

# COURAGE TO Change



*A Campaign for* **Dismas Home**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE





Your Mother. Your Daughter. Your Sister. Your Friend. *She Matters.*



It takes just one misguided decision.

*"Two years ago, I was sitting in state prison with no future and very little hope. I had been using drugs for a very long time and felt separate from the things that make you welcome and whole and complete. Even separated from my true self..."*

Women's incarceration and involvement in New Hampshire's criminal justice system are increasing faster than men's. Drugs, alcohol abuse, and complex rehabilitation and treatment needs are some of the root causes behind the increase in numbers. Poverty, unemployment, and past victimization by domestic violence are also underlying factors.

Women's role as primary caregivers for children complicates their incarceration and path to rehabilitation. While these multiple needs do not excuse women's crimes, they provide a context for understanding their involvement in the system and the challenges they face in getting out. **They also suggest a need for programs with comprehensive support and services at the state level.**

In 2016, Dismas Home was established by Julie McCarthy-Brown and Jack McCarthy to address the needs of justice-involved women in NH.

*...Then I found Dismas Home. Dismas has been incredibly welcoming to me. I am now celebrating my 3rd anniversary of being clean after twenty years of fighting addiction. That's the first time in my life I have been able to do that. Dismas Home is everything to us and now they have given me an opportunity to pay it forward by helping other women who, like me, need exactly what the Dismas program offers. I am reunited with my children and grandchildren, fully employed, and am living independently.*

*Dismas Home is the difference between me being alive and not being alive. It means the difference between me being in prison and not being in prison. The difference between me having a life with my children and not."*

—Jewel B.



## A UNICORN — RARE AND VALUED

The Dismas program has been called “a unicorn” as the only organization in the State of New Hampshire to serve exclusively justice-involved women. Our 90-day treatment program is designed to treat the trauma behind substance misuse, allowing residents to get physically and mentally healthy. When ready, residents move into our Transitional Living Program (TLP), where they continue to receive group and individual therapy, but are also educated with life skills and heavy case management, aiding in workforce development and housing. On average, a resident stays for ten months, and Dismas serves 16-20 women in one year. **To date, women who have completed the 90-day treatment program and TLP have been more than 95% successful in making the transition back into the community.**

In just eight years, we have grown from a small grassroots program in Manchester, NH, to a **statewide** program **partnering with the Department of Corrections, healthcare providers, social service agencies, educational institutions, developers, law enforcement, and employers** to support and empower women, like Jewel, who dared to transition away from the justice system, to build a meaningful life.

## OUR VISION IN ACTION. BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE.

To meet the needs of women, Dismas Home is embarking on a **\$2.5 million** capital campaign to raise funds to purchase a second home, which will be located in Manchester, NH, to serve more justice-involved women and provide them with the clinical, social, and emotional support they need to thrive.

*"I am truly grateful for the simple fact that a complete stranger believed in me enough to help me follow my dreams. This single gesture has given me faith, confidence in myself, and a belief that I won't fail. I've spent my entire life thinking I wasn't good enough to live a sober, happy, and fulfilling life. Today, I know in my heart that I am finally on my way to where I'm supposed to be."*

—Kathy, a former DHNH resident





## UNIQUE CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN — A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, understanding and acknowledging what will most directly benefit women post-release is only becoming more critical: between 1978 and 2015, women’s state prison populations grew by 834% (compared to 367% for men).

60% of women in state or federal prisons and 80% in jails are mothers.

Our criminal justice and criminal legal system were designed to address the needs of men, primarily violent men. Policies that address women are often an afterthought and dismissed. When women are released from prison, they don't just have to worry about their well-being. **Close to 60% of women in state or federal prisons and 80% in jails are mothers.** This complicates what resources women require upon release and how much time and energy they have to commit to recovery.

## EVIDENCE FOR THE PLACES WE CAN GO IN NH

States that have intensive re-entry programs for women are seeing a significant drop in recidivism. These programs keep women out of the justice system and put them back into the community, where they can live the life each of us deserves, with health, family, and friends. The proof in these programs is the recidivism rate.

PROGRAM/ STATE	RECIDIVISM RATE	PROGRAMS/SERVICES OFFERED	FUNDING
The Intensive Re-entry Program (RPS), VA	18.4%	Reentry programs and services, facilitate stakeholder collaboration, & provide education & training regarding reentry best practices. Housing, employment, education, physical & mental health, chemical dependency, & basic life skills. Coordinates access to community resources that support justice-involved individuals & provides oversight and support for local reentry councils.	State
The Reentry Initiative (TRI), CO	5.6%	Mental health & substance abuse treatment, classes on self-sufficiency, & connects participants with mentors, as well as housing, transportation, & employment.	Work and Gain Education and Employment Skills (WAGEES)
The Women in Recovery program (WIR), OK.	6.7%	Works closely with the criminal justice system and various community partners to ensure program participants receive supervision, substance abuse and mental health treatment, education, workforce readiness training, and family reunification services.	Private Charitable Foundations and Medicaid Reimbursement
A New Way of Life, CA	1%	Housing, case management, pro bono legal services, advocacy, and leadership development	Individuals, Foundations, & Government Subcontracts



OVER \$23 MILLION Annual cost for housing female inmates in NH

The recidivism rate in **New Hampshire is 44%**. On any given day in New Hampshire, the National Institute of Justice estimates there are about 430 women behind bars, plus 1,450 who are or were under correctional supervision in the community during the past year and approximately 960 who were released from county houses of correction at some point during the past year, or 2,850 women in all (this estimate is adjusted to avoid double counting individuals). With increasing admissions to the houses of correction and state prison, the system is becoming increasingly overburdened, supervising and addressing the complex needs of the women offender population. **From an economic perspective, the cost to house a female inmate is \$54,386 per year. Annually, the overall financial cost of housing female inmates in the State of New Hampshire amounts to \$23,385,980!**

A few people cycling through jails in New Hampshire are utilizing a substantial number of resources at significant cost to the counties and the state.

The population served by Dismas Home **is faced with the same rigors of life we all are – the need for a livable wage, transportation, housing, child- or elder- care – with additional challenges related to their Substance Use Disorder (SUC) and criminal background.** Research tells us that the way to lower recidivism is through clinical support, education, employment, safe housing, and community. Federal and State funding is dedicated to numerous gender-responsive support services programs in most states, but **not in New Hampshire.**

In August 2023, **The Justice Reinvestment Initiative presented evidence supporting the expansion at Dismas Home.** Specifically, their analysis found







that a few people cycling through jails in New Hampshire are utilizing a substantial number of resources at significant cost to the counties and the state. These high utilizers of jail services had more complex and more frequent behavioral health-related encounters than their non-high utilizer counterparts, including Behavioral Health Claims (93%), Mental Health Primary Diagnosis (73%), and Substance Use Disorder Primary Diagnosis (84%).

High utilizers had a greater likelihood of being booked into jail for lower-level, nonviolent crimes.

The group found that re-entry and community services vary significantly from county to county, contributing to long wait times and gaps in reintegration services, particularly for the complex high-utilizer population. High utilizers had a greater likelihood of being booked into jail for lower-level crimes (like criminal trespassing), probation and parole violations,

and failure to appear (FTA)/bail charges. They were less likely to be booked for violent offenses. They had increased usage of mental health, and substance use-related Medicaid services and more encounters with the emergency room. High-utilizers had more often experienced homelessness. These findings indicate an increased need for comprehensive services tailored to this population’s risk and needs. Work with us to provide and expand those services offered at Dismas Home.

What sets New Hampshire apart from other gender-based programs throughout the country is there are no State or Federal funds available for female post-incarceration transition services. **Dismas Home of NH, is the only nonprofit agency dedicated to exclusively serving justice-involved women with substance misuse disorder and trauma-induced mental health issues AND comprehensive wrap-around services.**

*“As a superior court judge, I see so many people struggling with mental health and substance use disorder who need support like housing to help them stay out of the criminal justice system and stay active in the community. I recently visited Dismas Home and was impressed with the comfort, support, and treatment they provide. I know firsthand that several drug court participants would never be successful without Dismas Home. I am so grateful for the work they do!”*

—Judge Tina Nadeau, Chief Justice NH Superior Court



## INSPIRED BY COURAGE

In March 2022, the Dismas Home Board of Directors underwent a strategic planning process to address the growing need for post-incarceration services. Inspired to improve women’s families and the collective lives who live in our State; inspired by the fact that moving justice-involved women into productive lives and knowing it works in other states; and inspired by the feedback we received in our Funding Feasibility Study, our plan for the next five years is to create expanded program goals.

We plan to increase our program capacity over the next ten years. Our short-term goal is to increase capacity from 8 residents in one building to 28 residents in two buildings. Our home, located at 102 Fourth St, Manchester will continue to house our 90-day treatment program serving eight women in a cohort.

## A NEW TRANSITIONAL LIVING HOME

We are currently under agreement to purchase a 10,800-square-foot building, which will house 20 women, on 571 Holt Avenue in Manchester, NH. Once remodeled, this property will have ten bedrooms, a commercial kitchen, living and dining space, clinical and executive office space, and recreational and outdoor gardening space. This second location will provide 24/7 clinical staffing. Our second property will house residents for up to **six months**. And with the appropriate funding mix and relationships, we anticipate serving 48-60 women annually by 2032.

Residents will receive clinical services, including customized treatment plans based on the goals and objectives of the resident using the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) dimensions, which are reviewed and revised every four weeks; two (2) hours of individual mental health treatment each week (or more as needed), one hour of intensive case management a week conducted by a Certified Recovery Support Worker (CRSW); participation in a one hour of Relapse and Prevention Group each week, two (2) additional one-hour group therapy sessions each week; compliance with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and self-administered medications as applicable.



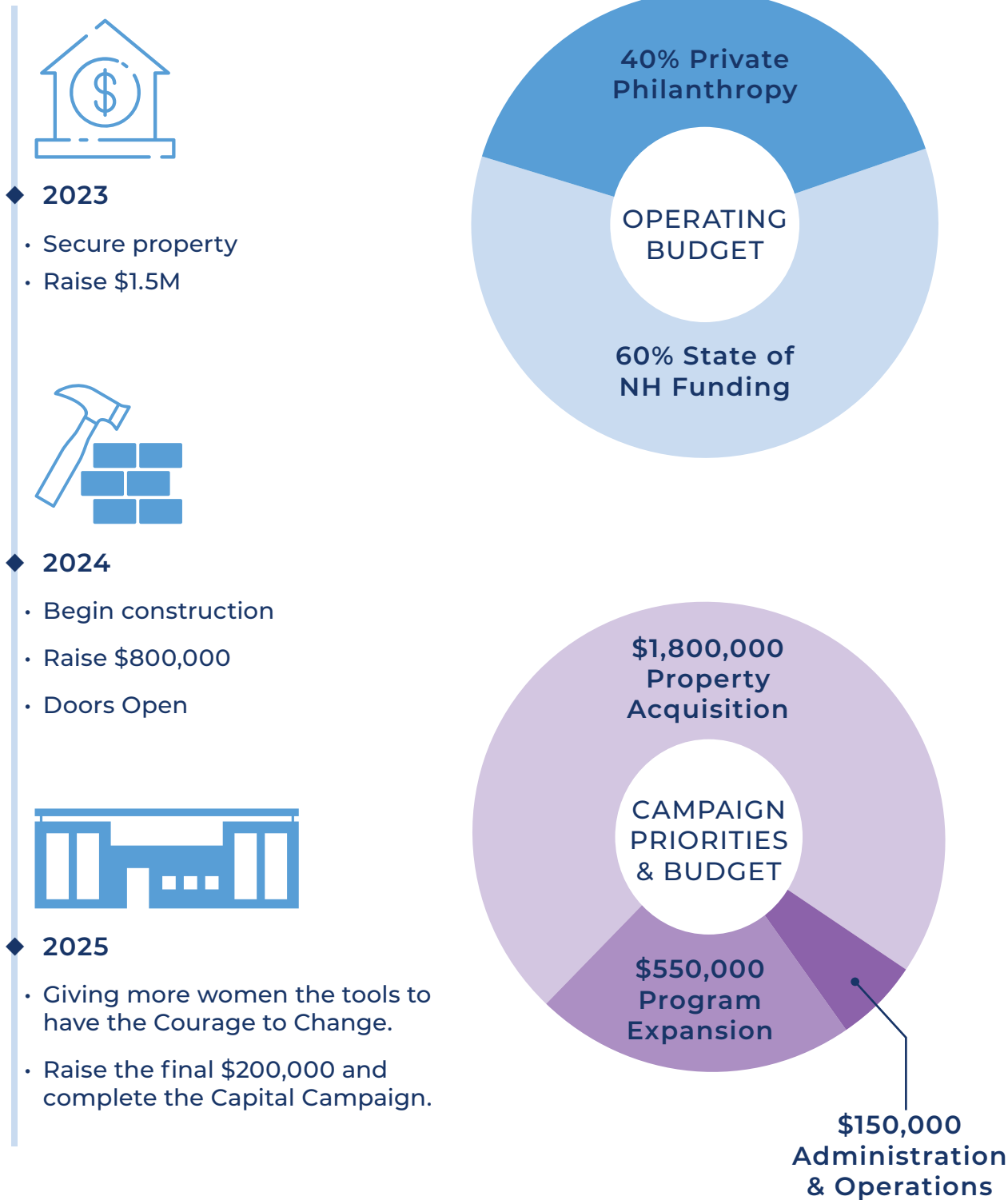
While the residents develop their post-Dismas Home network (clinical, social, and employment), our clinical support goal is to transition them to other providers who can care for them long-term, post-Dismas. We will encourage them to be part of the Dismas Family by attending weekly groups.





# BUILDING A TRANSFORMATIVE FUTURE

## TIMELINE



# HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

## Educational Pathway

Because many residents admitted to Dismas Home do not have a high school diploma, Dismas Home will require and offer access to this essential academic credential.

## Safe Housing

A safe, clean, affordable home in a desirable community goes hand in hand with meaningful employment, family reunification, and long-term success. Most, if not all, residents leaving Dismas Home are not financially able to rent or own a place far away from the life they led before incarceration and Dismas Home. A re-entry specialist will work with them to ensure affordable, safe, and stable housing — which is crucial to a full recovery, employment, and family reunification — and a financial plan before graduating from this phase.

## Meaningful Employment Opportunities

Dismas Home will work with the Manchester Area Human Resources Association and the Greater Concord Human Resources Association to train our residents in resume writing, interviewing skills, and aligned employment search. Dismas Home’s Certified Recovery Service Workers (CRSW) will assist residents in writing letters for waivers and recommendations to help overcome the obstacles of SUD and criminal background checks.

## Collaborations and Partnerships

Dismas Home will continue to formulate an outreach to establish a collaborative network with the following sectors — housing workforce development, construction, higher education, criminal justice, entrepreneurial development, and healthcare. These relationships will add expertise and support services to enrich the opportunities for residents. Whole-community participation at this high level is critical for long-term sustainable program success and systems change.

## Program Transportation

Dismas Home believes residents must learn independence and self-sufficiency and that, currently, providing transportation is a "last resort." However, we recognize that we occasionally desire to assist residents with transportation to medical appointments, court hearings, school, interviews, and employment once secured. We plan for transportation support services to reduce barriers to necessary services and jobs.







## PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING HOPE & SUPPORTING COURAGE

Dismas Home seeks generous support from individuals, businesses, corporations, and foundations to bring this project to fruition. **We invite you to join us on this incredible journey** to serve women in NH who have decided to reclaim their lives and need the most support to build a strong foundation for long-term success.

Please consider how you might work with us to change lives with a gift to the **Courage to Change Campaign**.

Dismas Home recognizes the generosity of our donors through signature naming opportunities. Naming opportunities are a unique way to create a legacy for yourself, honor a loved one, or build awareness for your company/organization's community support. More information regarding naming opportunities is available upon request.



## REQUEST FOR PRESENTATIONS AND MEETINGS

To request an informational meeting, please get in touch with Cheryll Andrews, Executive Director, at 603-782-3004 or [cheryll.andrews@dismashomenh.org](mailto:cheryll.andrews@dismashomenh.org).

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Julie McCarthy-Brown, Board Chair; Founder of Dismas Home
- Carol McGarry, Treasurer, retired
- Mariette Young, Secretary, retired
- Teresa Ponn, Director; retired
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- Amy Cassin, Director; Small Business Relationship Manager, TD Bank

### STAFF

- Cheryll Andrews, Executive Director
- Colleen Brough, Operations Director
- Michele Barbrie, Clinician, CRSW, LDAC
- Alyssa Goodrich, Executive Assistant
- Sharon Martel, Finance Director

Dismas Home in Manchester, NH is our state's first of its kind. We are purposefully multicultural, accessible, and welcoming. We exist to change lives. Dismas Home is a not-for-profit 501 (C)3, and our Federal Tax Identification Number is 47-2722572. Gifts to the **Courage to Change Campaign** are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

*"Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness, will we discover the infinite power of our light." —Brene Brown*




THANK YOU for making our communities stronger! To learn more about ways to support justice-involved women in your community, please scan this QR Code.







**Dismas Home**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

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