



2020

NEW BEGINNINGS

CLASS 2 GRADUATION

On Sunday, December 15, 2019, St. Francis de Sales generously provided the school cafeteria for the Upward to Work Program Graduation.



Back row: Mike C, Joseph M., Antonio J. Allan C.
Front row: Vanessa G., Belinda A., Jahmel R., Kiasha H., Steve R., Ashley W., James P. Michelle H., Charles M.



Pictured: Terry O'Connor, Bob Miller, Ashley Wills, Mike McNamara and Dominic Duren

In the audience for this proud moment were the families of the graduates, Volunteers of America staff, Tom Roberts of St. Vincent de Paul, HELP board members, St. Francis de Sales parishioners, generous donors and Father Gene Contadino who opened the event with a prayer.

Graduates earned:

- OSHA 10
- First Aid Certification
- Rising Stage ID Card
- Drug free certification
- Getting Out While Getting Ahead Certificates
- A drug free award from St. Vincent de Paul of \$250
- A housing and stabilization check from SVDP
- Bank account from First Financial
- Forklift operator certification from Bobcat (some)
- Driver's license reinstatement grant funds



For under \$15,000, HELP provided training, equipment, transportation, and education for 18 graduates from the Upward to Work Program in 2019. Those graduates were all provided full-time jobs with cumulative potential 2020 earnings over

\$590,603.00

A NATIONAL CCHD SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION!

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

HELP mentor Mike McNamara is paired with mentee Charles Moore. Mike is a long-term mentor but his pairing with Charles is a recent pairing, only one month old, but they have really hit it off.

Mike and Charles are meeting regularly and working to meet the goals in his Action Plan. A recent outing found them touring apartments in Lockland to find appropriate affordable housing.



The Action Plan is a document the mentee creates during the Upward to Work Program, or at a special meeting with the mentor and the Executive Director. The goals are developed by the mentee and the steps to reach those goals are outlined by the Executive Director. The mentor holds the mentee accountable for completing each step and provides additional guidance.

The size of the HELP Program makes it very difficult for the ED to spend one-on-one time with the individual members. The mentor plays a crucial role to ensure the members have personal attention and special assistance when needed.

Members at the Rising Stage are given mentors. This is a major departure from past practices. By waiting until the Rising Stage, we are hoping to ensure that the member is serious about HELP and wants additional guidance to reach their goals. The card below is provided to members at this stage and participating employers, cooperative landlords and partner organizations are being trained to recognize and respect the member for reaching this stage.



2019 – 2020 HELP Board and Leaders

Brother Mike Murphy **Member Emeritus**

Father Gene Contadino *St. Francis de Sales*

Bob Miller **President** *Christ the King Parish* **Mentor Program**

Dominic Duren **Vice-President** *St. Francis de Sales* **Dismas Journeys**

John Finn **Treasurer** *Nativity of Our Lord* **Business Manager**

Joy Rushing **Secretary** *St. Francis de Sales* **Action Plan Database**

Rosemary Byes **Parish Council Liaison** *St. Francis de Sales* **Children's Programs**

Dean Backscheider **Employer Representative** *Good Shepherd*

Brad Brookbank *St. Francis de Sales* **Member Engagement**

Toria Cooper **Member Engagement**

Joseph Dick **Ironworker Training**

Emily Gilb *St. Francis de Sales* **Newsletter Mailing List**

Nathan Gordon **Fatherhood Initiative**

James Lunsford **Ironworker Training**

Andrew Mittower **Advocacy**

Ed Neenan *Good Shepherd* **Employer Recruitment**

Charles Roberts *St. Francis de Sales*, **Parishioner and HELP member**

John Smiley **Upward to Work**

Tom Sparough, *St. Clare* **Storytelling, Interviewing, Public Speaking**

Wilson Willard III **Executive Director**

Linda Neenan *Good Shepherd* **Development Committee Chair**

Mike McNamara *Nativity* **Upward to Work – Getting Ahead while Getting Out**

Terry O'Connor *Good Shepherd* **Forklift Training**

Vicky Reynolds *St. Francis de Sales* **Grant Writer**

THRIVING STAGE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

After his promotion, Dominic began to develop on the Upward to Work Program in partnership with HELP. The program takes successful programming already offered by St. Vincent de Paul and works it into the full-time employment and Job Training program from HELP.

Last month Dominic was given the Julie K. Martin Award for the services the Reentry Program provides to homeless individuals in Greater Cincinnati. The award was provided by the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition.



In recognition for all the opportunities provided to him thanks to his involvement with the HELP Program, Dominic is serving as the Vice-President of the HELP Program and recently donated his old vehicle to HELP for use by a new member to get back and forth to work at a job that is not on the van route or on the bus lines.

Dominic's mentor is Board President Bob Miller. Dominic and Bob work together to improve the HELP Program and exemplify what the HELP mentoring program is all about: a listening ear, caring support and career guidance.



Brother Mike created the HELP Program for people like Dominic: individuals who just needed a chance, and who desired a community of support among returning citizens. Brother Mike can be extremely proud that Dominic is modeling those goals.

Please take a moment to email a

congratulations to dduren@svdpcincinnati.org.

Dominic Duren proudly states that he is a lifetime member of the HELP Program and an adopted member of St. Francis de Sales Parish. Both groups can be extremely proud of his accomplishments.



Brother Mike Murphy provided Dominic with his first



leadership opportunity in Reentry by making him the Program Manager for the HELP Program. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Cincinnati provided his second opportunity.

After walking in their shoes, ex-prisoner leads reentry program



Dominic Duren, re-entry coordinator for returning citizens at St. Vincent de Paul, stands in the West End

From the Cincinnati Enquirer 2/20/2015.

In 2019, Dominic was promoted from Program Coordinator to Director of Reentry. The move was timed to coincide with St. Vincent de Paul's decision to make the Reentry Program a permanent part of the services offered to the region.





A NATIONAL CCHD SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION!
THANKS FOR HELPING ME GET TO WORK!



WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP.

Please consider your company, organization, parish, or you as an individual, becoming an "Adopt-a-Month" donor and help defray a portion of our transportation costs.

A one-time contribution of \$1500 would help cover the cost of gas for one month for the two vehicles.

A \$2000 gift would help subsidize our drivers for a month.

Any amount toward our goal is greatly appreciated and will help us achieve our mission of "self-sufficiency through work."

CALL TO ACTION

Help us spread the word about the HELP Program by inviting us to meet with members of your parish, business or organization.

Please contact Wilson Willard at HelpProgramCincinnati@outlook.com or (513)-432-0907 to schedule a "lunch and learn" or evening information session.

Empowerment

NOT

Entitlement!!!

Upcoming Events

2/12/2020	Mentor Training: Mentoring in Trauma	St. Francis Cafeteria	6:30 pm	All Are Welcome
3/29/2020	Upward to Work Recognition Service	St. Francis de Sales	1 pm	All Are Welcome
3/30/2020	Upward to Work Graduation Ceremony	St. Vincent de Paul	10 am	All Are Welcome
5/1/2020	EXCEL Program Graduation: Willard	United Way	9 am	All Are Welcome
6/6/2020	HELP Member/Mentor Retreat	Jesuit Spiritual Center	8 am	All Are Welcome

Contact Information

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HELPProgramCincinnati@outlook.com
www.HELPProgramCincinnati.net

Donation Information:
501(c)3 30-0788420

Ways YOU can be a part of HELP:

1. Mentor a member.
2. Share a skill or special activity by teaching a class.
3. Meet about volunteer opportunities 2020 has a new list!
4. Invite HELP to speak at your company, social group or church.
5. Set up a meeting for HELP with your company HR Director.
6. Set HELP as your Kroger Card donation recipient:
 - a. www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com
 - b. NPO #: ni255
7. Set HELP as your Amazon Smile Program recipient
 - a. smile.amazon.com
 - b. select The HELP Program
 - c. select city Cincinnati
8. LIKE our Facebook Page: The HELP Program Cincinnati
9. Go to the website - subscribe to the digital version of the newsletter.