

2020 2021

People are sacred created in the image of God. Systems are not; they are only worthy of the people in them and the people they serve. And people are to be treated, whether one or many, the way Jesus treated people.

DIANE LANGBERG, PHD., TRAUMA PSYCHOLOGIST, & AUTHOR



DEAR CROSSWALK CENTER FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

The CrossWalk Center Board of Directors and I want to thank each and every one of you, donors, volunteers, ministry partners and staff, for your spirit, conviction, and dedication to re-entry discipleship that has made CrossWalk Center the re-entry ministry reality it is today.

CrossWalk Center is celebrating five years of success-the accomplishment of our purpose-our reason for being and existing, and that is to have and offer a Christ-centered, *seamless re-entry discipleship* journey from the inside out. The end goal is that all those we touch along the way, every CrossWalk Center disciple, will live Jesus' promised fuller, greater, richer life-never returning to prison.

Not only is *Seamless Re-entry Discipleship* from the inside out fully up and running, but it is also flourishing in ways we could not have dreamed or imagined just five years ago. This would not have been possible without your fervent prayers, gracious gifts, sacred talents, and servant hearts.

Although incredibly challenging for all of us, CrossWalk Center continues to navigate the global pandemic while having kept all our re-entry disciples safe, healthy, fully employed and their spirits filled with hope for the future still.

At the same time God was faithful amidst 'the COVID-19 storm' making a way for Crosswalk Center to open two more re-entry discipleship homes. All of it happening in spite of fundraising events having to be cancelled, donor giving down due to industries and businesses closing their doors, job losses, and an uncertain future.

I am reminded of, and reflect upon, Apostle Paul's words to the church at Corinth:

You, also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many. 2 Corinthians 1:11

Through your consistent and constant prayers over CrossWalk Center's re-entry ministry and services, a significant milestone has been reached: A full five years of *Seamless Re-entry Discipleship*!

So, with the blessings of God our Father, the indwelling Christ, and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, we hold up all these achievements and goals before Him without whom none of this could be realized and look forward to what He may have in store for us in days to come.

Blessings,

Kathy Vosburg President & Executive Director

2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Foster, Chair Fred Robertson, Vice-Chair Graham Horton, Secretary Cody Nath Jim Stern Jim Lawnin Bryant Miller Tom Reiser Kathy Vosburg, Executive Director



HOLISTIC WRAP-AROUND RE-ENTRY MINISTRY & SOCIAL SERVICES



Spiritual Needs

include a church home, fellowship, Bible study, and learning how to live in obedience to God. Spiritual strength helps returning citizens resist the temptation to sin and return to crime.

Environmental Needs

include housing, transportation, and a living wage. Learning to pay bills and live on a budget is essential.

Physical Needs

include proper medical, mental health care, and treatment for addictions. The returning citizen also needs exposure to proper nutrition.

Social Needs

are all about having healthy relationships with family and friends. Returning citizens need pro-social relationships as part of their support system.

Emotional Needs

may be intense for returning citizens. They need a great deal of support to overcome the distrust, anger, isolation, and stigma of incarceration.

Intellectual Needs

include schooling, vocational training, and practical skills for daily living. Knowledge enables a person to build a better life.

SEAMLESS RE-ENTRY DISCIPLESHIP – From Inside Out

OUR MISSION is Advancing God's Kingdom through *Seamless Re-entry Discipleship*.

OUR VISION is that every CrossWalk Center disciple will live Jesus' promised fuller, greater, richer life – never returning to prison.



OUR HISTORY

CrossWalk Center was founded by Christians from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, Calvary Community Church, and His Father's Heart Ministries.

These believers wanted to see the vision fulfilled for a faith-based ministry that provided social services and discipleship to individuals returning to Houston, Harris County after incarceration in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

The group wanted to create a safe haven – a hub, where everything that is needed for a chance at successful and sustainable re-entry would be found in one centralized location.

The initial board of directors applied and was granted 501 (c)(3) exempt status in June 2016, under the name CrossWalk Center.

The Center opened its doors in August 2016 as Houston's Hopeful Re-entry Hub. Today, CrossWalk Center remains a 'hub' for re-entry due to community Partners that serve with us in re-entry and reintegration, providing critical ministry and social services; such as church discipleship, trauma counseling and ministry, recovery counseling, employment, and healthcare.

CrossWalk Center has worked with over 754 men and women inside TDCJ since October 2018, and has discipled, housed, and and secured employment for 132+ men since November 2017, with a monthly average of five new men releasing to CrossWalk Center, an upward trend, soon to be seven+ by year's end.

CROSSWALK ALUMNI DISCIPLE – Jaime Gloria: My Story, My Testimony

A broken home. Bounced around from family member to family member. No real place to call home. No real parents there for protection and guidance. So where did Jaime Gloria turn for support as a child? The streets of Gonzales, Texas.

With a lack of exposure to positive environments, gangs became Jaime's "la familia"...his surrogate family. With a look of regret and sadness in his eyes, he states "I believed in a gang, not in Jesus." His grooming came from gang-bangers who sold drugs, carried weapons, and had no regard for law enforcement. This lifestyle landed Jaime in jail not once, but twice for a total of 17 years.

While in prison, he met a prison ministry volunteer named Vonnie Taylor. "I remember the first day I met Jaime about seven years ago. He was sitting in a chair in the middle of the room. He looked shy and withdrawn. He didn't speak. I asked him if he wanted to learn about Jesus, and he politely said no. He was Muslim. I told him that was ok but if he ever wanted to learn about Jesus to just ask" said Taylor. Taylor continued to reach out to Jaime each week while ministering in prison. One day he said to her, "I want to learn about Jesus. Can you tell me who he is?" said Taylor. That was the beginning of Jaime's interest in Christianity.

Since then, Jaime's faith in God the Father has grown tremendously. He has walked away from Allah and into the arms of Jesus. He acknowledges that CrossWalk Center has changed his life. The discipleship program, the weekly Bible Study, the mentoring...it has transformed him into a positive, healthier person.

Jaime is also thankful for the life-changing job he has with Refined Technologies Inc. "Because of CrossWalk and my job at RTI, I know how to pay bills on time with honest money that I've earned the right way."

July 8, 2021 made one year since Jaime has been released from prison. He's left the gang-banger life behind and has committed his life to Jesus. He is excited to become a CrossWalk Coach so he can help those recently released from prison transition back into society. As Vonnie Taylor said, "Jaime is a jewel. An obedient servant of God. A humble yet ardent disciple of Jesus Christ."

Smitty

REFINED



CROSSWALK CENTER IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS FY 2020-2021





ETHNICITIES SERVED

754

Men and Women discipled in prison since October 2018

132+ Men discipled, housed, and employed since November 2017

12 Alumni serve as Re-entry Discipleship Coaches

180 Men accepted to the re-entry home program in 2021 alone

90 Volunteers served **2,030** hours

5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES FY SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 TO AUGUST 31, 2022

- Establish first Women's Re-entry Discipleship Program & Home
- Establish four NEW Men's Re-entry Discipleship Homes, for a total of eight
- Re-establish* Re-entry Discipleship Program in 10+ Prisons
- Serve 200+ NEW Disciples through partnership with Prison Fellowship
- Recruit 30+ NEW Volunteers
- Hire 3 NEW Program Staff as ministry scales
- Seek 32+ NEW Ministry Advocate Donors

*Crosswalk Center shut out of TDCJ due to pandemic.

2020-2021 AT A GLANCE

Like many non-profits, CrossWalk Center has continued to preserver within the ever-shifting requirements and limitations to church outreach, re-entry ministry and social services due to, and during an ongoing global pandemic that just seems to not go away.

STEPPIN' OUT IN-PRISON SEAMLESS RE-ENTRY DISCIPLESHIP

Our 5-year strategic plan, for years 2020-2021 called for the expansion of the *Steppin' Out* in-prison program into additional prisons in and outside of Texas Department of Criminal Justice Regions I, III, VI located in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty and Walker Counties, Texas. That was not possible as prisons continued their lock-out of volunteers and visitors to protect inmates and staff from COVID-19 exposure.

Instead, CrossWalk Center worked feverishly and diligently with TDCJ Rehabilitation Programs Division to be cleared and authorized to be the state's first program to be delivered via remote video conferencing from the outside in. *Steppin' Out* is broadcast from Studio CrossWalk into the Carol Vance Unit. As a result, so far, 22 men from Prison Fellowship have entered *Startin' Out* Re-entry Discipleship home program in the past year.

As the pandemic lifts, and TDCJ gives access into prisons, CrossWalk Center will pick up where we left off teaching and ministering inside 10 prisons, working to expand our reach into more prisons whether in person or by broadcasting from Studio CrossWalk.

STARTIN' OUT SEAMLESS RE-ENTRY DISCIPLESHIP HOME PROGRAM

Scaling CrossWalk Center's re-entry discipleship home program, *Startin' Out* is a 'front and center' goal that is ongoing, and remains forever in progress. Why? Because one of the top-tier barriers to a successful and sustainable re-entry is a safe, healthy home environment. It is here, a re-entry disciple may make mistakes in a protected environment, surrounded by their Discipleship Coach, the House Chaplain, other volunteers and staff, and their brothers, to have their faith tested and strengthened in freedom.

During 2020-2021, CrossWalk Center was able to open Beau Lane House, one of three homes hoped for during the year. Despite the pandemic, cancelled fundraising events, reduced giving, and escalating housing prices, the 'step down' home opened in October 2020, and houses 12 men who work full-time, and are saving for their future life of independent living apart from CrossWalk.

CrossWalk Center continues to strive for three to four new men's re-entry discipleship homes each year, as the need remains great. We focus on making the operations of each home as financially self-sustaining as possible through minimal weekly program fees, so that we may secure additional homes.

CrossWalk Center Seamless Re-entry Discipleship 2103 N. Main St., Houston, TX 77009 I 713-237-0880 crosswalkcenter.org



STARTIN' OUT WOMEN'S HOME PROGRAM LAUNCH

We are very excited about our newest ministry endeavor, the 2021-2022 launch of our first Women's Re-entry Discipleship Home program to support the women we already are reaching inside prison through Steppin' Out Re-entry Discipleship and Character Development program. The new home program and the subsequent home will accommodate up to 12 women annually. Once established and the program model is proven, CrossWalk is committed to add at least one new women's home to the program each year.

WAYS TO HELP, WAYS TO GIVE

Your Generous Giving Impacts Lives. CrossWalk Center re-entry programs and services, and the generosity of faithful givers like you, provides returning citizens a second chance, increases public safety, reduces taxpayer costs, and prevents individuals from returning to a life in prison.



crosswalkcenter.org/give

Your generous contributions have helped disciples like **Jaime Gloria** get back on their feet and make a new life for themselves in Jesus Christ.

In the coming years, your continued support will result in hundreds more disciples leaving incarceration, getting their lives back, and having faith in freedom.

CrossWalk Center, Inc., 501 (c) (3) nonprofit is a tax-exempt charitable organization.