



RENASCENCE 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.

October 23, 2019

Dear friends of Renascence,

As the new President of the Renascence Board of Directors, I am grateful for Nelson "Smitty" Smith's good leadership over the last two years. I must meet the work and challenges with my own gifts, yet I hope to imitate something of Smitty's sense of opportunity and sense of humor. With the support of competent, dedicated Board members and staff and you, our friends and donors, we will together continue to provide safe, affordable housing, structured programs, and communal support for men coming out of prison on parole. We aim to examine honestly what we are doing for the men and make improvements as needed.

By the nature of our mission we will always have challenges, but our position is improving and our outlook is quite positive.

- 1) Our financial position is significantly stronger than it was a year ago. We have more income and less debt.
 - Our contract (won in 2018) with the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles to provide halfway house services for men attending their nearby Day Reporting Center is now fully implemented. This steady stream of income, though it may never cover more than 20% of our budget, marks a new era—being paid for our services. A mutually respectful business relationship with the Board of Pardons and Paroles has developed.
 - To reduce our liabilities, for six months we filled our vacated Executive Director position *pro bono* with Board President, Nelson Smith, aided by Joe Crowley, and then in hiring for that position scaled it down to a part-time Program Manager position for at least six months. The resulting savings along with some of the new income allowed us to reduce our debt by more than \$30,000.
- 2) Our new Program Manager is responsible for administering the business office and the re-entry program. Danny Hester, whom we hired in June, comes to Renascence with 20+ years of experience of fiscal and program management, as well as in law-enforcement (the Alabama Troopers). In his work here, Danny has shown a keen attention to relevant detail, a purposeful and efficient initiative, and a calm, respectful demeanor. We are happy he is part of the team.
- 3) We have undertaken needed House maintenance.
 - The exterior of the house is in dire need of repainting. It is a large and complicated job that involves considerable heights difficult to reach and replacement of a fair amount of wood. After getting three professional estimates (averaging \$25,000), the Board set

about raising the money through several applications for grants from foundations and from local government and through a direct capital appeal for house maintenance. These efforts have so far brought in \$20,000 (the Montgomery County Commission was especially generous). We now have selected a bidder and negotiated that some of the cost can be reduced by our men doing work close to the ground. For example, three months ago our men power-washed and repainted the front porch.

- Inside the house, recently residents and staff have refinished the hardwood floors downstairs, stripped and waxed linoleum floors (replacing some tile), and repainted most of the adjacent baseboards. (See photos.)
- 4) We have contracted for new program services. The Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority now provides professional case management and individual counseling services one afternoon a week for our men—especially for those who do not receive counseling at the Day Reporting Center. To fund this counseling, we have applied for two different grants; one was successful and the other is pending.
 - 5) Renaissance has provided information to GuideStar, a leading service reporting on U.S. nonprofit companies and has qualified for their highest seal of transparency: Platinum. Millions of people use GuideStar information to make decisions about nonprofits and the work they do.

The above progress was only possible with the generous work of Board and staff members. For examples, House Manager Calvin Moore power-washed the front porch and walkways *pro bono*, and House Manager Courtney Jones refinished the hardwood floors.

And of course our provision of a hand-up to re-entering men is only possible because of the generous, steady prayers and donations of you, our friends and supporters. Donors during this past year are listed on a following page.

There are big challenges ahead, but with God's blessings now and God's Grace going forward, how can I keep from singing?

We still need your financial support, as much as ever, to help us pay our 24-hour staff and pay the utilities and insurances to keep our doors open. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Come see us (in person or on our website [www.halfway-home.net] or Facebook page).

Joe Crowley, President
Renaissance Board of Directors

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

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