



REFLECTIONS ON THE *Journey*

Volunteer Spotlight

Doug Morris, A Champion for Second Chances



We're honored to highlight Doug Morris, a remarkable volunteer whose commitment to helping others rebuild their lives is truly inspiring. Doug, now 72, spent 35 years in prison, where he devoted himself to bettering his prison community by teaching financial literacy. Using books he purchased himself, Doug led classes on taxes, budgeting, and home ownership to help his peers prepare for life after release.



Doug's dedication extended to his involvement with the Reaching Out From Within Program, which he actively participated in throughout his time at Lansing Prison.

Since his release in 2021, Doug has seamlessly transitioned from supporting his incarcerated peers to aiding returning citizens in Kansas City. Shortly after his parole, Greg Winship, President of Reaching Out From Within, invited Doug to mentor and lead weekly support groups for residents at the Transition Center of Kansas City (TCKC). This role came naturally to Doug, who soon sought out other ways to help. He was quickly connected to Journey to New Life, where he has now volunteered as a Reentry Specialist for the past 18 months.

At Journey to New Life, Doug goes above and beyond to support clients in need. He assists with essentials such as clothing, hygiene products, and official identification. He even provides transportation to the DMV, sometimes letting clients use his car for their driving tests. Doug's dedication doesn't stop there; he's made countless special trips for clients, including a memorable journey to Springfield so one client could reunite with his mother for the first time in 17 years. Doug truly embodies the "extra mile" spirit, whether he's assisting with legal matters—such as a trip to Warrensburg to help a client avoid re-incarceration, or facilitating connections with reentry programs and housing organizations.

A Successful Day on the Green: The Father Waris Irish Open



Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Father Waris Irish Open! We're thrilled to announce that, thanks to your generosity, we raised an incredible \$33,000. This amount will make a profound impact, covering either a full year of meals for all 100 women in our Residential Program or providing essential dental care they wouldn't otherwise receive.

This year, we welcomed a fantastic turnout of 106 players, all eager to enjoy a day of golf, camaraderie, and friendly competition. A special thank-you goes to Father Waris, whose dedication continues to inspire us, and to all of our sponsors, with special recognition to Southside Grille for their invaluable support. Your contributions make a real, tangible difference in the lives of those we serve, and we couldn't be more grateful to have you by our side.

CELEBRATING THE WINNERS

The Father Waris Irish Open 2024 was filled with perfect weather, great times, and thrilling moments on the course. Congratulations to our winners and contest champions:

Official First Place Team

- Jim Petrie
- Paul Niewrzel
- Don Rau
- Ed Cotter
- Bobby Dernier

Unofficial (due to a small snafu) First Place Team

- WeatherTech Renovations

Second Place Team (including our youngest player)

- Dan Oades
- Bill Oades
- Jimmy Oades
- Jack Oades
- Jan Stenerud

Contest Winners

- Men's Longest Drive: Scott Lucas
- Women's Longest Drive: Mary Kay Clune
- Closest to the Pin: Bill Adair
- Longest Putt: Lou Wingo

Thank you to all who participated and to our amazing sponsors. Together, you're helping Journey to New Life continue its mission, and we couldn't do it without you. We're already looking forward to next year's event!

Carrying the Torch

Honoring Shirley McNeall's Legacy of Hope



We are thrilled to announce an extraordinary gift from The Shepherd's Way. Shirley McNeall, along with her late husband Arlin, spent over 40 years devoted to prison ministry, offering guidance and support to those seeking a second chance. This year, Shirley decided to close her nonprofit organization and make an incredible choice: to pass the torch to Journey to New Life with a generous donation of \$112,704.

Shirley's journey in service began decades ago, reaching countless individuals in the Kansas City Jail and beyond. In 2004, she read *One Lady at a Time: The Story of the Walter Hoving Home*, a powerful story that inspired her to start a similar program here in Kansas City. She and Arlin raised funds through pancake breakfasts, golf tournaments, and community events, tirelessly working to build a brighter future for women seeking to rebuild their lives after incarceration.

Shirley's incredible gift will help fund The Shepherd's Way Home, a new transitional living program that will serve as the second phase of our residential services. This program will provide women with the resources they need to reach long-term goals – whether it's completing job training, returning to school, or finding stable housing. The Shepherd's Way Home is a living tribute to Shirley and Arlin's vision, ensuring that their dedication continues to impact lives for years to come. To celebrate Shirley's remarkable legacy, we invite you to join us at a special brunch, next year. It's a chance for all of us to honor Shirley's unwavering commitment to this community and to express our deepest gratitude for her generosity.

Ways to Give

WINTER DONATION DRIVE: HELP KEEP OUR CLIENTS WARM

As temperatures drop, we're in urgent need of men's winter clothing and coats, as well as blankets and towels to support our clients through the colder months. We invite you to help us stock up by donating these essential items.

Every item donated makes a big difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for helping us keep our community warm and supported this winter!



THE LAST JOURNEY OVER LUNCH IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST AT NOON.

RSVP AT [INFO@JTNL.ORG](mailto:info@jtnl.org)

Please join us for a Journey Over Lunch, an opportunity to gather with friends, break bread with some of our staff and clients, at one of our locations to learn about the impact we have in the community and enjoy a casual lunch while being educated on reentry info in Missouri.

Journey Over Lunch is located at 2918 Tracy Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64109

Learn more at journeytonewlife.org/journey-over-lunch/.

We have a lot to be grateful for at Journey to New Life!

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share some transformative changes happening at our main office, thanks to new funding and partnerships that are allowing us to expand our services and deepen our commitment to building a supportive community.

We've seen firsthand how impactful community-building has been in our Residential Program, where shared support and connection among residents contribute significantly to their long-term success after graduation. This model of mutual encouragement, accountability, and companionship has not only strengthened our residents' resilience, but has also provided them with a foundation of lasting support. Inspired by these outcomes, we're thrilled to extend the same energy and opportunities to all of our clients.

With the generous support of SAMHSA's Building Communities of Recovery grant, which provides \$300,000 each year over the next three years, we will transform our main office into a community-centered space with extended hours. This new setup will allow us to offer additional support groups and sober social events for our clients outside the residences, helping them to build healthy, supportive networks. Through these programs, we hope to replicate the community-building success we've seen in our residences and provide every client with the opportunity for meaningful connection and stability post-release.

This transformation is also made possible by a few special donors who have helped us design our space to encourage connection and support. A special shoutout to Rick Jenson from Direct Response Services and Steve Coppinger from Impact Interiors for all you are doing to improve our space!

In addition to these changes, our Employment Services Program is growing, fueled by new support from several key partners. Funding from the Kauffman Foundation will enhance our program capacity, while KC Digital Inclusion is supporting the addition of a computer lab at our 3120 location. Support from the Hall Family Foundation will allow us to expand skill-building workshops and training sessions. Additionally, our strategic partnership with the Transformative Workforce Academy will broaden our employer network, opening up more pathways to sustainable employment for our clients.

We're excited to bring these new resources to our clients, and we are deeply grateful to our community of supporters who make this possible. Thank you for standing by our mission and helping us build a network of support that truly changes lives.

With gratitude,



Julia Lloyd
Executive Director, Journey to New Life

