



Renascence 2019 Annual Report



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Message from Board President, Joe Crowley

Friends,

Speaking for my predecessor, Nelson “Smitty” Smith, and myself, I can say 2019 has been a good year for Renascence. With the support of our competent, dedicated staff and Board members and you, our friends and donors, we together continue to provide safe, affordable housing, a structured program, and communal support for men coming out of prison on parole. We examine honestly what we are doing for the men and make improvements as we can.

Our mission will always present challenges, but our position is improving, and our outlook is positive.

- 1) Our financial position is significantly stronger than it was a year ago. More income and less debt.
 - Our contract (won in 2018) with the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles is now fully implemented. We provide halfway house services for men attending the nearby Day Reporting Center (DRC), and they pay us for our services (Imagine!). This steady stream of income, though this year less than 15% of our budget, makes a significant difference. A mutually respectful business relationship with the Board of Pardons and Paroles has developed.
 - To reduce our liabilities, for six months, our vacated Executive Director position was filled *pro bono* by Nelson Smith, aided by me. Then in hiring we scaled down that position to a part-time Program Manager. Resulting savings along with the new income, boosted our bottom line.
- 2) The Program Manager is responsible for nonprofit management (program, budget, staff) and resident management. We were fortunate to hire Danny Hester in June and were sad in November that he had to leave us to attend to other obligations. A former board member is now filling that position on a part-time basis. A search is in progress for a permanent Program Manager.
- 3) We have undertaken needed House maintenance.
 - Repainting of the exterior of the house is underway. The Board raised most of the \$25,000 needed through applications for grants and through a direct capital appeal. The Montgomery County Commission was especially generous. After negotiations, work has begun.
 - Inside the house, residents and staff have refinished the hardwood floors downstairs, stripped and waxed linoleum floors (replacing some tile), and repainted the adjacent baseboards.
- 4) The Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority now provides professional case management and individual counseling services at Renascence for our men--especially for those who do not receive counseling at the Day Reporting Center. Available one afternoon a week.
- 5) We qualified for Guidestar’s highest seal of transparency for nonprofits: platinum.

There are big challenges ahead, but with God’s Grace we are positive and going forward. We look forward to more residents from Pardons and Paroles now that the State has resumed parole hearings. We have applied to the Alabama Dept. of Human Resources for 50% reimbursement of expenditures to provide job-related Education and Training for our residents who receive Food Stamps.

Please see your invitation to our 2020 Ping Pong events on the next page. Come join the fun of the party and/or the tournament. Return envelope enclosed.

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

Joe Crowley

March 7 REGISTER NOW halfway-home.net
 ping pong tournament
for all ages & abilities

At the 2019 Ping Pong Tournament, players filled the tables, volleying before, between, and after their matches. Everyone had fun: families with children, senior advanced players, a man in a wheelchair who came to learn how to play, and a man who came—for the second year—from Panama City to join his veteran buddies. The brain and body benefits of ping pong blended with the spirit of recreational competition. The Preview Party had great food, beverages, live music, silent auction, and ping pong!
Save the dates for 2020: March 6-7.



You're invited to the **SLAMFEST PREVIEW PARTY**
for our exciting 2020

ping pong tournament

Party: Friday, March 6
 6 to 9 PM (adults only, please)
 Alcazar Center
 555 East Boulevard, Montgomery

*Live music by Pre Sputnik,
 Silent Auction, Food and
 Beverages, Ping Pong*

Donation **\$60/person, \$100/couple**

RSVP by check payable to Renascence, Inc.
215 Clayton Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

or pay online by credit card at
halfway-home.net & click on **PARTY RSVP**

 **RENASCENCE INC**

Mission

The **mission** of Renascence is to restore men released on probation or parole by assisting them to successfully reintegrate into our community.

Program

In Montgomery since 2006, Renascence has provided over 350 men from all over the state with stable, drug-free, housing and a structured program that requires them to set goals, take action, and be accountable. Renascence is one of very few 24/7-supervised, non-governmental residential re-entry programs in Alabama exclusively for men on probation or parole. In our large, two-story house, we can provide individual rooms to 14 men. We have two full-time staff and five part-time. For most of our residents we help them obtain identifications, food stamps, disability or social security, medical and dental services, and mental health counseling

There is a great need for programs like Renascence.

Over 8,500 men are released each year from the Alabama Department of Corrections.

- Many do not have family or friends to support them in their re-entry.
- Most have no job, few job skills, and no high school diploma.
- Over 85% have a history of chemical dependency; 30% have physical or mental disabilities.

How can they rebuild their lives and not fall back into bad habits, unless they have a place to stay that is stable, affordable, drug and alcohol free, and conducive to living responsibly? But there are very few such good home plans available to re-entering men in Alabama.

Benefits and responsibilities for Renascence residents

Benefits

- Safe housing, clothing, food, some transportation, supervision, recovery support groups, life skills training, and access to a variety of services according to their specific needs.
- Communal living and accountability.
- Effectiveness. Most graduates have remained out of prison.

Responsibilities

- Attend full time the nearby Day Reporting Center (DRC) of the Board of Pardons and Paroles OR find full-time employment or a combination of work and education and volunteer service.
- Pay on child-support and victim's compensation obligations as well as contribute 25% of employment or pension income to Renascence for housing and support services.
- Abide by all house rules and share in household chores.
- Attend all house meetings and certain evening meals. There is a nightly curfew for all.



The ribbon above shows the process for a resident moving through the Renascence Program

Working to stop the cycle of recidivism



Renascence Resident Data 2019

31 men ended residence at Renascence in 2019. Of these

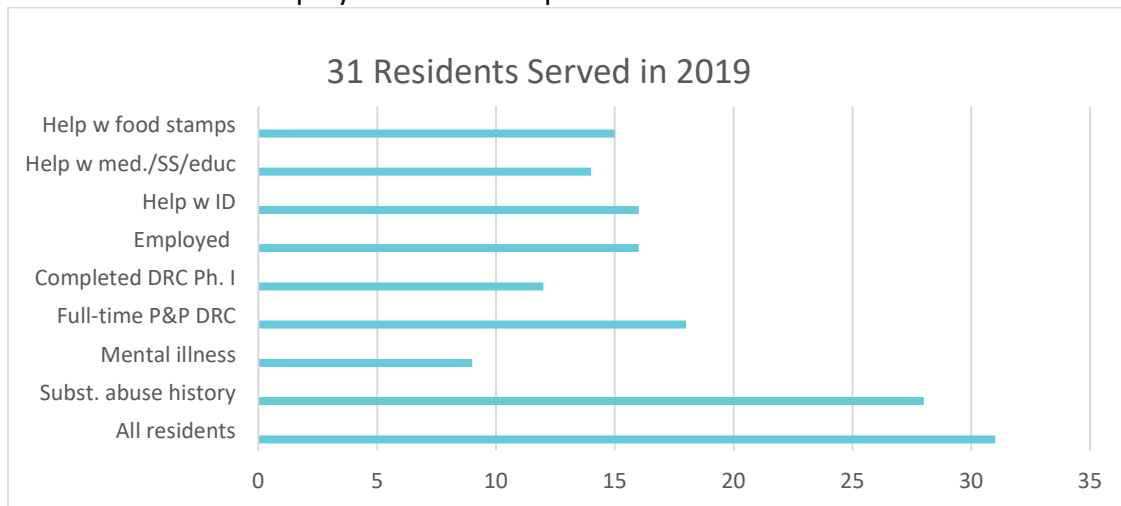
6 had stayed 6 months or more (2 for a year)

10 had stayed less than 6 months, but left in good standing

The remaining 15 had been discharged (usually for drug or alcohol use) or walked off or moved early to another situation.

31men resided at Renascence in 2019 for more than three days. Most residents fall within more than one of the categories below.

28 had a history of substance abuse (drugs or alcohol)	90%
9 had a mental illness diagnosis	29%
18 were full-time Pardons & Paroles DRC attendees	58%
12 completed DRC Phase I	39%
16 became employed full-time or part-time	52%



Representative Renaissance Achievements Of 2019

- In 2019 Renaissance's contract with the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles, to provide halfway house services to parolees in Phase I of the local Day Reporting Center (DRC) program, became fully implemented. Ten of our 14 beds are available to full-time DRC attendees. This steady stream of income, which at its fullest may cover 25% of our budget, makes a significant difference.
- Grants received in 2019 included \$24,000 applied for from foundations and government and \$49,951 from donor-advised funds.
- Renaissance provided an in-house Holistic Healing course (for all residents) and assisted men in reconnecting with their families. In 2020 we aim to provide an in-house Fatherhood course.
- Renaissance provided information to GuideStar, a leading service reporting on U.S. nonprofit companies, and 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 Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority provides professional case management and individual counseling services at Renaissance for our men. We entered a contract in the fall.

Resident Story Robert Calvert



Goodwyn and Calvert

From age 15, Robert was living on the streets of Fort Myers and Miami," and he learned to make a lot of money selling drugs, which eventually led to a heroin addiction. Thanks to his family, he also learned a *bona fide* trade, putting up drywall, which provided some stability. By his own admission, "My life was extremely high energy and self-centered, willing to deal ruthlessly to get ahead." He had one failed marriage, with a child, and later another woman and a second child, whom he has since tried hard to care for.

In his late thirties, Robert was in Alabama and was arrested in Tuscaloosa. While in the county Jail, he received a love letter from an old girlfriend who while in prison herself had, with God's grace, begun to turn her life around and challenged him to do the same. She was doing well at a halfway house in Montgomery and urged him to apply to Renaissance. He came in September 2018. After only a week he was thinking to leave, but a fellow resident encouraged him with kind listening and some help with food and cigarettes.

Then local businessman Philip Goodwyn approached Renaissance, inspired by the ministry of Fr. Greg Boyle with street gang members (*Tatoos on the Heart*). He and his electrical contractor, Tommy Manley, hired Robert and gave him steady work, material support, and mentorship. With such support and trust, Robert thrived. He committed to a year at Renaissance. He mastered his electrical work. He saved money and worked with the courts to pay some charges and get others dropped. With the help

of his employer, he bought tools and started a sideline drywall business. He and his girlfriend built their relationship into a more mature engagement. Eventually, he won full custody of his daughter. . When his year was up in September 2019, he had, with the help of his employer, acquired a house to live in with his fiancé and his daughter.

The year at Renaissance offered Robert ways to care for others around him. He modeled responsible behavior for his fellow residents and became the acknowledged House Leader. He generously served, as needed, to lead morning meditation, to drive men to the store or medical appointments or work, or to warn and admonish a wayward resident. Since leaving, Robert frequently comes back to visit with the men and staff, and his many volunteer services have included driving a resident to visit family in Birmingham and helping a former resident move into an apartment.

His journey is truly a successful transition story, of which we are privileged to be a part.

Executive Leadership

Richard Amberg

Former Publisher, *The Montgomery Advertiser*,
Gen. Manager, *Washington Times*;

Carlton Avery

Paralegal, The Vance Law Firm

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Joseph Crowley, President

Associate Professor of English, AUM - retired

Artegius Felder

Postal Carrier, USPS; Congressional District
Liaison for NALC

Carl Fisher

Chaplain (Brig. Gen.), U.S. Army Res. – Retired;
Chaplain, Federal Bureau of Prisons – Retired

RENASCENCE INC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 12/20/2019

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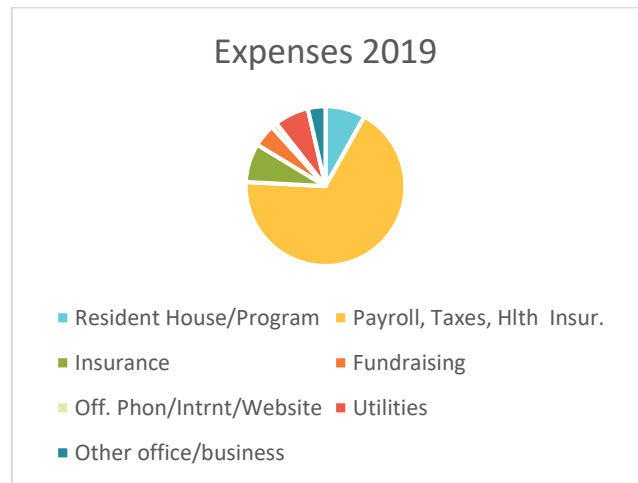
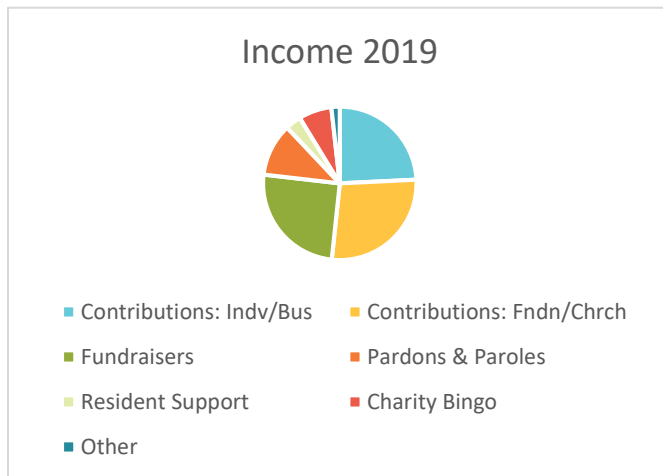
CPA; Partner, Warren Averett

Resources & Financial Management

Our biggest challenge is the high cost of running a residential re-entry program. Many foundation grants do not fund operating expenses such as salaries, insurance, and utilities. Providing safe, adequate housing and structured support services (our mission) requires a dedicated staff on duty 24/7 each week of the year. It is not surprising that staff salaries, payroll taxes, and health insurance (for the full-timers) make up almost two thirds of our expenses. Because of the population we serve, our insurance is extremely expensive. And a large house with 12-14 residents cooking, showering, washing clothes, and keeping cool in summer and warm in winter incurs high utility bills. We do everything possible to keep our operating expense low.

INCOME 2019	
Contributions: Individual/business	\$65,304
Contributions: Foundations, Churches	73,951
Fundraisers (Fall Appeal; Ping Pong)	67,789
Resident Support	8,964
Pardons & Paroles	29,959
Charity Bingo, designated beneficiary	18,748
Other	<u>4,754</u>
TOTAL	\$269,469

EXPENSES 2019	
Insurance	18,427
Resident House/Program	19,042
Payroll, Taxes, Health Insurance	158,783
Fundraising expenses	10,784
Utilities	16,397
Office Phone, Internet, Website	2,687
Other office/business	<u>8,395</u>
TOTAL	234,515



Although we have had some financially lean and challenging years since opening our doors in 2006, we have continued to maintain our house and our supportive services for the men. Our financial position significantly improved in 2019 by the fresh stream of steady income from our services to Pardons and Paroles, by downsizing personnel expenses, and by the generous services of board members and volunteers. We are optimistic about going forward in many more years of service.

Thank You to Our Donors: January 1 to December 31, 2019

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