

CROSSROADS, INC.

Assisting formerly incarcerated women achieve independence



**Larissa Matzek,
Executive Director**

Congratulations
to our Graduates!

Thuy L.



Use the QR
Code and
donate to
Crossroads

Thank you to our
generous donors. We
couldn't do this
without you!

Dear Friends of Crossroads,

It is my pleasure to announce Crossroads, Inc. new Executive Director, Larissa Matzek. Hailing from Massachusetts, Larissa has over 30 years' experience helping women in their journey of recovery from substance use disorder. As Crossroads continues to provide a home for women leaving prison, Larissa will inspire and lead Crossroads to the next level while appreciating and keeping the culture of our well-established program. Larissa looks forward to digging into the work of developing new avenues of development and involvement for staff, board and community.

In Massachusetts, Larissa was the Executive Director of Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing. MASH ensures access to high-quality housing for people in recovery. In this position, she worked extensively with the Departments of Probation and Parole, Re-Entry, and the Department of Corrections. Larissa was instrumental in expanding services for people in recovery. Additionally, she was the state representative for sober housing.

Larissa has a masters of nonprofit management from Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Her undergraduate work had been in communications and women's studies. Since moving to Los Angeles with her husband, Larissa has completed the LAX Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy and is a volunteer counselor at the Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center hotline.

In the days I have spent with Larissa, sharing the nitty gritty of transitioning work, I found myself at ease with her. She has a wealth of nonprofit knowledge and a genuine concern/desire to journey with women. Perhaps the best recommendation I can give for Larissa is that I would want to work with her!

Please join me in welcoming Larissa! You can easily reach her through email: lmatzek@crossroadswomen.org

Blessings!

Sister Terry Dodge, SSL

ALUMNI BBQ

Every August, Crossroads, Inc. holds its annual Alumni Appreciation Barbeque. Although Covid-19 prevented us from having our traditional event for two years in a row, it also proved an old saying as true; "Absence makes the heart grow fonder."

This year, we combined the celebration of our graduates' success with another very special occasion. It was time to say goodbye to the woman, the mentor, the legend Sister Terry Dodge. After 33 years she was retiring from Crossroads and the occasion was bittersweet. Crossroads graduates from as far back as 2001 came to show their appreciation of Sister Terry. She handed the new graduates the coveted alumni keychain and a single long-stemmed red rose. Sister Terry also shared her plans for retirement.

Our guests showed up in droves, aging from three years old to 88. People who have been supporters of Crossroads for decades came out to celebrate with us. Instead of our usual barbeque, the event was catered by Claremont resident Frida Palamino.

Our graduates shared both their triumphs and challenges since leaving Crossroads, and how they ultimately achieved success. We wish the graduates and Sister Terry all the best as they start their new journeys!



WEEKEND WORK PARTY

A group of 25 volunteers from Charro Azteca spent the second Saturday of September doing community service at our houses in Claremont. Company CEO Francisco Galvez and his team spent the afternoon clearing the front yard at San Jose House and painting the shed at Harvard House. A big thank you to Francisco and his team!



IN THE NEWS

We are excited to announce that beginning January 1, 2023, no incarcerated person or their loved ones will be charged for making an audio call from a state prison or fire camp.

This change is the result of **Senate Bill 1008**, the **Keep Families Connected Act**, which requires all correctional facilities in California to provide free voice communication services. It is one more example of the dedication of advocates in our communities fighting to restore civil and human rights to all.

More information about free calls and more communication opportunities is available on the CDCR website and at ConnectNetwork.com.

Thank you again for all you do to stay connected to incarcerated people. Your support is seen, valued, and very much appreciated.

ALUMNI BBQ

Every August, Crossroads, Inc. holds its annual Alumni Appreciation Barbeque. Although Covid-19 prevented us from having our traditional event for two years in a row, it also proved an old saying as true; "Absence makes the heart grow fonder."

This year, we combined the celebration of our graduates' success with another very special occasion. It was time to say goodbye to the woman, the mentor, the legend Sister Terry Dodge. After 33 years she was retiring from Crossroads and the occasion was bittersweet. Crossroads graduates from as far back as 2001 came to show their appreciation of Sister Terry. She handed the new graduates the coveted alumni keychain and a single long-stemmed red rose. Sister Terry also shared her plans for retirement.

Our guests showed up in droves, aging from three years old to 88. People who have been supporters of Crossroads for decades came out to celebrate with us. Instead of our usual barbeque, the event was catered by Claremont resident Frida Palamino.

Our graduates shared both their triumphs and challenges since leaving Crossroads, and how they ultimately achieved success. We wish the graduates and Sister Terry all the best as they start their new journeys!



IN THE NEWS

We are excited to announce that beginning January 1, 2023, no incarcerated person or their loved ones will be charged for making an audio call from a state prison or fire camp.

This change is the result of **Senate Bill 1008**, the **Keep Families Connected Act**, which requires all correctional facilities in California to provide free voice communication services. It is one more example of the dedication of advocates in our communities fighting to restore civil and human rights to all.

More information about free calls and more communication opportunities is available on the CDCR website and at ConnectNetwork.com.

Thank you again for all you do to stay connected to incarcerated people. Your support is seen, valued, and very much appreciated.



WOMEN'S CORNER

How was your Christmas and New Year holiday at Crossroads?

"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.**

"I currently have a cleaning job and I love it! I'm able to save money and I plan to enroll in cosmetology school soon. I plan to get my cosmetology license. I want to work at a salon doing hair because I want to make women feel beautiful. I also love to do nails too. It's satisfying to see the finished work." - **Thuy L.**

"My short-term goal is to work on receiving my high school diploma. After receiving it, I would like to enroll in college and take courses like music and psychology. I would also like to get my driver's license. A year from now, I see myself as a productive member of society. I will have my own apartment, a steady job and a car. I see myself maintaining sobriety, managing my bills and sustaining my stability." - **Aisha R.**

"One of my short-term goals is to work on my anxiety to relieve some of my everyday stress in life. I would also like to obtain my driver's license. Finally, I want to secure housing so I can obtain stability in my life." - **Carissa B.**

"I plan to get a full-time job. I want to go back to school and get my GED. I would also like to get my own apartment. I hope to be working soon and save for my retirement." - **Bevelyn P.**

THANK YOU!

We would like to recognize and thank the following funders who contributed to us in the last quarter.

Through a generous grant from **The Ahmanson Foundation**, we were able to upgrade the Harvard House with a much-needed new roof. This grant also supported the removal and reinstallation of our solar panels. With the new roof, Harvard House continues to be an inviting and welcoming home for the women who live there.



Harvard House

Crossroads is grateful to the **Sisters of the Holy Family** for awarding a generous grant to support Pomona House. This house provides many women a place to live while they continue to rebuild their lives. The women are not required to pay rent; therefore, we rely entirely on grants and donations to fund this house.

Crossroads also thanks the **Union Pacific Foundation** for a generous workforce development grant that supports Turning Point. Turning Point, taught by Program Director, Jackie White, prepares Crossroads women to re-enter the workforce with an emphasis on how to look for work, how to apply for employment, and how to maintain employment once working.

The **James L. White Foundation** also gave a generous grant for the general operations of Crossroads. This support provides our organization with much needed funds to allow us to continue to provide comprehensive services to formerly incarcerated women.

WOMEN'S CORNER

How was your Christmas and New Year holiday at Crossroads?

"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.**

"I currently have a cleaning job and I love it! I'm able to save money and I plan to enroll in cosmetology school soon. I plan to get my cosmetology license. I want to work at a salon doing hair because I want to make women feel beautiful. I also love to do nails too. It's satisfying to see the finished work." - **Thuy L.**

"My short-term goal is to work on receiving my high school diploma. After receiving it, I would like to enroll in college and take courses like music and psychology. I would also like to get my driver's license. A year from now, I see myself as a productive member of society. I will have my own apartment, a steady job and a car. I see myself maintaining sobriety, managing my bills and sustaining my stability." - **Aisha R.**

"One of my short-term goals is to work on my anxiety to relieve some of my everyday stress in life. I would also like to obtain my driver's license. Finally, I want to secure housing so I can obtain stability in my life." - **Carissa B.**

"I plan to get a full-time job. I want to go back to school and get my GED. I would also like to get my own apartment. I hope to be working soon and save for my retirement." - **Bevelyn P.**

THANK YOU!

We would like to recognize and thank the following Organizations who contributed to us in the last quarter.

Through a generous grant from **The Ahmanson Foundation**, we were able to upgrade the Harvard House with a much-needed new roof. This grant also supported the removal and reinstallation of our solar panels. With the new roof, Harvard House continues to be an inviting and welcoming home for the women who live there.



Harvard House

Crossroads is grateful to the **Sisters of the Holy Family** for awarding a generous grant to support Pomona House. This house provides many women a place to live while they continue to rebuild their lives. The women are not required to pay rent; therefore, we rely entirely on grants and donations to fund this house.

Crossroads also thanks the **Union Pacific Foundation** for a generous workforce development grant that supports Turning Point. Turning Point, taught by Program Director, Jackie White, prepares Crossroads women to re-enter the workforce with an emphasis on how to look for work, how to apply for employment, and how to maintain employment once working.

The **James L. White Foundation** also gave a generous grant for the general operations of Crossroads. This support provides our organization with much needed funds to allow us to continue to provide comprehensive services to formerly incarcerated women.



NonProfit Org.

US Postage Paid
Claremont, CA

Permit No. 15

***Great News! We are transitioning our newsletter to an e-newsletter.
If you like to continue receiving our newsletter, please email
info@crossroadswomen.org.***



**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Together we give.

Nov 29, 2022



This year, we are doubling our goal to **20K so we can continue to provide services for formerly incarcerated women.**