

LA CROSSE COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY

P.O. Box 2675
La Crosse, WI 54602-2675

Looking for an easier way to donate funds?

Donations to support the La Crosse Jail Ministry can be made online at Lacrossejailministry.org (Support & Donate).

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Our Mission:
La Crosse Jail Ministry offers inmates spiritual direction, rehabilitative support, and connections to faith communities.



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FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT LA CROSSE JAIL MINISTRY

Burrachos Fresh Mexican Grill

Wednesday, May 17th from 4pm - 8pm

25% of Sales will be donated to La Crosse Jail Ministry!

At the register, please be sure to let the cashier know you are here for the fundraiser.

25% of Sales will be donated ALL DAY for ONLINE ORDERS

at www.burrachos.com *If ordering online, add La Crosse Jail Ministry into the Comments, so we can be sure to count it!*



9432 WI-16 in Onalaska | 608.781.5900

WORDS OF GRATITUDE FOR A CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

The Circle team I have been blessed with has been incredible and has directly influenced my path of sobriety and life recovery. They have all become great friends and some of my closest allies.



Circle of Support

Not only are they an incredible emotional support, but they went out of their way to point me towards resources I was largely unaware of as I was returning to a life of independence here in La Crosse. Through the Circle I was able to navigate difficult life situations and discover a plethora of opportunities and new connections. Were it not for their input, I would not likely have landed such a perfect place to

live, furniture in my apartment, or amassed the significant support network I enjoy today.

I can say unequivocally that life today is more fulfilling and less stressful than I have ever known. Obviously, this required *(and still requires)* a lot of hard internal and external work, but I am incredibly grateful to my Circle of Support team for their love and encouragement along the way. My gratitude for this program knows no bounds and I hope to be involved with Circles of Support on the other side when the time and situation is appropriate.

Core Member & Former Inmate

Your gift is greatly needed!

Donations to our ministry can be made online at lacrossejailministry.org (Support & Donate)

Please cut and mail

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

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

**LA CROSSE JAIL MINISTRY
2023 BOARD MEMBERS**

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THE JAIL HAS EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS!

Hope and Jimmy are named after the very first Chaplain who served La Crosse Jail Ministry, James D. Johnson. Chaplain Jim served for 18 years and was well known for the hope he gave to those who were incarcerated. The dogs serve with their handlers and are in the jail to support both the inmates and the staff. They bring a lot of joy as you can't help but smile when these two are around. When they are brought through the blocks, they brighten the day.

The two also bring comfort. Being incarcerated can be very stressful. There are a lot of unknowns; you are surrounded by people you don't know, and you can't be near those you consider your family. It can be even harder if there is a life event you are missing such as a child's birthday, a funeral, a family member's hospitalization, an accident, etc. The correctional officers, the therapists and I work to bring them comfort, but the dogs can provide the physical comfort often needed. They are there to be hugged, petted, and often offer a few licks of assurance.

This comfort helps the staff too. A dog break is welcomed, for example, after an emergency medical event.



Deb Moan & Hope



Ryan Schlicht & Jimmy

WORDS FROM AN INMATE

"I would like to take this moment to thank the Jail Ministry and Chaplain for the care and consideration of those within."

DONATION NEEDS

With the change of season, the clothing needs have changed. We are now looking for the following items: rain jackets, t-shirts, and elastic waist gym shorts. We could also use backpacks. If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them off at Coulee Life Church in Onalaska. The drop off location is open from 9 to 6 Monday through Friday.

Looking for additional suggestions of what to donate to the jail? You'll find a list on our Support/Donate page on our website at Lacrossejailministry.org.

NOTED DONATIONS

When inmates are leaving the jail, they have the option of getting a check for the amount left on their jail account or donating it. So far this year \$56.04 has been donated to the jail ministry. We feel blessed that they have opted to support us.

WHY I CHOSE TO VOLUNTEER

When I heard there was an opening on the Jail Ministry Board, I gave it some serious thought. I'd been looking for a way to serve. I was told the Jail Ministry Board met every other month and the meetings were scheduled at a time that was literally right after work. I worked just blocks from



Christine Magnuson

where they met at Western Technical College. I thought, "I could do that!" My mind leapt to thoughts of what Jesus had to say about serving the poor, the destitute, the lonely.

When Jesus was berated for eating with tax collectors and sinners, he answered that "it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17).

I then considered my work history with inmates and those in the La Crosse County Jail. For years when I worked for Workforce Connections (an employment and training non-profit agency), I had gone into the Prairie du Chien prison to provide employment and training services to those who were soon to be released. We taught them employability skills and addressed barriers to employment. When I was doing this work, it was made

clear to me that these men were much like any other person, only they had made bad choices. I was later trained to teach a program about making good choices which we then taught.

Later I worked for a few years in two different "Building Opportunities" programs. In those programs, I was an employability counselor (had my degree in counseling by this time). I did a lot of listening and training. These youth were between the ages of 16 and 21. They were likely truant, and some were dealing with attention deficit disorder, substance abuse, and anger issues. I loved working with them.

While working for Western Technical College, I was asked to help with Project Proven. In that program I went into the La Crosse County Jail and taught one part of a curriculum that included helping inmates consider college courses. Good employment was emphasized as the key to staying out of jail. Project Proven impressed me as much as the other programs I had worked on. From my years of experience, I could see that the criminal justice system was improving, ever so gradually, but improving just the same.

For all the reasons above plus the fond memories of working with Ann Wales, I made a decision. I applied to become a member of the Board. Recently, I was pleased to be asked to serve on and chair the Outreach Committee. What a joy to be able to still make a difference.



Volunteers from Living Word Christian Church

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I was challenged recently by someone who felt that all efforts to help inmates are useless. I started to do a mental inventory then

of all of those who I knew had never come back to jail. It was great to remind myself of their names. I also just yesterday



Ann Wales

ran into a former inmate who told me they were attending Horizon Christian Fellowship and had found employment. That's a win!

There are many more, I am sure, who I can't name who perhaps you can name, such as those who are your family members or attend your faith community. It is the nature of our ministry that we can't quantify all the wins. I could count those who return to jail, that would be easy. Instead, I am choosing to count those who ask for a video visit from a spiritual leader, those who ask for a book on faith, those who reach out to meet with me to discuss their faith, those who attend services or studies, those who ask me Bible questions, those who do ask to be a part of a circle, and those who need supplies or clothes.

I am also choosing to count those who faithfully donate finances or supplies or clothes and those who faithfully turn up week after week to provide mentoring, services, and studies. Their faith and desire to serve inspire me. We may never see the wins personally, but I know that God does so I leave that counting to Him and I will focus on the wins I do see.

Thankfully,
Ann Wales, *Chaplain*