

**“BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,  
FOR THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.”**

(MATTHEW 5:7)



## **OUR FAITH IN ACTION**

A Project Funded by TIA in 2016

### ***St. Dismas Prison Ministry***

#### **Let's Journey Together Prisoner Reintegration and Aftercare Program**

Over the last three years, we have received 152 inmate applications for support with their planning and reintegration back into the community. Of the 152 applications received, 12 were not accepted into the program because they lacked the motivation or accountability required by the program. 17 participants we transferred and referred to other institutions while involved in the program. In the institution or community, 26 participants withdrew from the program for personal reasons and 25 were terminated by the program for noncompliance. 72 inmates participated in our program of which 32 participants successfully followed their plan without being revoked or re-offending and are now happy and contributing members of the community. Many of them are still active in the program promoting and supporting newer participants. 18 are still being supported in the community on parole and 19 are being supported in the institution. Only 3 participants were revoked or reoffended. Over 9,400 volunteer hours were provided to develop and facilitate our programs during this period. As result we have had a 3 year program participant success rate of 95.83%.

**2014** - 51 Applications: 6 not accepted, 4 transferred, 15 withdrew 2 terminated, 17 successful. 4 active in community, 1 revoked/reoffended. Area participants released to - Calgary 18, Edmonton 26. Other 7

**2015** - 54 Applications: 1 not accepted, 11 transferred, 6 withdrew 12 terminated, 17 successful. 4 active in community, 1 revoked/reoffended. Area participants released to - Calgary 26, Edmonton 16. Other 9

**2016** - 47 Applications: 5 not accepted, 2 transferred 5 withdrew 11 terminated, 3 successful, 5 active in community, 16 Active in institution, 0 revoked/reoffended. Area participants released to - Calgary 16, Edmonton 19. Other 9

#### **Celebrate Recovery (Addiction, Life Hurts and Issues Recovery Program)**

In 2016 our first year of this new support program, we facilitated 3 separate 12 week sessions of Celebrate Recovery serving over 100 inmates in the Drumheller institution. We received tremendous response and requests for the program from the inmates.

#### **Dismas Housing (Safe and Secure Transitional Housing for Released Inmates)**

We are currently partnering with Victory Manor in Calgary and Harmony House in Edmonton to provide safe beds upon release. We have assisted over 38 released inmates with transitional housing and are perusing our own transitional house where all participants will be housed together and provide easier access for providing support programs. In 2016 we provided \$22,479 in safe and secure transitional housing to released inmates.

#### **Dismas Contracting (Employment and Educational Support for Released Inmates)**

We have developed a working relationship with the John Howard Society to assist our participants through their existing employment counselling, training and employment opportunities programs.

We are purchasing landscaping equipment and setting up a not for profit company to employ and train released inmates as well as become a source of revenue for our ministry programs.

#### **Community Mentorship**

Each participant in our reintegration and aftercare program is paired up with a trained community mentor or mentor group to provide support, accountability and belonging upon release. We provide monthly aftercare social events which provide our participants an opportunity to socialize and support each other.

Submitted by Rev. Mr. Gary Haney, President and Executive Director

