About Crossroads, Inc.

CROSSROADS, INC.

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[Image of buildings and people]
A Case for Support

Assisting formerly incarcerated women achieve independence.

Women released from prison face an uncertain and challenging future. They have $200 gate money in their pocket - excited to be leaving prison, yet scared, not knowing what the future holds.

The need for housing and employment, coupled with low self-esteem and substance abuse issues are significant factors that perpetuate the revolving door of prison. The recidivism rate in California is 62% over a 3-year period. For many, that return to prison is within the first year. Incarcerating one person in California costs taxpayers an average of $81,000 a year. Over 75% of these costs are for security and health care for the incarcerated.

Open to any woman with any felony conviction, Crossroads, Inc. is a leader in providing a way out of this revolving door. Since 1974, hundreds of women have made the transition from incarceration to independence. Over 90% of women who stay at least three months at Crossroads successfully transition back into the larger community as independent, contributing members.

PROGRAMS

Central to all our work at Crossroads, Inc. is providing a place that women can call home.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Licensed by California Department of Healthcare Services, the six-month program provides services at no cost to the women. Two homes - Harvard House & San Jose House - located in Claremont accommodate up to six (6) women in each house. Daily programming consists of both group and individual sessions.

- Safe and welcoming home
- Food
- Clothing
- Transportation to interviews, doctor appointments, parole, etc.
- Case management to help set incremental goals and follow-up
- Drug & alcohol education
- Life skills: critical thinking, financial literacy, basic household upkeep, etc.
- Employment readiness including interviewing skills, resume writing, good employee habits, etc.
- Money management: opening a bank savings account, wants vs. needs, “living below your means,” etc.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

The next steps after a residential program are critical. A Transitional Housing Program provides a safe, supportive environment where a woman can put into practice what she has learned as she begins to navigate a new reality.

Transitional Housing Program accommodates any formerly incarcerated woman who has completed a residential program, is working, or ready to work. Up to eight women are provided an additional six months room & board at no cost.

75% of all money earned/received is put into their savings account. Residents are required to attend three individual or group sessions weekly. Two of these sessions focus on financial management and navigating life on her own. Group and individual sessions take place at the Crossroads Office in Claremont which reinforces the sense of home being separate and safe places.

“We love the women until they are able to love themselves.”

Sr. Terry Dodge, SSL | Executive Director
WHY CROSSROADS?

For over 45 years, Crossroads, Inc. has been helping women change their lives. Because Crossroads, Inc. is a small agency no woman falls between the cracks. One-on-one interaction with program staff adds a personal and individualized approach. This method meets each woman where she is and points the direction for rebuilding her life. Crossroads, Inc. does not do for the woman what she is capable of doing for herself. However, Crossroads, Inc. makes sure the woman knows how to do what she needs to do.

Two components that have established Crossroads, Inc. as a model for success are the requirements that 1) each woman opens a savings account and saves at least 75% of her earnings, and 2) each woman is involved with the community through volunteer activities. These program elements provide some financial stability while the woman builds her confidence in the community again. Both of these elements are now requirements in all CA Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation contracts.

Crossroads, Inc. has received numerous awards and recognitions over the years. However, it is each woman who deserves this recognition. By providing a safe, supportive environment and pointing the way, a woman can risk change. She is the one who does the hard work. However, it is not Crossroads, Inc. alone who provides this special environment. Volunteers, donors, foundations, churches, colleges, and businesses partner with Crossroads, Inc. in assisting formerly incarcerated women. Without continued financial support, in-kind donations, expertise, and love, Crossroads, Inc. could not have the impact it has on the women we serve and within the criminal justice system.

OUR IMPACT

The ultimate goal of Crossroads, Inc. is to see each woman thrive in the community. Benchmarks for “thriving” include a healthier lifestyle free of substance abuse and violence, meaningful employment, a developing support system, and a better sense of herself. Because Crossroads is small, on-going contact with the women following program completion is not difficult. The open, welcoming environment invites women to stay connected.

Former residents consider Crossroads “home” and readily share their experiences of the program with the current residents ... encouraging them to trust the process. Current residents see successful women who have reunited with families by setting appropriate boundaries, published books, completed college degrees (from Associate to Doctorate), progressed from entry-level jobs to management positions, are happy and thriving in the community.

However, the greatest success of Crossroads, Inc. is each woman knowing she is safe and loved regardless of her past.

Ninety percent of the women who come to Crossroads, Inc. for at least three months reintegrate themselves back into the community as working, contributing members. Crossroads women are independent, employed, and able to meet the demands of day-to-day life. One parole officer said that it was easy to spot a Crossroads graduate because she carried herself differently, she was working and/or going to school, had a car, and knew where she was going.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“Crossroads helped me find myself and helped me understand that my past is my past, and it doesn’t label me as who I am.”

“I thank Crossroads for giving me a second chance in life. By the grace of God and Crossroads we get to the place we need to be in life.”

“Coming to Crossroads offered me the support I needed. It offered me a place where I was with others who had been through similar experiences, and most importantly, a safe environment that helps me grow and heal.”

“The early morning sunlight shines through into the kitchen window, a kitchen...something I never thought I would see again. Sometimes it doesn’t feel real. A new life, a new start, a second chance at what I and so many others took for granted. I’m at the crossroads of a better life. A great gift I never thought I’d receive. But here I am at the Crossroads for a bright future.”
The goal of Crossroads, Inc. is to ensure the financial sustainability of our programs that provide housing and services which are affirming of the woman and invite change. Current funding sources do not fully cover the costs of essential services. Therefore, Crossroads, Inc. looks to the larger community and invites your involvement. Your investment in formerly incarcerated women is belief that change is possible and dreams can become a reality.

**Immediate Need:** Crossroads, Inc. now has three homes for formerly incarcerated women. The Transitional Housing Program in Pomona consists of a 1938 Craftsman home able to house four women at any given time and a duplex with a capacity for an additional four women. This property was purchased in July 2020. Both structures “have character” and are in need of repair and upgrading.

We invite you to join us in the work of Crossroads, Inc. and the women we serve.

- $40 – Walmart gift card for intimate apparel for 1 woman upon arrival
- $80 – four weeks of case management for 1 woman
- $150 – four weeks of counseling for 1 woman
- $350 – gasoline for 2 agency vans for 1 month
- $720 – Bus passes for 12 women for 1 month
- $1,000 – food & household items for 12 women for 1 month
- $4,000 – housing for 12 women for 1 month

**WAYS TO GIVE**

- **SPONSOR** a Crossroads, Inc. event (Welcome Home Breakfast, Speaker Series, Walking Home Walk, etc.)

- **DONATE:**
  - by mail: Crossroads, Inc., P.O. Box 15, Claremont, CA 91711
  - online: crossroadswomen.org (PayPal link)
  - set up recurring payments: crossroadswomen.org (PayPal link)
  - include Crossroads, Inc. in your estate planning

- Corporate gifts: encourage your employer to add Crossroads, Inc. to the employer gift matching program
- Facebook: create a fundraiser on behalf of Crossroads, Inc.
- AmazonSmile: choose Crossroads, Inc. as your charity

For more information please contact heatherlong@crossroadswomen.org.

*Crossroads, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization EIN # 95-2925985*