

A Special Briefing for friends of Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry



A Tribute to Ron Goodman | Aug. 31, 1943 - Nov. 17, 2023

Sometimes it is easy for us to ignore the past, but I will always be indebted to Ron Goodman who tirelessly recruited me to work with him in prison ministry and take the oversight upon his planned retirement at the end of 2012. I will have to say I was quite reluctant and told him “no” on several occasions before I finally agreed to his request. It was Ron’s fervent desire to see that the ministry continue long past his retirement and time here on this earth. Prison ministry was Ron’s lifetime passion.

While preaching in Texas in the 1970s, Ron began working with Clyde Thompson, a man who was once on death row and was eventually released and who immediately began a prison ministry in Huntsville, Texas. In 1977, Ron Goodman (pictured left) took over this important work. Clyde’s story is told in the book and movie, **The Meanest Man in Texas**.

In 1982, while Helen and Harold Cox were involved in prison ministry at the Madison Church of Christ in the Nashville area, the Harpeth Hills congregation recruited Ron to come to Nashville and help organize the overall work, recruit volunteers, and raise funds for the ministry. Teaming up with the Coxes, they formed the Nashville prison ministry, a forerunner to TPOM, and they also formed a federal team that traveled across the nation to federal prisons to hold annual seminars, leading thousands to Christ over a 30-year timeframe.

I will not forget our volunteer dinner in 2012, where Ron was recognized upon his upcoming retirement for his 30 years of service in Nashville. It was an emotional day for Ron, but he always told me that he hoped TPOM would grow and expand beyond his many accomplishments. Sure enough, Ron was here for the grand opening of the TPOM Reentry Center in 2015 and he celebrated each milestone for the ministry. If it were not for Ron Goodman, TPOM would not exist today and I certainly would not be in my current role.

Even when Ron retired from full-time work, he continued his efforts in prison ministry. At the age of 79 on Feb 26, 2023, Ron was preaching a sermon at the Deberry Special Needs prison in Nashville. Upon leaving the facility, he fell in the parking lot and broke his leg. He was hospitalized for surgery and for breathing issues that led to his fall. Ron texted me that he would need to step away from volunteering until he improved, but that did not occur. Instead, his health continued to decline. I am forever thankful to Ron and this tribute is my small way of recognizing a man who blessed many lives and laid the foundation (along with Harold and Helen Cox) for the formation of the Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Thomas Snow".

Thomas Snow
Director, TPOM





TPOM RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

JUNIOR WHEELER

Junior Wheeler is completing the program at TPOM Transitional. He reports on

how TPOM has assisted his reentry.

Describe how you heard about TPOM. I was at Northwest and met a guy there who told me about TPOM. It has been so awesome. I feel blessed to be here and safe. There is a good staff and they go out of their way to help; I couldn't ask for more.

Did you have any concerns when you got here? My concern has mostly been, "Where do I go from here?" My family's all gone, so I want to stay here. I've got a good job and I'm trying to save so I'll be ready for the next step.

How did work go for you as you got started? I've got an awesome job at Slim & Husky's. I have a good boss that really works with us and I can work as much as I want. I now have experience that puts me in a good position.

How did TPOM help while you were in the program? TPOM helped me to work around my dyslexia, helped me get my job, and kept me in recovery. They've given me everything I need, even clothing. I've been able to turn my life around with this help.

Tell us about your spiritual journey. I finally got right with the Lord. One day I went to church and I broke down. I was baptized in prison and now I take my Christian life seriously.

What advice do you have for others who might be thinking about reentry? TPOM is a good place to come. They WILL help you. But you have to want to change. Nobody can do that for you. They can provide all these things, but you have to decide to make the change.

Scan the QR Code (right) to donate or you may contact Thomas Snow at tsnow@tpom.org or 615-668-8281 for more information.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

We celebrate this group of our most recent graduates. Think of the difference these successful reentries will make in these lives and the families and communities when they return. Thank you to the volunteers, donors, churches, and staff who contributed their part to a successful beginning of a lifelong journey. We ask God's blessings on these men and women as they build their new future.



Alisha Scales



Cindy Wayman



Jamica Woods



Melissa Lopez



Michael Lewis



Shawna Smallen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register for all events at tpom.org/events.

TPOM Christmas Gathering Youth Event

Saturday, December 9, 12-4 p.m.,
TPOM Reentry Center, 136 Rains Ave.

TPOM and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity (Williamson County Chapter) are once again collaborating to serve children ages 8-17 impacted by parental incarceration, and their caregivers. If you meet the eligibility requirements, please register for this event at tpom.org/events. This is one of several events throughout the year that help us serve these children and build relationships with their families.

TPOM Basic Volunteer Training

Saturday, January 27, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., TPOM Reentry Center, 136 Rains Ave.

This will be the next required training for all new volunteers. This four-hour training will provide you with a wealth of information on working with our population and will describe all the opportunities to volunteer. Go to our website to register.

Listen for TPOM ads on
94.1 FM, The FISH

UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

TPOM NEWS

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Jeff Stewart gave a gift in memory of **Tommy McElhiney**.
Gerard Boyle made two donations in honor of **Cary McClure**.
Tim Hartlage donated in memory of **Jackie Mumper**.
Charles Biter gave a gift in honor of **Randy Halstead**.
Tim Weatherford made a donation in honor of **Tommy Gore**.
Cary McClure gave a gift in honor of **Robert McClure**.
Dr. Timothy Gordon gave a gift in memory of **Harold Gore**.
Wayne Newby made a donation in honor of **Shasha Hensley**.

CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

AMERICAN HOME DESIGN

American Home Design, located at 880 Conference Drive in Goodlettsville, Tennessee is a 2023-24 Diamond Corporate Sponsor for TPOM. AHD owner, Don Bruce, has been a major TPOM supporter for many years.

Don supports TPOM because he truly believes in second chances. He gives both his personal time in prison ministry and supports the work with his financial resources. Thank you, Don!

American Home Design has served Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky (and now East Tennessee) as a home improvement business for over 40 years. The business provides services such as door and window replacements, screen rooms, bath and shower remodeling, and many other services. For more information, go to americanhomedesign.com or call 615-361-6100. TPOM is grateful for corporate sponsors like American Home Design who serve the community as they support our mission to the incarcerated and their families.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING OPTIONS

Would you **help with a gift today** so TPOM may continue to fulfill its mission of helping the incarcerated return to God, family, and community? You can give securely online at:

- <https://www.tpom.org/donate>
- Venmo @TPOM-
- Cash App \$TPOM615
- or by sending your gift to TPOM at 136 Rains Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203



TPOM GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

ALISHA SCALES

Alisha Scales recently graduated from the program and will leave the

Women's House soon. She talks about her experiences at TPOM and her plans for the future.

How did you hear about TPOM? I was at the West Tennessee facility and my counselor there recommended TPOM.

What were some of your concerns when you arrived? At first, I was overwhelmed with everything and frustrated that I didn't have any transportation. But TPOM helped me in so many ways: setting up food stamps until I was working, securing a Social Security card, giving me a bus pass and teaching me how to use the bus to get to work. I decided to give it a chance--and then I determined to finish when I got to know people and realized that they had my best interests at heart. We had such a wonderful house mom who would get out of bed to save me if I needed her.

How has your work experience been? I quickly started at Industrial with day labor and then got a chance to go to Kabinart to make cabinets where some of the other women work. It's been a good job. I've gotten a promotion and have done well. Fred was so helpful with the job and Ashley actually got on the bus with me to navigate that first ride.

What do people need to understand about incarceration? The hardest thing for me was missing my family. I was so glad that my family was able to come see me graduate.

What goals do you have for the future? I struggled with a long addiction and I want to continue to be clean. I want to get trained as a drug counselor or serve as a mentor who can help people.

What advice would you give to people considering the program at TPOM? I would tell them that it's a very structured, spiritual, life-changing experience. I would recommend it to anyone considering a reentry program.

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136 Rains Avenue • Nashville, TN 37203

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