

Rutland Dismas House

Restoring former prisoners to our community for the greater good of all!



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26th Annual Rutland Dismas Dinner & Auction

See inside for your invitation

Dinner Auction Speaker

Rutland Dismas House is honored to announce that Gloria Englund M.A. will be our guest speaker at our 26th annual dinner auction on May 1, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Rutland.

Gloria Englund is a certified recovery coach, a psycho-therapist, a public speaker, an advocate and a published author hailing from lake filled Minnesota. Gloria is an ally of the recovery community and she honors all pathways of recovery. It was in the spirit of healing that Gloria founded Recovering u, where she specializes in offering information, support and hope for those impacted by addiction through coaching. As a professional Recovery Coach, Gloria works with individuals and families dealing with addictions to alcohol, drugs, food and/or relationships. In addition to working with individuals, Gloria also offers coaching support groups for those who have a loved one experiencing active addiction, relapse or are new to recovery as well as a support group for those who have a loved one who has died from addiction. Gloria is all too familiar with the various challenges of addiction, recovery and loss after her own struggle and recovery from food addiction and the loss of her oldest son, Aaron, who died from a heroin overdose in 2007.

Her recently released book, *Living in the Wake of Addiction; Lessons for Courageous Caregiving* demystifies addiction, defies stigma, offers hope for recovery and serves as a guide for professionals, families and individuals seeking support on the journey of recovery.

The Dismas staff and Board of Directors all felt that she would be the perfect speaker to help give us information, hope and inspiration with our continued support of the Dismas residents along with other members in our community, many of whom are caregivers fighting for loved ones trying to break free of their addictions. Dismas staff and supporters, some of whom are also working in collaboration with Project Vision, hope that Gloria's message of hope and healing in recovery can help enhance our alliances and strengthen community support and awareness involving heroin addiction.

So we are truly thrilled to welcome Gloria, an avid traveler who has never toured New England, to visit us in picturesque Vermont and help us to advance in the fight for community recovery in Rutland County.

For more information about Gloria and her mission please attend our dinner auction (information enclosed), visit her website at www.recoveringu.com, and/or purchase her book, *Living in the Wake of Addiction; Lessons for Courageous Caregiving*, at Phoenix Books located on Center Street in Rutland.



Gloria Englund, MA

Location:

103 Park Avenue · Rutland, Vermont
802-775-5539

www.dismasofvermont.org/vdhr.htm

Rutland Dismas House

Loving Spoonful Award



This year, we are honoring Jeanne Zammataro, Dalena "Val" Austin and Ira Zuckerman from the Second Congregational Church in Londonderry with our Loving Spoonful Award.

I don't know how a retired attorney and a retired securities investment advisor from New York City found the Rutland Dismas House but we are sure glad they did! Jeanne and Ira moved to Vermont in 2005 and with their friend Val Austin, they started cooking meals once a month at the Rutland Dismas House starting in August of 2008 and continue to this day.

In addition to cooking for Dismas, Jeanne and Val both lead worship twice a month at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield so they are no strangers to our resident population. Jeanne, Val and Ira seem to relish in the homey feel and atmosphere at Dismas. Jeanne specifically enjoys sharing company while she is in the kitchen preparing dinner, and at the dinner table sharing gratitudes with the residents who are grateful to be substance free for another day, or for being reunited with a child or children, and having a good day of work at a new job. As far as gratitudes go, we are grateful to Jeanne, Ira and Val for dedicating their time and cooking abilities to our residents for the past seven years.

From the Assistant Director's Desk ~ by Heather Hurley

2015 was a very busy year for Rutland Dismas! It was an especially big year for our maintenance department with the major renovation of all four of our upstairs bathrooms, along with our new kitchen, thanks to those who donated to the Pull Off Board at our last two Dinner Auctions. An old house needs to be taken care of! We had a number of residents help redo the flooring in the kitchen along with the phenomenal work of Joe Barbagallo, Phil Stephan and Rob Black, and considering they are a bunch of old dudes, they really put those young residents to shame!

We also had a number of fun trips and special community events that we had a great time attending. We all attended the annual camping trips at Echo Lake for Labor Day weekend and Memorial Day weekend. It was my first year camping with my two children and we all had a great time! (I highly recommended Labor Day weekend, Memorial Day weekend was in the 30's at night and Carl and I couldn't get any closer to the campfire without spontaneously combusting.)

During the summer the entire house went together to Friday Night Live in downtown Rutland to see the Spin Doctors and John Popper play. We spent some summer days swimming and fishing at Lake St. Catherine, Lake Bomoseen and Lake Dunmore and many random hours at the Chittenden Dam whenever it was very hot and we had a free hour or two. I don't want to name names, but we had a resident or two swim all the way across the Chittenden Dam (cough cough Ed Walker cough cough) by the end of the summer. Many residents have enjoyed evenings out bowling at the Bowlerama, rock climbing at the Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center, and watching movies at Flagship Premium Cinemas with our movie coupons. We also enjoyed an evening playing miniature golf at the newly built Mendon Mini Golf & Snack Bar with residents and staff.

We also love to get the residents out volunteering and many of us enjoyed being a part of the NW neighborhood block party and the Community Cupboard as well as the Rutland Meals Challenge and forming two bowling leagues for the Mentor Connection at the beginning of this year. In 2015, we had 31 residents live at the Rutland Dismas House with an average stay of 94.8 days which is excellent considering that recidivism is more successful after a stay of 90 days. Terese has made sure to keep us filled-up and busy with the perfect amount of residents coming and going without much of a waiting period for new residents and never a dull minute for any of us.

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Rutland Dismas House



You are cordially invited to the festive celebration of the
26th Annual Rutland Dismas Dinner & Auction

Sunday, May 1st, 2016

Social Hour & Silent Auction - 3-5pm & 6-7 Live Auction & Dinner- 5-6:15pm



Honorary Chair: Joe Kraus

Jack Hickey Award: Marline "Molly" Burke

Mary O'Neil "spirit of Dismas" Award: Becky & Joe Rizzi

Loving Spoonful Award: Jeanne Zammataro, Dalena "Val Austin and Ira Zuckerman

Guest Speaker: Gloria Englund, MA

Auctioneer: Barbara Waters

Invocation & Emcee: Rev. Liam Muller

Blessing: Fr. Richard Tinney



Yes! I will attend. Enclosed is my payment for ____ reservation(s) at \$60 each, and a \$ ____ donation to benefit the programs of Rutland Dismas.

Sorry, I am unable to attend. However, I am enclosing a donation of \$ ____ to benefit the programs of Rutland Dismas.

Name(s): _____ (please list all attending)

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Vegetarian? YES: # of vegetarian meals: _____ and please indicate which attendees above with a "V" after the name(s).

Herbal breast of chicken with white wine sauce

Tri color fingerling potatoes

Maple glazed baby carrots

MENU

Vegetarian option: Stuffed rigatoni with alfredo

sauce

Tri color fingerling potatoes

Please mail the above coupon to Rutland Dismas House at 103 Park Ave. Rutland, VT 05701
 Or call or email (with the above information) 802-775-5539, terese@dismasofvermont.org

The 2016 Mary O'Neil "spirit of Dismas" Award

The Mary O'Neil Spirit of Dismas Award is quoted as being about a person or persons who "beat the drums" for Dismas. They might come in the form of individuals who actively promote the Dismas mission or as cheerleaders who encourage and drive others to get projects accomplished. This year however, the husband and wife team who are the recipients of the 2016 Mary O' Award, are special individuals who embody the spirit of Dismas and show that spirit through the numerous things that they do for the Rutland Dismas House.



Becky & Joe Rizzi

Becky & Joe Rizzi, owners of Mr. Twitters (with the purple fence!) have been involved with the Rutland Dismas house for over ten years. By donating very special items to our annual dinner auctions, and by hosting a number of holiday sales events at Mr. Twitters, allowing us to sell wreaths and food, and offering discounts to shoppers who visited the store during our events, and they have continually supported Dismas whenever we come to them with a special need.

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Rutland Dismas House

Marline “Molly” Burke – Jack Hickey Award Recipient



Father Jack Hickey OP Award: Marlene “Molly” Burke

We are pleased to honor Marlene “Molly” Burke as the very deserving recipient of our Father Jack Hickey, OP Award.

Molly is actively involved, and has been actively involved, with the Rutland Dismas House for the past 15 years by serving not only as a member but as the President of our Board of Directors for three consecutive terms. Molly was also a previous President of the Dismas of Vermont (DOV) Board of Directors and is currently our Rutland representative on the DOV board.

As a former educator who retired in 1997, who was also an Assistant Judge for 12 years, Molly is someone who loves to help people and isn't afraid to dive right in take charge. The amount of time, work and dedication that it entails to be the President of a very active board of directors for six years is unfathomable but it is obviously a labor of love for Molly because she puts her heart and soul into the Rutland Dismas House.

I recently spoke with Molly to find out what it is about Dismas that is so special to her. Molly expressed her love for Dismas by explaining that she likes the fact that there is a place where people can call home, share a meal with others and share the events of their days with someone and she enjoys the compassion of all the staff regarding their work with the residents. However, the element of Dismas that Molly speaks about with tears in her eyes and love in her voice is the camaraderie of the house based on the cumulative efforts of every single person that makes the entire Dismas endeavor work; from the merchant who donates items, to the board member who contributes time and ideas, to the resident who successfully navigates reentry into the community. Molly especially enjoys talking to a community member who might be learning about Dismas for the first time and who ends up joining the Dismas family by cooking meals or joining the board of directors and just watching those relationships blossom.

We are proud to say, that Molly is a significant part of our ensemble, one that we couldn't imagine doing without. Thank you Molly, for all of your years of hard work, love and dedication.

Dismas House

A place that's safe from the world outside
 A place you no longer have to run and hide.
 A place where you can finally lay your tired head.
 A place to find true, life-long friends
 A place that helps plant your feet firmly on the ground.
 A place with the support to turn your life around.
 A place to share dinners, words and laughs.
 A place that loves you, in spite of who you were, and what ruled your past.
 A place to call your humble home.
 A place you'll start to come into your own.
 A place that transforms you to a mighty lion from a once timid mouse
 A little place we like to call

Dismas House

- *Kylee Keith*

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Rutland Dismas House

From the Executive Director - *Jan Tarjan*

I wonder how many of our readers and friends know that the well-kept, caring, and family-style Dismas home in your city is not our only Dismas House in Vermont. Over the years, as the demand grew and grew to help men and women transition from prison to productive and steady lives in our families and neighborhoods, Dismas expanded from our first house on Buell St. in Burlington, adding homes in Rutland, Winooski, and in 2013, Hartford, Vermont. At that point, we truly became a statewide organization.



But that doesn't mean we've lost our grassroots, become big and impersonal, or stopped operating as a kind of family. We still get the whole Community Assembly together twice a year to check in on our common mission, to share stories of struggle and triumph, and to make sure we stay firmly anchored in our mission of "reconciling prisoners with society and society with prisoners." The staff of all Dismas of Vermont houses meet on a regular basis, and as the Executive Director, I know every house and every home community, in all their uniqueness, very well.

What has changed is that we have a slimmed down statewide Board of Directors and a small central administrative staff to manage the increasing complexity and volume of our work, and to make sure we stay responsive to new needs, while remaining sustainable. We also hope to keep all our friends more informed about Dismas and about the enormous challenges and changes before us as we cope with the escalating epidemic of drug addiction in Vermont and with the effort to end over-crowding and over-incarceration in our prisons. We feel energized about the incredible importance of our mission and confident of our continued success!

What can you do to help us, and help our communities, in this time of great need? You have been a friend, and please stay a friend. Bring us new friends by spreading the word about Dismas. And enjoy reading, from time to time, about all our Dismas homes.

Support Dismas

Chuck Bongiorno, new Development Director



With four locations around the state, Dismas is bringing the mission of reconciling prisoners with society and society with prisoners to more and more people. It is an important goal and one that affects every one of us.

To accomplish all that we do, we rely on partnerships. Partnerships with the Department of Corrections, partnerships with businesses willing to offer employment opportunities, partnerships with volunteers who spend time at the houses cooking, mentoring and helping out, and partnerships with our donors. Without all of these, the Dismas model would struggle to succeed.

To our donors and those thinking about donating, we do need your help! As the challenges facing the men and women in the Dismas program continue to grow, so too does the need for staff and resources to offer them the best chance for success.

Your donation makes it all happen. The best thing for society as a whole, and all of us as individuals, is to see these folks succeed. The bottom line – it requires resources. But your donation is also an investment. As former prisoners shed their past and become successful and independent, they go from someone who was relying on the resources of our community to someone who is now contributing as a wage earner.

There are many ways to donate. To find out more, please contact me at chuck@dismasofvermont.org or 802-355-5255. Together, we can make it happen!

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From the Assistant Director's Desk ~ by Heather Hurley *Continued from page 2*

During 2016 we would like to do the same events with the residents that we did in 2015 while including even more volunteer opportunities and community building events. I would like to encourage the residents to enter the Poultney Chili Festival next September, and to also build a float for the Halloween parade! We are also always open to community oriented suggestions that we can be a part of!

Lastly, We also hope that our new webpage will be up and running real soon this year so we can upload all of the marvelous photographs that Terese takes during these events. Until then, please check out our Rutland Dismas House Facebook page for any new pictures and updates and we look forward to seeing you all at our 2016 Dinner Auction on May 1st!

Thank you SO much to our supporters and volunteers for everything that you do. Every little thing means so much in the lives of our residents, and it extends outwards to their families and friends like ripples in a pond, and we couldn't do it without you.

Mary O'Neil Award *Continued from page 3*

Becky and Joe's attitudes shows great caring and compassion towards the residents by focusing on the good side of them, seeing them as humans who makes mistakes, and deserves second chances. That is the core mission of Dismas, and Becky and Joe embody that model brilliantly. The Rutland Dismas House is so fortunate to have Becky and Joe praising the work of Dismas and maintaining a positive attitude about our residents during the ups and downs of the past 15 years. Thank you Becky and Joe for everything that you do.

Save the Date!

Join Dismas on **April 26th** for Dismas Day at the Statehouse. We will be recognized with a House Resolution, will be meeting with different House Committees, and sharing the story of Dismas with legislators.

We hope you can join us! Please RSVP to chuck@dismasofvermont.org or contact me for more information!

Rutland Dismas Wish List

- *Twin Blankets*
- *Pillows*
- *drinking glasses*
- *forks and spoons*
- *servicing spoons*
- *a composter*

We are grateful for donations of any of the above items but are unable to accept other items due to lack of storage space. Please call **802-775-5539** to make a donation.



Did you know you can follow us on Facebook? Check out the Rutland Dismas page to see pictures of house activities and auction items as they come in.

Rutland Dismas House - 103 Park Avenue Rutland Vermont 05701

House Director:

Terese Black - terese@dismasofvermont.org

Asst. House Directors:

Heather Ward Hurley - heather@dismasofvermont.org
Geraldine Burke - geraldine@dismasofvermont.org