



Thanksgiving Issue

To donors:

Although all of us should be thankful for the gift of each day, during this time of the year we are particularly reminded of the ways God continues to shower us with blessings. Family. Friends. Fireplaces. Food. A roof over our heads. Employment and purpose. Good health. These are among the many things we list as that for which we are thankful.

For those who are incarcerated, the list is often a lot shorter and often more basic. Safety. Sobriety. Family visits. Mail. Fewer and fewer days until being released back into the community. Punishment for deeds done is understood and accepted. Yet, a hope filled future is often an illusion. The obstacles faced by people returning to our communities from prisons and jails are many and the capacity to overcome them is frequently very limited.

At MB3, we are thankful for your continued financial and prayerful support. It is because of you that hope is restored in the lives of those who benefit from the services MB3 provides through life skills classes, spiritual development, mentoring and perhaps, most of all caring. When asked, "What are you thankful for?" we hear from those we serve, "You!" Yes, "you!"

Your gifts are cause for true thanksgiving. You provide people with a second chance to try to get it right. You set a Thanksgiving table that includes promise, hope, compassion, love, forgiveness and opportunity. And we are grateful to be able to invite as many as we can to sit at that table of grace. A harvest meal for those who come with hungry hearts.

This Thanksgiving, please include MB3 and those we serve in your prayers and we will continue to give thanks for you and your support.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Paying it forward

We are blessed with so many wonderful volunteers and partners. They teach and support and guide and care. Perhaps it's the caring that is most impressive. For several years, the Grateful Threads (a knitting and sewing group of Jeffersonstown Christian Church), has come to Dismas Charities-Diersen to teach the women there how to knit and crochet. It is a remarkable ministry of patience and care as new skills are taught and an introduction to a useful and enjoyable hobby is provided. But there's more to it than just that. The women create beautiful hats and scarves that are blessed and given to a local homeless shelter. Behind the bars the women are sharing and caring as well. We are "grateful" to the Grateful Threads and so many others who share their time, talents and treasures with MB3.



Check Out MB3's New Website



We are excited to roll out MB3's new website. Working with Creative Media for Learning has been a real blessing. Not only has MB3's website (missionbehindbarsandbeyond.org) been improved with more success stories, videos and resources, but we also now have an amazing new site, MB3's Returning Citizen Guide (returningcitizenguide.com). This guide is a one-stop resource center that provides links to many, many resources that can be used by those returning from places of incarceration as well as by the mentors who walk alongside them and provide nurture, support and accountability. A grant from the Community Foundation of Louisville helped make this possible.

Ways To Support MB3

- Become a **Volunteer** or **Mentor**
- Shop on **Amazon Smile** and set MB3 as the non-profit to receive a percent of your purchases from Amazon.
- Create a **Facebook fundraiser** for MB3 in honor of special events such as your birthday.
- Have a lasting impact on MB3 with a **Monthly Recurring Donation** by checking the recurring donation box when you make your donation.
- Participate in #Giving Tuesday

#GIVING
TUESDAY

November 27, 2018

Donate to MB3 on #GivingTuesday, a post-Thanksgiving opportunity to support your favorite charities. MB3 is dependent upon the gifts of our partners and friends. No government funding for us. Help MB3 grow and reach more and more people in need as they come home after being incarcerated.

There are 3 ways to participate:

- If you are on Facebook, FB is matching all donations on #GT – doubling your donation. You can donate directly on our **FB page** using the **DONATE** button, or
- Create your own fundraiser and by **GOING HERE**
- If you would rather donate directly to MB3, go to our website and **DONATE HERE**

Some of the faces of those helped by MB3



Your donation can help us add more pictures to this group.

Become a MB3 mentor and help change lives.



MB3 to Begin a Micro-credit Lending Program



With a generous gift from the Kentucky Social Welfare Foundation, MB3 will begin a micro-credit lending program specifically for returning citizens. The program will provide small no-interest loans in two categories. First, to provide funds for those just out of prison and jail who have no funds and need just enough to help pay that first month's rent or deposit on a safe and affordable rental unit until they get their first paycheck. Or it may be used to help with transportation, work clothes or simple hygiene supplies. Once they find employment, payments can begin in affordable amounts with no interest charged so that the fund can be replenished for the next person in need.

Second, it will provide funds for start-up businesses. Finding employment can be difficult and often starting your own business is the best route to take for returning citizens. These no-interest loans can help purchase equipment to start a lawn care service or a catering business. It's just another way to offer opportunities for a successful reentry back into our community, a way to avoid predatory payday lenders and a chance to pay it forward. Thanks to the Kentucky Social Welfare Foundation.



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



Mission Behind Bars and Beyond is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

©Copyright 2018 Mission Behind Bars and Beyond