



City of Faith 30th Anniversary

In the month of October, City of Faith celebrated their 30th Anniversary. Each employee was given an anniversary City of Faith polo with a special 30th Anniversary design and the option to purchase jackets with the same logo. "It was great to see our company come together and celebrate such a momentous occasion. 30 years is no small feat. We are so proud of where we started, where we are, and where we are headed. Our best years are still ahead," commented COF-LR Program Manager Allen Winkler.



Little Rock employees in their anniversary shirts

City of Faith Administration Building Open House

On October 8th, City of Faith-Little Rock hosted an open house for their new Administration building located directly across the street from their housing facility. "The open house was so beautiful!" beamed Deputy Executive Director Terry Williams. "I've waited for this day for a long time. My staff have room to conduct business, the residents have room to take career readiness and life skills classes, and we have a break room! We've never had one of those," said Williams. The guest list included colleagues, neighbors, board members, and community partners. Guest were treated to tours of the facility as well as light refreshments.



Water color sketch drawn by Williams' daughter Kandace Earle.

Upcoming Events

LR Animal Village

- Every Saturday
- Cleaning kennels, etc
- friendsoftheanimalvillage.org

COF-LR CRAB

- Second Monday monthly
- Community partners discuss City of Faith & community projects

Real Talk

- Tuesday nights weekly
- Monroe Men's Group

2016 Pudding Cup Run

- June 18, 2016
- Partnership with Midtowne Church

Women's Bible Study

- Thursdays at 7pm
- COF-LR Admin building

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Volunteers

Corner

Since the founding of City of Faith in 1986, City of Faith company-wide has logged over 10,000 hours of community service hours to over 5 different cities. Below is City of Faith-Little Rock's current volunteer hours and volunteer dollar value:

July - 97.50 hours,
\$1,877.90

Aug - 108 hours,
\$2,085.48

Sep - 61 hours,
\$1,177.91

*volunteer dollars based on Bureau of Labor

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City of Faith-Little Rock recently held their 9th Annual Silver Linings Christmas Project. The Silver Linings project is in partnership with the City of Little Rock Alert Centers. Each year over 200 indigent senior citizens in the Little Rock area are identified and will receive a gift bag full of goodies including canned goods, flashlights, candy, and toiletries.



Second Chances

Terry Williams
**Deputy Executive
Director**
@terrymcwilliams

There are two things I believe. Two things which are non-negotiable in my heart: 1. God is a God of second chances and 2. God does not call us home until we've completed our earthly assignment. This past week, God called home one of City of Faith's finest and I want you all to know her and her story. Once you read her story, I think you'll believe these two things too. These are her words:

Hello, my name is Gwen Moss. This is my story:

When I was in my early 20's, I was in an abusive marriage. I was drug and alcohol free at the time. At age 28, I decided I'd had enough

and left him. We had a daughter together. I tried to take her with me, but he threatened to kill me if I did. Any member of my family could get her, but I could not. This is when I started to drink and drug. I drank a lot and smoked marijuana and cocaine. A few years later, I figured out that there was a lot of money to be made by selling drugs. That was the beginning of the end for me. At 31 years old, I was selling drugs for major suppliers in Lincoln Parish, Louisiana. In 1997, at 36 years old, I was arrested with 10 secret drug indictments, 8 cocaine, 2 marijuana, all distribution. I took a plea bargain. The DA offered to drop all other charges except one cocaine and one marijuana, and gave me 8 years hard labor. I took the deal. I did the beginning of my time in Lincoln and Union Parishes. In April of 1998, I was sent to Richland Parish. When I walked in the building, saw 75 beds in one dorm, 6 to 8 toilets in the opening along with open showers, it was really hard to fight back the tears. I waited until the lights went out. I cried every night for weeks until I finally realized that I might as well make the best of it.

I applied for a job but was told I had to be there 6 months without a write-up. I asked about being a GED tutor. I took the test and passed it. So, for the next 6 months, I was a tutor. I then applied to become a trustee. I became a hall person. I worked whenever my shift worked. I continued to work until 2001. It was February, 2001, when the Warden called me out and told me that I'd made work release. With tutor credits, I had 9 months left on my sentence. I came to work release at City of Faith on March 27, 2001. I was very nervous and happy. Ms. Biedenharn and Mr. Banks welcomed us that day. We were placed at a newly remodeled house. Before we were sent to unpack, we sat around the dining room table and had prayer. It was awesome.

I got a job at Best Western Motel part-time. One Saturday morning, the security staff at City of Faith told me that Ms. Biedenharn needed a housekeeper for the City of Faith federal house. She said she would pass it on to my case manager. On Monday, April 30, 2001, I was called to Ms. Biedenharn's office. She gave me the job. She said something to me that day that I will never forget. She said, "I am going to trust you to do this job for me." I released on November 28, 2001. She told me if I wanted to stay and keep my job, I could.

One day I thought it had all come to an end. The Bureau of Prisons came for an audit. One federal resident noticed that I would not be in the house when the Bureau was there. He threatened to call them one morning before he went to work. I told the federal facility director and Mr. Banks about it. Mr. Banks called me and the federal resident into his office. Mr. Banks told the resident to tell him what he had told me. Mr. Banks then called the Bureau of Prisons and asked about my being a former state resident and working in the federal house. They said it was no different than hiring a cleaning company and if he was fine with it, they were fine with it too. So, I became a legal house keeper that day. That federal resident never spoke to me again. I worked as a housekeeper for 2 years.

One day, while cleaning the storage building, I saw an old computer on the floor. While working in the Richland Parish, Louisiana facility, I saw staff using the computers and I wanted to learn how to use one too. Mr. Banks told me to take it and learn something. He said to me, "you might be my personal secretary one day." In 2003, I began helping the director with state resident cases. Later that year, this director and I moved to the state resident facility (House 1) to help with state case management. January 2004, Ms. Barbara Howard became the director for the state facility and I became the only state case manager for a while. I made mistakes but I learned from them.

January 2012, I was promoted to State Facility Director. In April of this year, I had my 14th anniversary of being an employee of City of Faith. Today, I am a law-abiding citizen. I am drug and alcohol-free. I am so thankful and grateful for the opportunity to work and learn. I am a product of this program. I get the chance to tell others what God and City of Faith has done for me. In a strange way, I am very glad I went to prison. It taught me a very valuable lesson. I shudder to think of where I'd be now.

Rest In Peace Ms. Gwen. 9/22/61 – 12/12/15 Be blessed my friends. Now, go finish the race. Terry

Terry Williams grew up in northeast Louisiana and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Corrections from Northeast Louisiana University. She began working at City of Faith in 1996 and soon became Facility Director at the the Little Rock facility. After working at City of Faith for several years, she felt God calling her to further her education and obtained her Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. She has a heart for reentry and second chances. She is available for speaking engagements. Contact our office at 501-615-1090, ext 210 to schedule a lecture today.

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