



Fall Issue

To donors:

As seasons change, thoughts and musings, smells and sentiments begin to surface in all of us. Autumn leaves, crisp mornings, football games, bonfires. Each image stirs up fond memories. Good. Positive. Healthy memories.


But for so many of the returning citizens we serve especially those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, their memories are something to be erased or forgotten or suppressed. Histories that include physical or sexual abuse, absentee parenting, dysfunctional relationships, blackouts and struggles with mental health issues are parts of the many stories of those served by Mission Behind Bars and Beyond (MB3). These histories often lead directly back into the prison pipeline.

However, your financial and prayerful support makes it possible for MB3 to create positive memories for those incarcerated who are only seeking a second chance. MB3 meets people behind bars, offers them nurture and support and then walks alongside them as they return to their communities. Your gifts help MB3 empower our clients with skills and self-confidence so they can lead lives that will lead to happy memories. As a donor, you become the good news that is carried forward by those lives touched and transformed by the work of MB3.

So, as you get out that well-worn, familiar sweater and enjoy the autumn evenings, remember that you have helped someone who had lost hope become the person God created them to be.

Thank you and may this autumn season be filled with good memories for everyone.

Gardening with God



Among the many ways, MB3 seeks to connect with those we serve behind the bars is through life skills classes which focus upon a myriad of issues and address a number of different topics. Pastor Carol Wieger arranged for the

women at Dismas Charities-Diersen to work in conjunction with next door neighbor, St. William Catholic Church and plant flowers and vegetables in their box gardens. For some, this was an opportunity to revisit something they have always enjoyed doing and for others, it was the first time to dig their hands into the soil and help something grow. Soon, fresh veggies were harvested, and flowers were picked to be used during worship. Through this process, they learned ways to feed their families with healthy, fresh food and to find a positive hobby while gardening with God.

What you are doing is working! Heather's story...



In Heather's words... "my life is so amazing now..."



Hi, my name is Heather. I am a proud mother of two beautiful daughters and a proud GG to my lovely grandson. God had other plans for me. He brought me to Dismas Charities-Diersen (a women's detention facility in Louisville, Kentucky) so I could start my life over fresh with a clean

slate. Now, two years clean and sober, God did for me what I couldn't do for myself. God knows all and knew my daughters needed a brand-new mommy that they deserve and not the sick one I was three years ago.

When I was incarcerated in July of 2015, I left the two most important people in the world behind....[M]y daughters have been through a lot. I was able to end this cycle of addiction while at this facility. When I was in active addiction, I was a very selfish person, and I always put drugs before

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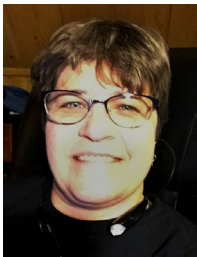
Heather's story (cont.)

my children. That is something I will always regret. My addiction has taken a lot from my daughters—years we can never get back.

Today, I don't live in the past. I can only plan for the future. I can honestly say I love myself and my life today. After being at Diersen for two weeks, I started attending New Life in Christ Christian Church every Tuesday night. I would go no matter what. That's where I discovered Mission Behind Bars and Beyond (MB3). It was an opportunity to do something different with my life. So, I filled out an application and here I am. My life is so amazing now after my trials and tribulations. I keep my head up with the help and support of MB3's nurture, support and accountability group. They help me set goals to achieve, and they are there for me if I am struggling with anything. My suggestion is to participate in Mission Behind Bars.

I have a job and am working full-time, and I am being a responsible and productive member of society. MB3 and New Life in Christ Christian Church have truly saved my life.

Welcome, Lisa Griffith-Tierney



The work and ministry of MB3 is unique and innovative. The continuum of care provided that begins behind the bars and extends beyond the bars is something that we hope can be replicated again and again in other places across the country. One of the ways MB3 hopes to do that is to share what

we do with seminary students who may feel called to this type of ministry. Through grants from First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Louisville and the New Church Start Program of the Christian Church in Kentucky, funds have been made available to call a seminary student part-time to serve with MB3.

We are pleased to introduce Lisa Griffith-Tierney, who is a third-year seminary student from the Chicago Theological Seminary. She and her family have recently moved to Louisville. Lisa begins sharing the ministry of MB3 in September. She will assist Rev. Wieger at New Life in Christ Christian Church and assist in the coordination and oversight of our mentoring program. Lisa comes with a passion for working with people on the margins along with experience as a volunteer in a prison ministry like MB3's located in Des Moines. Lisa will be with MB3 for a year and we are simply delighted!



**Become a MB3 mentor
and help change lives.**

**GIVE FOR GOOD
LOUISVILLE
2018**

You don't have to live in Louisville!

Although if you don't live in Louisville, we'd love to have you visit!

SAVE THIS DATE – September 13th. Give For Good Louisville is a 1-day event of giving for the Louisville area hosted by the Community Foundation of Louisville. MB3 is excited about participating with hundreds of other non-profits in this special fund-raising event. It's all done online so no matter where you are, you can support the great work MB3 is doing. Our goal is \$5,000. We know this is something you will want to support!

On September 13th, go to our GFG Louisville website at: <https://www.giveforgoodlouisville.org/organizations/mission-behind-bars-and-beyond>

We will be reminding you.



***MB3 Website
Looking Good!***

MB3 has been fortunate to have found a team that is not only dedicated to MB3's mission but also possessed with amazing computer skills. With the help of digital assistant Cyndie Phillippe and the work of Mike Nabicht and Maryann Bowman of Creative Media for Learning, MB3 continues to improve and update its website.

Soon, MB3 will be posting online its "Returning Citizen Guide," which will be a resource for returning citizens with videos and links to sites that will provide helpful tools to make the reentry process even more successful. You can find us at: www.missionbehindbarsandbeyond.org or mb3.website. So, please check out MB3's website and tell us what you think!

Mission Behind Bars and Beyond
Contact: Dean Bucalos,
Executive Director
Phone: 502-396-3543
MissionBehindBarsAndBeyond@gmail.com



Mission Behind Bars and Beyond
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