already exists for Philadelphia's returning citizens. We are in the process of considering our options for purchasing a property, but in the meantime, we have had a number of people ask: "What can I do to help?"

Here are a couple of actions that you can take today:

1. Visit our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/redemptionhousing. Like us and share the introductory post that is pinned to the top of our feed!
2. Donate today using the form at the bottom of this page to support us long-term in the amount of \$40 per month.

I appreciate your continued prayer and support as Redemption Housing begins to welcome people from incarceration into our community!

God Bless,

Nick Lordi, Board President

USE THE FORM
AT THE BOTTOM
OF THIS PAGE
TO PLEDGE
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IN SUPPORT OF
RETURNING
CITIZENS.

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I want to **PARTNER** with Redemption Housing to **PROVIDE** for returning citizens.



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Please use this form to make a donation or update your mailing preferences.
Visit www.redemptionhousing.org to make a donation with your credit card.

My Gift Is Enclosed: \$ _____

- I have enclosed a check payable to Redemption Housing.
- I am pledging to give a recurring donation via Redemption Housing's website or a personal check (see reverse).

I would like to receive the following:

(Check all that apply.)

- Quarterly Postal Newsletter
(Update your address in the space to the left.)
- Year-End Postal Newsletter
- Monthly Emails

Email address: _____