



RENAISSANCE INC
HALFWAY - HOME . NET

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"Restoring men released on parole by assisting them to successfully reintegrate into our community"
RECLAIM. REBUILD. REINTEGRATE.

March 2019

Dear Friends of Renaissance,

First off, thank you all for your generous, continued support of Renaissance and its mission. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure have sustained our work of assisting our men transition to meaningful lives in the "free world."

Currently, we lack an editor for a newsletter since Douglass Porter is devoting full time to family matters and rightfully deserves relief from this task. Nevertheless, I feel it is necessary to communicate with you about the goings-on at Renaissance, thus this letter.

To begin, in December our executive director, Ty Pelham, departed to take a position with increased salary and benefits. Since then, I have replaced him as interim executive director, with board member, Dr. Joe Crowley, assisting me. We are working pro bono to save Renaissance dollars until we find a replacement. The board has also decided that for the immediate future, we will scale down the position to program manager, whose focus will be on administration and house operations. Fund raising and public relations, typically among an executive director's duties, will become the purview of the board. We are doing this to lower the salary requirement until we put Renaissance on a sounder, more sustainable financial footing.

House operations, overseen by House Superintendent Dereck Wise, continue in an effective manner. Since sitting in the executive director's chair, I've seen first hand the challenges our men face in their transition process and the real benefits of our program in providing them a structured, stable living environment.

Our contract with Alabama Department of Pardons and Paroles for housing men enrolled in their Day Reporting Center (DRC) Program is well underway. We receive just under \$600 per man per month for those we house under their program. Ten of our 14 beds are reserved DRC residents, though we're currently averaging 2-4 DRC residents at a time. We anticipate higher DRC occupancy as the program matures.

We just hosted our annual benefit Ping Pong Tournament on March 1-2. Many of you attended and (presumably) enjoyed the Preview Party, and perhaps played in Saturday's tournament. From my perspective, both the party and the tournament were highly successful and fun was had by all. To the sponsors among you, thank you for making this event financially successful -

we cleared just under \$19,000. Please mark your calendars for next year's tournament – March 6-7, 2020, same times, same place.

In our efforts to sustain and even expand our program, we continue to reach out to people and organizations which can assist us. We are particularly interested in finding counseling/case management support that can be provided on site, as well as new job and job training opportunities.

We also seek people interested in providing recreational opportunities for our men. Life isn't only about proper living and good jobs; it's also about having fun. For example, we have a room in our office building previously used as an art studio, and we'd like to refurbish it for that purpose and find someone to teach art.

Our residence is an aging facility and is in dire need of repainting. Estimates run from \$25,000 to \$45,000. It's a complicated job and a good deal of wood will need replacement. We are pursuing assistance in financing this much needed project.

In working at Renaissance I have discovered just how important this enterprise is to the men who enter our doors and to the community we live in. Like any endeavor, life here is not without its ups and downs. As the men are challenged in their transition journey, we who operate and oversee the program are challenged with its upkeep and sustainment. Without your steadfast backing and encouragement, we could not continue, and for that I thank you. We truly value your friendship.

Please feel free to call or stop by our office for an update or answers to questions.

Best personal regards,

Nelson Smith
Board President and Interim Executive Director

Renascence, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, community service corporation.

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