



# **A Family *Restored***

**Amy and J.R. came to Restoration Urban Ministries with a reference from the Crisis Nursery when their addiction to substances took their beautiful children away from them after the state became involved.**

**Amy came to Restoration Urban Ministries by herself at first, J.R. made the decision to enter a 30-day Rehab before coming to Restoration.**

*Continue to the next page...*



# A Family Restored

From the get-go Amy & JR dove head in and got to work. The couple took advantage of our daily classes, couple's therapy, and parenting classes. Also, they are both active in other groups such as *Celebrate Recovery*.

They were not afraid to ask questions and be vulnerable. They also stepped up with their commitment to services with our church. Amy and J.R. fought hard to get their children back from DCFS as soon as possible. In March 2023, their kids came home to their loving parents. They have three children: two boys and one girl, ages seven, five, and four. As of this writing, Amy and J.R. have achieved 6 months of sobriety and both have a very healthy relationship with Jesus Christ.





# Restoration Newsletter

From Pastor Ervin Williams, May 2023

Welcome to the Restoration Urban Ministries Experience:

Galatians 2:10 says, "They desired that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I was eager to do."(NKJV)

As we at Restoration Urban Ministries celebrated our 30th Anniversary on March 15th, one of the things we were most grateful for was how God and our community remembered the poor. Year after year, through the aid of our community, and the grace of God, Restoration has fed, sheltered, clothed, trained, taught, and counseled those that have been at times left out of the formula of prosperity. It has been our mission to remember the poor. As a nation, we celebrate some kind of special day very often.

These include Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparent's Day, a birthday, a holiday, a school day, and a "don't go to work" day.

It would be fitting to have a National Poor Day. A day to honor those that have "fought the good fight", against the circumstances but came out on the losing end. A day to encourage, help, and strengthen the hands of the broken. A day for every American to stand together and agree to turn the tide of poverty in our country. Perhaps it would be a day when the poor can forget they are poor. It would be a day in which others pick up wood, brick, and mortar, boxes of food for the hungry, clothing for those in need, and befriend someone that's struggling to keep their head above water. It would be a day when black, white, red, yellow, and brown would wear the color of love boldly. I was just thinking of a verse in the bible that says, "Remember the poor." Let's continue to do so.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Ervin



# 30th Anniversary Celebration

Restoration Urban Ministries has now been serving the Champaign-Urbana community for 30 years. We've been honored to offer emergency shelter, job training, and addiction recovery programs. Our mission has been to provide a safe and nurturing space for those dealing with poverty, homelessness, and addiction with an aim to help them achieve sustainable self-reliance.

Over the course of three decades, Restoration Urban Ministries has aided countless individuals and families in the community, and we are grateful for the chance to continue our work. Please consider supporting our ministry with a donation.



Worship



March 15 Celebratory Dinner



Pastor Ervin & Toni Woods



# **NEW Director: Bonnie L. Craft**

**Praise the Lord! My name is Bonnie L. Craft and God has allowed me to become the new Director of Restoration Urban Ministries.**

**I have truly been blessed to watch and train under the leadership of Ervin and Marilyn Williams for over 20 years. Seeing the heart of our Lord and Savior through this dedicated couple is a true blessing.**

**I came to Restoration Urban Ministries 20 years ago, needing peace and healing in my life. I count myself as a walking miracle due to the things that our Lord and Savior has done for me through the program at Restoration Urban Ministries.**

**I desire to support, enhance, and preserve the vision of the ministry that God entrusted to Ervin and Marilyn. I am truly honored that God has seen fit to use me to continue with the vision and purpose of Restoration. I am excited to see the lives that God will send and heal through our ministry.**

**Please continue to pray for Restoration Urban Ministries as we watch God take us to the next level by serving and helping His people.**

**With gratitude,**

*Bonnie L. Craft*



# Recent Baptisms



**LaRhonda**



**JR**

**LaRhonda and JR have been attending Restoration Urban Ministries for several months now and have decided to take the next step in their faith journey by getting baptized.**

**Being baptized is an important step for Christians as it symbolizes the washing away of sins and the beginning of a new life in Christ. It is an outward expression of an inward decision to follow Jesus and become a part of the community of believers. LaRhonda and JR understand the significance of this act and are excited to publicly declare their faith in front of their church family.**



# How You Can Support Us

We just celebrated 30 years and we need your support more than ever to fund our total annual budget of \$750,000 per year.

## WISH LIST

Resident rooms:

- Microwaves (gently used or new)
- Towels, hand towels, washcloths
- Pillows (new please)
- Cases of 90% rubbing alcohol
- Cleaning products
- Monetary donations (please denote on the check)
- Ziploc bags for repacking bulk items
- Office supplies
- Copy paper
- Thumb/flash drives for program participants to use for job search
- Notebooks
- Lawnmower used or new

**DONATE TODAY**



### 30th Anniversary Lunch

March 15, 2023

Wednesday, March 15th was the official 30th anniversary. Aside from the dinner gala, staff, residents, program teachers, and a few community members showed up to help us celebrate! We had a tasty lunch made with lots of love.

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## SAVE THE DATE

For 30 years, Restoration has provided shelter, food, clothing, and spiritual support to thousands of people.

However, our buildings now require assistance. Will you help us continue our mission?

**Join us on August 12, 2023, for a fundraiser at a local park.**

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO**

**FOLLOW US!**

Twitter:  
**@RestorationUM**



**@RestorationUrbanMinistries**



### **Judah Christian School Assistance**

Over the course of two days, the 7th and 8th-grade students from Judah Christian School volunteered a total of four hours to assist with several tasks, including trimming rose bushes and shrubbery, washing windows on the housing and office sides, and clear-coating the Noah's Ark Playground structure.

We extend our gratitude to one of our board members for leading this effort.