

CROSSROADS, INC.

Assisting formerly incarcerated women achieve independence

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more info:

www.crossroadswomen.org

SAVE
the
DATE

WELCOME HOME
BREAKFAST

April 18, 2023, 8 AM
Sheraton Fairplex

SPEAKER
SERIES

Look out for more details about
this exciting event on
Crossroadswomen.org



**Congratulations
to our
graduates!**

**Aisha R.
Nancy A.**



Dear Friends of Crossroads,

I am honored to be the new executive director of Crossroads after Sister Terry's 33 year leadership. I have spent the last few months getting to know as much as I can about this wonderful organization! I am very happy to share that in 2022 we served 29 women as they journeyed from incarceration to independence!

What appealed to me most about the opportunity to lead Crossroads as the executive director was that I

would be supporting women who have experienced discrimination and social inequality and knowing that Crossroads was making a difference in their lives. Many women in prison have experienced physical trauma, poverty and substance use disorder. Women in state prisons are also more likely than men to be convicted of a drug or property crime.

At Crossroads we provide a way out of reincarceration. We offer more than just room and board. We also provide: employment readiness training, technology classes, AA/NA meetings on and off-site, budgeting and money management training, counseling and case management. Most importantly though we provide these services in a homelike environment where our residents are treated like family.

One of the best things I have done over the past 5 months was going to dinner at the Harvard House. Every night our residents and one or two staff eat together. There was laughter, good food and I could feel the sense of community the women have with each other and staff. Yes, I have balanced budgets, updated manuals, worked on grants, met with community members, met with the board, done trainings and more but, the dinner that night is what sticks with me. I knew I had made the right decision to come to Crossroads and support this amazing program that has been in Claremont for nearly 50 years.

We could not do this work without you! Please join us in April for our annual Welcome Home Breakfast. Come and meet some of the women of Crossroads, and Sister Terry and I, will also be there! I look forward to meeting the community of people who have supported Crossroads all these years!

Larissa Matzek
Executive Director

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." – Harriet Tubman



CROSSROADS' HOLIDAY SEASON 2022

The residents of Crossroads were able to participate in several exciting events and activities at the end of 2022. The end of the year is a busy time for Crossroads! Many organizations and individuals work hard to make the holiday season special for the women.

On *Giving Tuesday*, the women of Crossroads were treated to free hair services at **be Rosie** salon in Claremont. They were able to relax and enjoyed being spoiled for the morning. One Crossroads women told Anny Vandriel, the salon owner, that she hadn't been to a salon in 10 years. This was a special event for Crossroads and the women thoroughly enjoyed it. At the end of the event Anny shared that she was willing to do any Crossroads' woman's hair at any time of year and not just on *Giving Tuesday*!

During the month of December, the women were guests at three separate arts and crafts events hosted by **Life Bible Fellowship Church**, **Soroptimist International** and **Pilgrim Congregational Church**. These events were designed to offer the women some creative outlets and teach them new skills. During the classes, the women created holiday decorations for the Harvard, San Jose and San Francisco houses. Soroptimist International also hosted a holiday dinner for the women.

IN THE NEWS

Senate Bill 1008, the Keep Families Connected Act, was signed into law in September of 2022 and as of January 1, 2023, no incarcerated person or their loved ones will be charged for making or receiving a phone call from a California prison. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will now be paying for these calls.



WOMEN'S CORNER

What is life like now at Crossroads?


"Life at Crossroads has been challenging and yet rewarding at the same time. Even though I've gone through struggles such as losing jobs and dealing with anxiety, I have also thrived here and grown into the woman that I am today. Overall, my life at Crossroads has been a blessing. I'm currently attending college to become a drug and alcohol counselor. I couldn't be happier with the direction my life is headed. I owe it all to Crossroads, the staff and Ms. Jackie White. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish the goals that I have made and achieved today." - **Charissa B.**

"I'm continuing my education at Chaffey College and I will eventually transfer to a UC school. My family has been very supportive of my choice to enter a program to assist me in my success after prison. My goals are to continue my education in psychology. I would like to be a counselor and, with my background, and experience, help others. I have so many things I want to do with my life but I know that I have to work on one thing at a time. It's important to pace myself and be patient." - **Christina S.**

"Ever since I've come to Crossroads, it's been amazing. They have treated me with so much love and respect, that I have been able to work on myself on becoming a better person. I've struggled with missing my family especially my little one but I've been able to talk to the counselors here. That's what I like about the program, that I'm able to come to them with confidence and that I'm able to talk to them about anything." - **Brenda B.**

"It has been a life changing experience. I've been able to get my life together and my family back. I'm sober and in good health. Thanks to the staff, my Christmas has been the best one I've ever had in 58 years. I learned many new traditions. I'll always be thankful for the housing and good food." - **Nancy A.**

ALUMNI GATHER FOR CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Select Your Gift Amount.

☒ One Time ☐ Monthly

Gift 1 day room and board for 1 resident.	\$50
Gift 2 days room and board for 1 resident.	\$100
Gift 5 days room and board for 1 resident.	\$250
Gift 10 days room and board for 1 resident.	\$500
Other Amount	



To make a donation to Crossroads, scan the QR code or mail a check to:
P.O. Box 15 Claremont, CA 91711.



A small celebration of life ceremony was held for former resident Sheila Rosses at The Harvard House. Family and friends remember her as a person who touched lives with her kindness. She will be missed!



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CROSSROADS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Trawnik

Linda and her husband own Steel Detailing, a construction company, with an office in downtown Upland. Linda is a resident of Rancho Cucamonga. She has served as board president of the Historic Downtown Upland Business Association and is currently a member of Upland Foothill Kiwanis.

Deb Willmann

In 1990 Deb started at Index Fresh, a California-based avocado company in Riverside, as an accounting temp with plans of pursuing a career as a CPA. 30 years later and Willmann is now Vice President. Deb is also involved with Class 51. Ag. Leadership with the CA Agricultural Leadership Foundation. Deb is a resident of Chino.

RECOGNIZING OUR SUPPORTERS!

Our Lady of the Assumption, The Claremont Presbyterian Church, The Claremont United Church of Christ and The Calvary Presbyterian Church hold alternative Christmas market events during the holiday season and Crossroads receives donations!

The HLC Team at Cornerstone Home Lending is one of our biggest supporters! Each year, they provide Christmas goodie bags for the residents. This year, each goodie bag included a Kindle reader.

Crossroads is grateful to the **Adams-Mastrovich Family Foundation** for awarding a generous grant to support the Crossroads Enhancing Women's Re-Entry Project. The Adams-Mastrovich Family Foundation awarded its first grant to Crossroads in 2006.

Crossroads also thanks the **City of Claremont, Human Services Department** for a generous community-based organization (CBO) grant. This grant allows us to purchase bus passes for the women.

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As an antidote to consumerism and physical gift giving, **Our Lady of the Assumption, The Claremont Presbyterian Church, The Claremont United Church of Christ** and **The Calvary Presbyterian Church** hold Alternative Christmas Market events during the holiday season. This provides friends in the community with the opportunity to donate to Crossroads.

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Jails vs. prisons: what's the difference?

Prisons are facilities under state or federal control where people who have been convicted (usually of felonies) go to serve their sentences. Jails are city- or county-run facilities where a majority of people locked up are there awaiting trial, many because they can't afford to post bail. Some people also serve their sentences in local jails, either because their sentences are short or because the jail is renting space to the state prison system.