



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dismas of Vermont awarded \$250,000 by the TD Charitable Foundation's Housing for Everyone Grant Program

Vermont – May 15th, 2024 – Dismas of Vermont is the recipient of \$250,000 from the TD Charitable Foundation through its 18th annual Housing for Everyone grant program, the only award made in Vermont this year. The grant will support Dismas of Vermont's step-down housing pilot for those who are ready for the next step after transitional housing but often screened out of affordable housing options due to their previous involvement in the criminal justice system. The pilot will master lease apartments from private landlords to provide more-independent living opportunities for individuals who, through the traditional Dismas House program, have demonstrated their commitments to their communities and themselves.

[TD Charitable Foundation](#), the charitable giving arm of [TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®](#), today announced it awarded a total of \$7 million to 37 non-profits across the bank's Maine to Florida footprint and in Michigan through the 18th annual Housing for Everyone grant program. Grants ranging from \$150,000 to \$250,000 will support independent living for marginalized community members, especially those who experience homelessness and face conditions that make it difficult to maintain a stable home without additional help.

"We are so fortunate that the TD Charitable Foundation understands that investing in housing opportunities that serve *all* Vermonters are necessary for us to have healthy, productive, and safe communities," said Dismas of Vermont's executive director, Jim Curran. "We all look forward to working with TD Charitable Foundation, our communities, and local landlords to ensure housing is an option for those working through another chance to thrive. This is a first step to ensure that people who have served their time for their past convictions are not treated as if it is a life sentence."

Offenhartz Management has already begun to work with Dismas of Vermont to identify appropriate housing for the pilot in Burlington. "Offenhartz Management is excited to partner with Dismas of Vermont in offering transitional housing. We support Dismas's mission statement and are looking forward to our partnership!" says Offenhartz Management.

"Dismas of Vermont makes it their primary mission to help relieve some of the most vulnerable members of our community by continuing to support their journey to independence," said Paige Carlson-Heim, Director of the TD Charitable Foundation. "Housing for Everyone grant recipients are working closely with TD to improve access by creating innovative solutions that are helping to create a more sustainable and inclusive future for everyone. It is a privilege to support our 2024 Housing for Everyone grant recipients and to continue to be a part of this imperative work."

Dismas of Vermont, INC has been serving former inmates and Vermont communities since 1986. Dismas currently maintains 5 houses in Burlington, Hartford, Rutland and Winooski, to include one house dedicated to women. Dismas of Vermont's mission is to *reconcile former prisoners with society, and society with former prisoners*. Dismas supports this mission by continuing to *learn, to grow, to change and to become the best we can be as individuals and as*

communities. Across the state, Dismas of Vermont houses provide shelter and support to men and women making the difficult transition from incarceration to new lives. If you are a landlord, and would like to know more about how to participate in the Step-Down Housing program go to <https://bit.ly/3ytOTJs> or contact Jim Curran.

About the TD Charitable Foundation

The TD Charitable Foundation is the charitable giving arm of [TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®](#), one of the 10 largest banks in the U.S., providing over 10 million customers with a full range of retail, small business and commercial banking products and services at more than 1,100 convenient locations throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Metro D.C., the Carolinas and Florida. Since its inception in 2002, the Foundation has distributed over \$323 million through donations to local nonprofits from Maine to Florida. More information on the TD Charitable Foundation is available at <https://www.tdbank.com/corporate-responsibility/the-ready-commitment/funding-opportunities/>.

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