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LA CROSSE COUNTY
JAIL MINISTRY



Volume 13 • Number 1 • Spring 2019

Your gift is greatly needed!

La Crosse County Jail Ministry Gift Form—Your Support is Welcome!



Please cut and mail

Please consider helping Jail Ministry with a tax-deductible donation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

YES, I would like to make a donation to Jail Ministry in the amount of:

_____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other \$ _____

This gift is "in memory of" _____

This gift is "in honor of" _____

Plases make checks payable to:
Jail Ministry
P.O. Box 2675
La Crosse, WI 54602-2675

Why I Serve Jail Ministry

Having served in various capacities with those who have been incarcerated and with those after their time has been served, I have increased knowledge and understanding of their reasons as to why they are where they are and have been taught more about myself and become a better person because of these experiences! In my life in giving, I receive even more!

The Beatitudes offer each of us sort of a guideline as to how to live and help those less fortunate, the oppressed, the marginalized, the outcast and those who may be pushed aside. Jesus, our Everlasting Advisor, left us a Path of how and who we can serve.

My service in jail ministry continues to help fulfill my desire to assist those who are imprisoned, and those who seemed to be "labeled" by society, as less than civil, less opportunistic, and a liability to the community. For me, the opposite seems more a reality, if one takes the time to listen, share and know the person who really tries to re-establish themselves into an asset for their community. Their personal goals, desires and hopes are, for the most part, no different than our own aims in this world. I am called to be of service to help to "provide an opportunity and create an environment which awakens, renews and stimulates their spiritual life."

They have heart and a soul like us; they laugh, cry and have fears like we do; they are human and want to be treated with dignity and respect like each of us! They want a good family, a home, a good job and someone who really cares for them, like each of us. Yes, they made a mistake, but this need not define them forever. Many do try to right their weaknesses, like we do. But because of their situations and circumstances, are not allowed or recognized to mend their ways or for other reasons, are not given a chance to prove they had been and are able to be good, deserving citizens of society! "Promoting behavioral change, social reintegration and personal well-being" is all of our responsibility in our community.

My jail ministry service makes me realize that "there, but for the Grace of God, am I." I may be only one person, but I am one person who, along with all others who are trying to improve our society, do make a difference even if we are able to help just one person who may have made the wrong decision.

Sandra Hoerer
Board Member
La Crosse Jail Ministry

A Second Chance for Change

"A Second Chance for Change" can be the difference for an inmate, to turn their life around. To grow spiritually, to change behavior in an environment of renewal, transformation, and positive change. To have their basic humanity affirmed as some of God's neediest children that have caused harm, yet are worthy of opportunity to move forward.

"A Second Change for Change" is also the theme of my quest to be a Guest Conductor of the La Crosse Symphony Orchestra, in its "Conductor Wannabe Contest" this spring.

Seven community members have stepped forward for the unique opportunity to conduct the La Crosse Symphony on June 8 by raising funds that are split between the Symphony and a nonprofit organization of their choice.

I entered the competition with La Crosse Jail Ministry as an opportunity to introduce more people to the important mission of Jail Ministry.

My musical background didn't stand out in my application. I took piano and flute lessons as a child, but I am a music supporter rather than a performer. I did crash the Tulane University Marching Band a couple of times at Mardi Gras parades, in my hometown of New Orleans. My parents

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Chaplain's Corner

"Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?"

Matthew 25:44



Springtime is an even more desperate time to be in jail. Who isn't happier with the longer days of sunlight we now enjoy, and who hasn't looked forward to seeing the last pieces of ice to melt away from yards and yield to the green that grows? And hurray for walking outside without a coat!

"Chap, what's the weather like?"

I don't want to answer. Winter was easier for me to spend most of my days in here. Now I want to be in the sunshine and breathe fresh air.

"Everything is coming back to life!"

Likewise, we all can come back to life. Thank all of you who pray, donate, or volunteer in Jail Ministry to share in the second chances... the third and fourth and more chances... that God gives all of us to come back to life and that creation in springtime so beautifully shows us in Wisconsin.

Thanks to God working through you there is more hope this spring. We began counting and more than 110 people have visited a congregation after their release from jail, thanks to the connections we make here in jail. In less than a year, 11 new congregations have scheduled to lead our weekly Sunday worship in jail. In that same time, we've had 6 volunteer trainings and trained 89 volunteers who serve in our Sunday worship, Bible studies, Moms' Prayer, and Storybook programs. Our 13 religious program offerings have totaled an average attendance of over 100 inmates every week in this first quarter of 2019 (this counts some inmates who attend more than one program in a week). Not bad for a County Jail with an average daily population of 200 inmates, I say!

We are blessed to work in Jail Ministry. Next time I will tell you about some special volunteers who started helping and organizing the Forever stamped envelopes, Bibles, magazines, playing cards, jigsaw puzzles, Word Find books, pads of paper and pencils to keep our indigent inmates connected with loved ones and to help lift their spirits. Thank you for everything you do for Jail Ministry!!

*John David
Jail Chaplain
jddavid@lacrossecounty.org*

La Crosse County Jail Ministry Donation Needs

In order of demand

1. Forever stamped envelopes (#10 business size) — these can also be used in prison
2. Paperback bibles — especially "The Life Recovery Bible" (Tyndale publisher, New Living Translation), alternatively "NIV Celebrate Recovery Study Bible" (Zondervan publisher, New International Version)
3. People magazine (less than month old)
4. Sports Illustrated magazine (less than month old)
5. TIME or Newsweek magazine (less than month old)
6. Decks of playing cards
7. Jigsaw puzzles
8. Word search books
9. Pads of paper (glue binding, NO STAPLES please)
10. Pencils

Donated money to purchase items (Donations that cannot be accepted and must be purchased by jail staff)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Deodorant | 6. Brush |
| 2. Conditioner | 7. Comb |
| 3. Lotion | 8. Toothpaste |
| 4. Soap | 9. Toothbrush |
| 5. Shampoo | 10. Cup |

La Crosse County Jail Ministry Board Members

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If you would like to serve on the La Crosse Jail Ministry Board, email chaplain@lacrossejailministry.org and ask for more information.

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are natives of Czechoslovakia so the great symphonic composers Smetana and Dvorak are my Hometown Team. Among my fondest music memories are Saturday mornings listening to the Metropolitan Opera on my mom's transistor radio, and then later here in La Crosse at the Marcus Theater.

The Marcus Theater was where FSPA Sister Mary Ann Gschwind befriended my mom and I after Hurricane Katrina forced my parents to move here from New Orleans. Sister Mary Ann has been a longtime Symphony Board member and Jail Ministry Board member, so my motivation for entering this competition is also to repay her friendship to us, and to continue her work with both the Symphony and Jail Ministry.

Jail Ministry Board Members Marilyn Arndt and Al Louis also have been La Crosse Symphony Board Members and Sandra Hooser is a frequent usher. They are pulling together for my "victory."

Votes to gather public support and raise awareness of Jail Ministry are \$2 each and you are welcome to vote in multiples.

Voting can be done online at www.lacrossesympphony.org, or mail your vote to 201 Main Street, Suite 230, La Crosse, WI 54601. Please be sure to indicate you are voting for Maureen Freedland. The deadline to vote is June 4. LIKE us on Facebook at SecondChanceforChange.

Thank you for giving a Second Chance for Change.

*Maureen Freedland
Past President and current Board Member
La Crosse Jail Ministry*

We've updated our website!

Please go to <http://www.lacrossejailministry.org/> to view the updates and a special video from Channel 19 on the La Crosse Jail Ministry.

We are going electronic and need help from you!

If you would prefer receiving this newsletter and other news from La Crosse Jail Ministry electronically, send your email address to chaplain@lacrossejailministry.org Help us save money on postage and paper.

A Second Chance for Change

*Deadline to vote:
June 4th - Each vote \$2
Multiple votes are welcome*

Voting for Maureen Freedland benefits the **La Crosse Symphony**, and her charity the **La Crosse Jail Ministry**, providing an environment of renewal, transformation, and positive change for our community.



*Vote for Maureen for
LSO Conductor Wannabe*

Vote at:

www.lacrossesympphony.org/conductor-wannabe-donations
or mail your vote to:
201 Main Street, Suite 230, La Crosse, WI 54601

La Crosse Symphony Orchestra

LIKE us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SecondChanceforChange>

"Jail Ministry plays an integral part in helping people change their lives. It provides healthy role models and support when people are released from jail, which is a very crucial time. Most people cannot change without God's help, and Jail Ministry is there to give support and assistance."

*Captain Steve Anderson
La Crosse County Jail*

The La Crosse Jail Ministry Board would like to thank Captain Steve Anderson for his support of our ministry over the years. He faithfully attended many meetings, shared his wisdom with us and assisted the work of our ministry in the jail. We hope that his retirement will be blessed with joy and peace!