

### THE MISSION **FAYETTEVILLE AREA OPERATION INASMUCH WINTER 2023**

## THE EFFECTS OF THE WIND

## A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CRAIG MORRISON

I went to a Billy Graham crusade in Charlotte, NC when I was attending Mars Hill College. We arrived early so we could be sure to get good seats in the Panther's Stadium and it was raining cats and dogs. The radar showed no signs of letting up, but I'll never forget when Graham walked out on stage the rain stopped. He went on to say that his team had been praying that God would create a break in the clouds so there would be one less distraction from someone hearing the gospel that night. As soon as Graham said "Amen" and walked off the stage, wouldn't you know it? It started raining again. Without that distraction of rain, thousands of people walked down to receive Christ that night and I believe their lives were changed forever.

Dr. Graham once asked, "Can you see God? You haven't seen him? I've never seen the wind. I see the effects of the wind, but I've never seen the wind. There's a mystery to it."

and hope is being restored.

As we enter the Christmas season we are also celebrating one of the greatest miracles ever seen. From the virgin birth to the resurrection, Jesus' life is one big mystery because it is God's miracle demonstrating God's love for all of us to see. We have been blessed to see God work continuously in the lives of the men in the Living Hope program. Lives are being re-built, families are being reunited,

Don't take our word for it: Hear from the men themselves about how they are moving past the distractions in life to allow God to move within them and make life-altering decisions with the help of the Living Hope Program at Inasmuch.



## "I CAN SEE MY LITTLE GIRL AGAIN, NOW THAT I HAVE A JOB AND MY OWN PLACE TO STAY."

"AFTER BIBLE STUDY ONE NIGHT SOME OF THE GUYS PRAYED WITH ME TO RECEIVE HEALING FOR MY HEARING LOSS... THE NEXT DAY IT WAS RESTORED."

"I CAME INTO THIS PROGRAM WITH NO HOPE, BUT NOW I CAN SEE THAT THE LORD HAS BEEN WITH ME ALL ALONG."

These are some of the first "effects of the wind" we'd like to share with you. I hope they will inspire you to deepen your partnership with us. A few pages over you will see a list of our newly created *Sustainer's Club*. These are people and organizations that have deepened their partnership by making a monthly contribution to Inasmuch for 12 consecutive months. The amount doesn't matter. It's the prayerful and faithful support from God's chosen that encourage and sustain us to keep fighting the good fight.

We have a God-sized vision to be the Church's response to homelessness in our community. It is going to take every church in Cumberland County and every believer linking arms and hearts in order for us to have the continued impact that we envision God wanting to make and the lives he wants to restore.

Merry Christmas,





You can set up your recurring donation today!

www.faoiam.org/donate



Jornelle (JoJo) Robinson is one of our newer volunteers at Inasmuch. She has been with us and the kitchen staff since June of 2022. Upon her retirement from the Army, JoJo was looking for a way to serve the community in which she lived. After looking at several organizations in the area, she decided to use her talents here. Originally from Goldsboro, JoJo has travelled extensively by way of the Army to such places as Korea, Hawaii, Iraq, and Afghanistan. She now makes Fayetteville home and enjoys the part she plays in making someone's morning a little brighter.

We appreciate you, JoJo!



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE OR SHARE YOUR TALENTS?

PLEASE CONTACT BERNARD (VOLUNTEERCOORDINATOR@FAOIAM.ORG)

TO VOLUNTEER AT INASMUCH!

## CHEF'S CORNER: SHRIMP & SAUSAGE GUMBO

#### **Ingredients**

- 4 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 small yellow onion, chopped
- 1 medium green bell pepper, seeds and ribs removed, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, finely sliced
- 12 oz. andouille sausage, sliced into 1/2" rounds
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp. Cajun seasoning (without salt)
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 c. low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 (15-oz.) can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 lb. medium shrimp, peeled, deveined
- 3 scallions, sliced
- · Cooked white rice, for serving



#### **Directions**

- In a large, deep skillet over mediumlow heat, melt butter, then add flour.
   Cook, stirring constantly, until roux is dark caramel colored, 12 -15 minutes.
- 2. Add onions, peppers, and celery and cook, stirring, until softened, about 8 minutes. Stir in sausage, garlic, and Cajun seasoning; season with salt and pepper. Stir in broth, tomatoes, and bay leaf and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until thickened, about 1 hour.
- 3. In the last 6 minutes of cooking, add shrimp. Once shrimp is pink and cooked through, taste and adjust seasonings. Stir in scallions, reserving some for serving.
- Divide rice among bowls. Spoon gumbo over. Top with reserved scallions.

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I bring you good news
of great joy that will be
for all the people. Today
in the town of Pavid a
Savior has been born
to you; he is
Christ the Zord.

**LUKE 2** 



# MEET LYNELLE SPARROW DONOR RELATIONS MANAGER

Lynelle Sparrow is a native of Suffolk, VA and has been living in Fayetteville for the past 15 years. She is a graduate of Fayetteville Technical Community College and is currently pursuing a Bachelor degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She serves as treasurer to a local church and financial secretary to a non-profit agency. Her accounting background and experience stems from developing businesses as an

owner/subcontractor for utility companies like Time Warner, DirecTV, MasTec, and Georgia Power & Light. The one thing about her that she would like everyone to know is "Jesus is the BEST thing that has ever happened to me!"

## **3RD ANNUAL RAY'S RUN**

Inasmuch hosted its third annual Ray's Run at Methodist University on Saturday, October 7th. We were thrilled to offer three routes this year - 10K, 5K, and 1 Mile Fun Run. It was so much fun to see friends - old and new - gathered to walk or run in support of the men living at The Lodge.

Ray's Run is such a special event for us. It gives us an opportunity to remember Col. (R) Ray Helton, our former Executive Director, and visionary for The Lodge. In looking back at Ray's words during the construction of The Lodge, he said "This is a place where people can change or transform their life. If they're interested in that, we can help them."

What he envisioned for The Lodge is coming true. We are helping people change or transform their lives. With every mile marked and each step taken at Ray's Run, another piece of the puzzle comes together.



We could not pull off Ray's Run without the amazing group of walkers/runners who participated in the event, nor could we do it without our volunteers. Thank you for showing up with such enthusiasm. We truly had a blast with you! We are beyond thankful for our Ray's Run sponsors who helped make the event possible. These churches, businesses, and individuals were incredible partners and we are grateful for their support. We can't wait to see you next year for Year Four!



## INTRODUCING THE SUSTAINER'S CLUB

THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES, BUSINESSES, AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE SHARED THEIR TREASURE WITH INASMUCH FOR 12 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, MAKING FINANCIAL

**DONATIONS BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2022-SEPTEMBER 2023.** 

Please notify us of any errors or omissions.

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Covenant Love Family Church
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Friendship Sunday School Class of
Temple Baptist Church
Lafayette Baptist Church
Manna Church of Fayetteville

Snyder Memorial Baptist Church
Veritas Church

Join this list of special supporters by setting up your recurring donation today!

To see your options, please visit www.faoiam.org/donate

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO LIVING HOPE MEN!**

With generous support from the Sustainer's Club, grants, and other donors we launched the **Living Hope** 

program this year. This program for men living at The Lodge offers life skill classes, group and individual counseling, and we are in the process of adding trauma recovery to our list of services so that Christ can fully restore hope so each man can have a brighter future.

We have celebrated three promotion ceremonies for men moving from one phase of the program to the next. Each phase is more difficult and is a true testament to the commitment of each of these men. Our goal is to help them become self-sufficient, obtain employment, and manage any addiction and/or trauma they may be



experiencing. We were thrilled to celebrate alongside the first cohort (pictured above), who graduated from FTCC on October 25th! **God continues to reveal himself at The Lodge!** 



It wasn't long ago that Carlos came through the doors of Inasmuch, down on his luck and open to the support and services we provide. He entered into The Lodge and into the Finding Rest phase of the Living Hope Program. There, he could catch his breath and get his bearings. He met with a case manager, got referrals to other services in the community, and decided to move into the Choosing Change phase of the program. Carlos began attending life skills classes and workcall each day. He took a monumental step toward living a better life, abandoning old paths, and desiring different results. His hard work paid off.

### CARLOS'S LIFE IS A TESTAMENT TO OUR MISSION

Today, Carlos has his own place to live, and has has started his own auto repair shop. He is a man whose mind, body, and spirit has been restored. He is on a completely different path than the one he was on when he walked through our doors. Inasmuch gives men the tools they need to change the course of their lives, reinforcing the fact that God's love for them is deep and abiding.

### **OUR GOD-SIZE VISION NEEDS YOU**

We can only do this through the generous support of people who believe that men like Carlos deserve the grace and goodness of God. Men currently in the Living Hope Program have a fulfilled life ahead of them, if we can continue to offer them the tangible skills and support they need to live the life God imagined for them. Giving Tuesday is an opportunity for you to boldly partner with us to turn broken hearts toward Jesus.

Your gift to Inasmuch is always appreciated, but it goes even further on Giving Tuesday. Make your gift between November 20th (9 AM) and November 29th (5 PM) to have your gift amplified by a generous match.

#### How can you give?

- Credit card
- Check
- Donor advised grant
- Stock gifts
- Charitable IRA Rollovers

WE INVITE YOU TO
VISIT US AT INASMUCH ON GIVING TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 28 FROM 10:30AM - 2:00PM

TO DROP OFF YOUR GIVING TUESDAY CHECK AND GET A SWEET TREAT FROM US!

For details about amplifying your gift on Giving Tuesday, please scan the QR code or visit faoiam.org/giving-tuesday/



## **GIFTS MADE** IN MEMORY OF



## **GIFTS MADE**

These lists are current as of April 1 - September 30, 2023. Donations made after this date will be printed in the spring newsletter. Please notify us if you notice any errors or omissions.

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give for a full list of our gracious donors

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**First Time Guests** 

Village Baptist Church

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\$1.500 Needed: A New Stove



We are eager to reduce barriers for men in the Living Hope program in getting back on their feet. One barrier is transportation. We want to help transport them to school or work so that they can continue their journey toward selfsufficiency. There is a statewide bus shortage and we have found none for sale. Does your church have a 15-passenger bus that you no longer use? We would be thrilled to talk to you about the possibility of acquiring it to help these men move to the next stage in their lives.



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## PLEASE CONSIDER BLESSING OUR FAMILY WITH ITEMS FROM OUR

## Wish List



WE ARE OVERWHELMED WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE DELIVERIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR DOORSTEP.
YOU CAN MAKE IT EASY AND SEND ITEMS DIRECTLY TO:

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