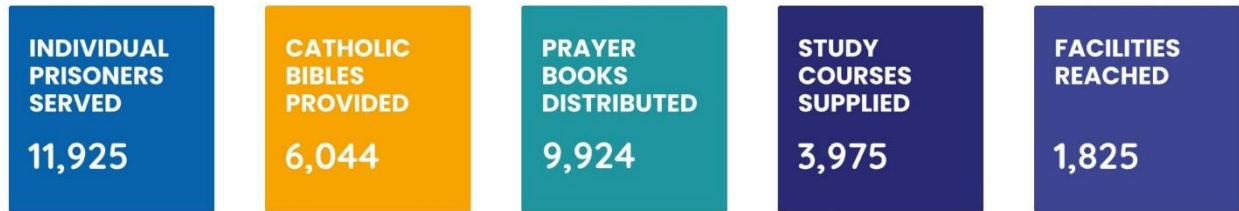


Dismas Ministry Annual Report

2023 – 2024



Thank You for Making a Difference

Dismas Ministry is a national Catholic outreach dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of incarcerated individuals, prison ministers, victims of crime, and all affected by the criminal justice system. We provide free Catholic scripture, faith, and prayer resources to support rehabilitation and healing through God’s transformative power.

Why We Serve

As Catholics, we are called to proclaim the Gospel message. We believe that even those who have strayed from God’s path are members of Christ’s Body, worthy of love and support. Dismas Ministry provides resources to help individuals reassess their lives, find spiritual healing, and make amends. As Christ taught, ‘I was in prison and you visited me.’ (Matthew 25:36)

Recidivism: The Heart of Our Work

With nearly 2 million individuals in the U.S. corrections system and high recidivism rates, Dismas Ministry’s work is more vital than ever. We provide spiritual tools to support rehabilitation and prevent reoffending.

Expanding Our Reach

Dismas Ministry has steadily expanded its outreach since its founding. In 2000, we started the Ministry with distribution to only four states; by 2013, we expanded our reach to prisoners in all 50 states. Today, we serve an average of 13,000 inmates each year in more than 1,825 facilities across the country.

We have, however, only scratched the surface of the work still to do. There are more than 6,200 correctional facilities in the United States, which include nearly two million prisoners. Roughly 15 percent of the prison population—some 300,000 individuals—identify as Catholic. In any given year, the Ministry serves a little more than 25 percent of U.S. facilities and roughly five percent of Catholic prisoners. To expand our reach and to keep pace with technological changes,

we are now offering our resources to a growing number of facilities in a digital format. As of 2022, at least 14 state prison systems scan all incoming mail, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, a national research and advocacy organization focused on mass incarceration.

Edovo

In 2023, we expanded our reach through a partnership with Edovo, the largest learning platform for incarcerated people in the United States. Edovo currently operates in 1,200+ correctional facilities, reaching over 970,000 individuals who are incarcerated—approximately 50% of the total incarcerated population in the U.S. To date, more than 50 million hours have been spent learning on the Edovo platform.

Through this collaboration, Dismas Ministry now offers 31 free, faith-based resources digitally through Edovo, significantly broadening our impact. Our content is now accessible in over 1,200 facilities across 39 states, at no cost to the individuals we serve. In just the first few weeks, more than 500 incarcerated individuals accessed our spiritual materials—underscoring the hunger for hope, healing, and faith behind bars.



I Am Beautiful: Volume 10 Released

In 2024, Dismas Ministry released Volume 10 in the *I Am Beautiful* series.

This powerful project, which began in 2010, invites women who are incarcerated to share their writings, stories, poems, and artwork reflecting on their experiences with abuse and their journey toward healing. Each annual volume is a testament to resilience, dignity, and hope—offering a platform for women to rise above the violence and trauma they have endured. Through their voices, these contributors not only reclaim their worth but also inspire and support other women who carry similar wounds.

We hope that all who read *I Am Beautiful* will be reminded that they are worthy of love and dignity, and recognize the inner and outer beauty in themselves and others. After each new volume is published, every woman who contributed receives a free copy, and two copies are sent to libraries in women's prisons across the United States.

You can download a FREE sample of *I Am Beautiful, Volume 10* on our [website](#).

Dismas Ministry Programs

Young Adult Prison Ministry Ambassador Program (YAPMAP)

In April 2024, Dismas Ministry moved its operations to the campus of Alverno College in Milwaukee, opening new opportunities for collaboration with students and faculty. With generous support from the School Sisters of Notre Dame, we received a grant to support the continuation of our Young Adult Prison Ministry Ambassador Program (YAPMAP) an initiative that engages college-age students in hands-on service within our ministry.

This year, three Alverno College interns served as YAPMAP Ambassadors. These students played an essential role in managing our Bible study correspondence program, organizing resource inventory, collecting service data, fulfilling requests from individuals who are incarcerated, and assisting with events, communications, and donor engagement. They also helped introduce the mission of Dismas Ministry to their campus community through tours, presentations, and outreach events.

Originally launched in 2021 with support from the ACTA Foundation, the YAPMAP program was briefly paused following the closure of Cardinal Stritch University. We are grateful to have revived it in partnership with Alverno College and look forward to continuing to cultivate the next generation of prison ministry leaders.



New Initiatives in 2024

- Prison Art Gallery: 'Expressions of the Soul' showcased inmate-created artwork in a public event.
- Messengers of Hope: Launched as a video training series to encourage new prison ministers.
- New Headquarters: Relocated to Alverno College for enhanced collaboration and student engagement.

Staffing

In today's rapidly changing world—with economic uncertainty, shifting donor priorities, and advancing technology—Dismas Ministry remains committed to keeping our mission front and center, despite limited resources. This balancing act is carried out by a small but deeply dedicated team.

As of June 2024, Juliann Joerres serves as our new Executive Director, bringing with her over two decades of experience in nonprofit communication and a deep commitment to prison ministry.

Our current staff includes:

- One full-time Executive Director (Juliann Joerres)
- One part-time Administrative Assistant
- One contracted Grant Writer
- Three part-time interns from Alverno College
- Two part-time volunteers from the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC)
- One part-time volunteer bookkeeper

With this committed team, we continue to faithfully serve our brothers and sisters behind bars, ensuring they are not forgotten and that the light of faith reaches even the darkest places.

Volunteers

Fortunately, Dismas Ministry also has a corps of dedicated volunteers who help fulfill orders, correct course tests, manage inventory, and assist with general office duties.

Just as recruiting staff is a real challenge, so is attracting and retaining qualified volunteers. Though our team of volunteers has fluctuated over the years, we have been blessed by a number of dedicated long-term volunteers who help our organization flourish.

In fall 2022, we expanded our network by connecting with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps® (IVC) to maintain our library of publications, inventory management, and help package requests from our Prison Ministry Network.

In addition to the individuals listed above, we are blessed with others who work remotely coordinating the Dismas Ministry correspondence course program. Thank you to Deacon Roberto Fuentes (based in Racine, WI), as well as members of these two parishes: St. Margaret Mary Parish (Milwaukee, WI) and St. William Parish (Waukesha, WI). Greg Dunlop is our volunteer bookkeeper.

We are grateful to all our volunteers, some of whom have been part of our team for nearly 20 years!

Dismas Ministry Headquarters

In April 2024, Dismas Ministry entered an exciting new chapter with a move to our new home on the campus of Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This transition represents more than just a change in location. It marks the beginning of a promising partnership with a respected institution that shares our commitment to education, service, and spiritual growth.

Founded in 1887 by the School Sisters of St. Francis, Alverno College is an independent, Catholic, liberal arts college for women known for its innovative, ability-based learning approach. With a strong emphasis on hands-on experience and community engagement, Alverno provides an ideal environment for our ministry to grow and thrive.

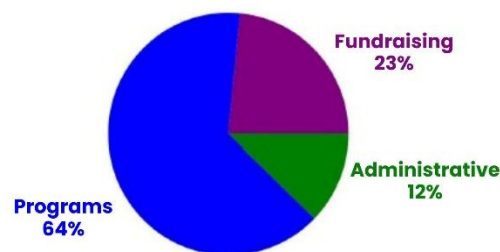
This move has already created new opportunities for collaboration and support. With access to Alverno's vibrant academic community, we've welcomed three college interns into our Young Adult Prison Ministry Ambassador Program (YAPMAP), resumed operations in a more efficient workspace, and deepened our connection to local partners in ministry and education.

Support and Donor Impact

WE are a tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is eligible to receive contributions deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

Source of Funds	
Grants	78,550
Inventory sales	9,825
Contributions	227,126
Investment income	22,508
Total Income	\$338,009

- Total donations received = \$338,009
- Individual donors = 67.1%
- Grantmaking Organizations = 23.2%
- You can find the [990 Public Inspection Copy – Dismas Ministry Inc.](http://www.dismasministry.org/impact) on our website at <http://www.dismasministry.org/impact>.



Mercy Circle Monthly Donors

Monthly donations are a vital resource supporting the spiritual lives of inmates. They form a revenue stream we know we can count on, which allows us to plan our year with confidence.

We established Mercy Circle in 2019. Since then, **111** people have enrolled in this monthly giving club. Over the last five years, our Mercy Circle givers have donated over \$268,243.00

The decision to entrust regular gifts to Dismas Ministry strengthens our efforts to provide for the spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters behind bars. These recurring gifts help sustain our monthly fulfillment of the mission, and bring peace of mind to staff and volunteers engaged in this important work.

Thanks to all members of Mercy Circle for making the commitment to support the ministry in this way. We welcome others to consider joining our monthly giving club for a convenient way to support Dismas Ministry throughout the year. To learn more about becoming a monthly donor visit our [Mercy Circle](#) page.

What Our Donors Say

"Far too often the incarcerated are dismissed and/or forgotten by society, acquaintances, friends, and even family – "out of sight, out of mind." But we have a most merciful and triune God who does not forget or dismiss His creation. A God who always gives another chance, even if people won't. There is a "debt to be paid" for offenses against the law, but, like Dismas, finding God can change a life." — Michael G.

"I believe that donating to Dismas Ministry is important because it addresses the immediate needs of individuals in prison and supports rehabilitation efforts. It is a way to make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by incarceration and work towards a more just and compassionate society for all. Thank You Dismas Ministry for making a difference!" — Helen T.

"Jesus himself gave us the Corporal Works of Mercy, a model for how we should treat our neighbors as if they were Christ in disguise. 'I was ... in prison and you visited me.' (Matthew 25:36). That's why we support Dismas Ministry: To channel God's word of hope, repentance, and mercy to those who are often overlooked or ignored but equally, or more so, in need of His grace." — Anonymous Donor

Voices from Behind Bars

"I want to thank you. I want you to know just how much a simple Catholic prayer book has helped me find myself again in so many ways. Not only have you saved me and gave me hope again but the domino effect that has been created I firmly believe will reach so many people."— Stephen, Georgia

"My name is Julien, I am currently incarcerated at Folsom State Prison. I would simply like to express my gratitude to Dismas Ministry for helping me when no one else could. I received the Bible and 2 prayer cards. I am forever grateful. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. I ask now that whomever reads this can they keep my fiancé's name in your prayers, as well as my son. I leave this in the hands of the Lord. Once again thank you Dismas Ministry for giving me the good book when I needed it most." — Julien, California

Words of support from the Prison Ministry Network

"Thank you, for sending me everything I need for my Bible Study class at Trumbull Correctional Institution (in Ohio). I started the class last Wednesday night at the Camp and had 17 men in attendance. I had great participation in questions, answers and discussions! I love the material that you provide for the inmates and have used your resources for many years." _ **Anne Money Penny, team member with the Diocese of Youngstown, OH**

Thank you for your ministry of sharing these Bibles/resources The Hispanic Immigrant are so hungry for them. Quickly I run out of them again." _ **Chaplain Mark Melhorn, a Prison Minister, Moshannon Valley Processing Center**

How You Can Help

- SHARE: Spread awareness through social media and word of mouth.
- PRAY: Join our Union of Prayer.
- GIVE: Your donation helps ensure no one is forgotten. www.dismasministry.org/donate

Please know that we truly appreciate whatever you can do, whether spiritually, financially, or both. It helps prisoners know they are not forgotten.

Thank you for your support.