

The Theotherapy Project

NEWSLETTER

"Making Reduction In Recidivism A Reality"

July 2009

Latest Press



Two Classes Graduate...Three
New Classes To Start!

Just this month we graduated two very large classes of inmates in the Theotherapy Project Program at Tennessee Prison for Women and at Turney Center Industrial Prison.

In addition, we were able to graduate 12 new fully qualified inmate facilitators at TPFW.

These ladies will help lead small groups and some will even help with the teaching for the new class beginning next month.

We have 96 male inmates signed up for the new six-month phase of the program beginning July 26th and we have over 100 female inmates signed up at the TPFW main compound for the new class beginning August 12th.

We just received an invitation from Chaplain Walker at TPFW to begin a new program at the TPFW Annex on August 11th. We anticipate a large enrollment for that class as well. The Annex

Rivera House Transition Home for Women Up and Running!



Thanks for your prayers and support! After being approved by the Tennessee State Board of Probation and Parole in late May, the Rivera House welcomed its first resident (Ginger) from Tennessee Prison for Women. Within the next month or two, we expect more residents to join us, all of whom need your prayers to find jobs and to be able to overcome societal stigmas as they work hard to learn the skills needed to live life in the free world.

Word is quickly spreading among the female inmate population at TPFW here in Nashville as well as at the womens prison in Memphis, and we have many applications on file for ladies awaiting a favorable outcome from their parole hearings.

We anticipate a full house in the next several months and are excited about what we are able to offer these ladies as they make a safe and successful transition back into society.

We still need financial support as well as your prayers. In this tough economy, it is becoming much more difficult to get consistent donations for the ministry, yet we are compelled by the calling God has given us to provide this home, our prison programs and the aftercare support groups for many incarcerated men and women as well as for former inmates. We need you!

You would be surprised at how little these women leave prison with. Often, they walk out of the facility with literally just the clothes on their backs...that's it. When they get out, they need things you and I take for granted: underwear, clothing, shoes, etc. Many of them have gained weight while incarcerated and literally have to start all over from scratch with the basics of just finding clothes they can wear to a job interview. We still need sheet sets for regular twin sized beds, blankets for twin sized beds and shampoo.

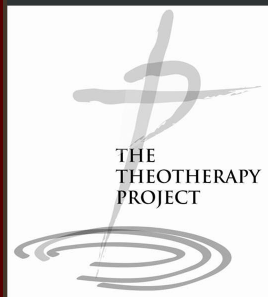
If some of you would like to "adopt a resident" at the Rivera House by purchasing underwear items, please let us know and we will let you know what sizes are needed...or you may wish to donate funds for

is in a different building with women who cannot participate in our regular class on the main compound.

Some of the women participated in the Theotherapy program at the main compound before being transferred over to the Annex and I have been receiving letters every week from them asking when we will start a Theotherapy program over there. We are thankful the door is now open to do that.

Keep us in your prayers. We are grateful for the encouragement so many of you give us.

We want to give a very special word of thanks to all of you who came out to the Rivera House housewarming in early June. Thanks for the donations of furniture, linens, decorations for the house, books, music, etc. Also, we want to say a special word of thanks to our pastoral team from the Anchor Fellowship, Joshua Stump, Chris Hayzlett and Christy Brooks for being there to lead worship and have a special prayer of dedication. Thanks to Luena Darr for being there along with Sheila Debarry and many, many others. Your generosity is so appreciated!



those particular items and we will purchase them.

Jobs are hard to come by right now in this economy, especially if you have a prison record, and we are working hard to find local businesses who are felony-friendly employers. Whether or not the ladies find jobs right away, we still need to feed, shelter and clothe them when they get out. You can help!

Please consider a regular and consistent donation of any amount. No amount is too small...no amount is too large. Every penny of what comes in goes to fund our prison programs and the Rivera House Transition Home for Women. To Donate securely online, go to www.theotherapyproject.com and click on the DONATE tab. We look forward to hearing from you.

God bless,

Mark



Alisha, her daughter Kailey and her two sisters at a family visit at TPFW.

Thank you for caring! Tell your friends about us and visit us on the web at www.theotherapyproject.com

Mark West
The Theotherapy Project