

RETURNING HOME

Because of your dedicated support, this past year has been one of profound transformation at Returning Home. We are writing to express our deepest gratitude for your investment in our mission—an investment that is providing more than just resources; it is providing a future for those seeking a second chance.

2025



Looking Ahead: Exciting Developments for 2026

As we move into the coming year, we are focused on expanding our reach and deepening our impact through several key initiatives:

- **Cross Church Partnership:** Starting this February, we are launching a partnership with Cross Church to host Sunday services and Sunday School at CRI. This will provide a consistent, welcoming spiritual community for our participants and their families.
- **Expanding CRI & Launching Women's Programming:** We are continuing to pursue the expansion of the CRI program. This growth is a critical precursor to launching our long-awaited women's program, ensuring we can provide the same life-changing support to women in our justice system.
- **Washington County & PEARL Collaboration:** We are proud to announce a new partnership with PEARL in Washington County for the Women's CRI. They will be taking the lead on working with women, and Returning Home will be coming alongside them to provide development oversight and assistance in establishing the program.
- **Strategic Growth:** Initially, these programs will operate out of the same location. This strategic start allows us to refine our methods with the goal of future expansion, ultimately increasing the number of both men and women we are able to serve in our community.

2025 Highlights: A Year of New Beginnings

The Aftercare Program & Lori Hawkins



We are thrilled to announce that Lori Hawkins, with Smith & Associates Real Estate Services, has taken the lead of our Aftercare program programming. Lori brings an invaluable and unique set of qualifications to this role. Her professional expertise in real estate, combined with her background as an educator, allows her to mentor our men with a level of precision and empathy that is rare.

Pathways to Homeownership: Under Lori's leadership, we are excited to see the development of a structured program helping our men work toward the ultimate goal of purchasing their own homes—an essential pillar of long-term stability and community reintegration.



The CRI Program & Spiritual Growth

We celebrated the official launch of the CRI program this year. The spiritual impact has been immediate and moving, marked by the recent baptisms of ten incarcerated men who have committed their lives to a new path through this ministry.

Your generosity has laid the foundation for every one of these successes. Thank you for believing in the power of restoration and for being a vital part of the Returning Home family.

With gratitude,
Returning Home

GETTING UP TO SPEED

If you feel like you need a GPS just to keep up with our latest updates, you aren't alone! We've realized that "constant change" is just our way of life. At Returning Home, our growth is always intentional. We are committed to aligning every program with evidence-based best practices because we believe excellence honors God. But while the data drives our methods, the mission is what matters: Spiritual growth is eternal. We don't settle for temporary fixes. Sustainability is woven into everything we do, ensuring our clients can utilize their unique spiritual gifts for the long haul. In every program we offer, we are building foundations that don't just last for a season, but for a lifetime.

The Community Alternative Program

We are honored to be at the forefront of this profound change within the judicial system. Traditionally, when an individual is arrested, sentencing options are limited to community supervision or incarceration. Over the years, Returning Home has provided a vital alternative through our unique community and faith interventions. Under this program, men are sentenced to our transitional living facility for 120 days, where they live on-property and are fully supported as they begin their journey of restoration.

We have five years of proven outcomes in stabilizing and reunifying families while reducing the likelihood of relapse. These interventions include deep faith engagement through New Life Church services, weekly chronological Bible studies facilitated by our Board President, Ken Canfield, and the intentional verse mapping integrated into every leadership class.

These faith foundations are paired with life skills, financial management, mental health resources, and primary care. To ensure their success, we connect these men with stable employment and provide all necessary transportation and support during their stay. Together, these elements make a sustainable difference in their lives. Because of this transformation, we have the opportunity to facilitate nine Family Days a year—giving families the opportunity to come onto the property and meet the transformed version of their loved one while having some fun.



Aftercare

Launch of the Aftercare Tiny Home Program
In 2025, we launched our Aftercare Tiny Home Program, a next-step housing and education initiative designed specifically for graduates who are ready to transition from program completion into long-term stability and independence. Located on CAP property, this program provides safe, structured housing in tiny homes, allowing graduates to continue building consistency while preparing for permanent homeownership. This aftercare phase intentionally connects residents with key stakeholders in the home-buying process, including title professionals, lending agencies, and financial partners. Through weekly educational classes, participants gain practical knowledge and hands-on guidance in credit building, budgeting, lending processes, and sustainable homeownership. These classes are not only about learning how to buy a home, but about helping each man believe he is worthy, capable, and prepared to do so successfully.

At the heart of this program is Lori, whose unique approach goes beyond instruction. She has a remarkable ability to come alongside these men in their journey—meeting them where they are, walking with them through uncertainty, and helping them see what is possible. On the back of this page, you can read more about Lori and the passion, experience, and personal investment she brings to this work.

This program represents more than housing—it is a bridge from recovery to ownership, from survival to stability, and from hope to lasting impact.

Thank you to Washington County Leadership, Judge Patrick Deakins and his team, Sheriff Cantrell and his staff, and the Quorum Court for their continued investment in Returning Home Services. Through your belief in our mission, we are **Repairing Lives and Restoring Families.**

Community Rebuilding Initiative

Throughout 2024, our organization, Returning Home, was dreaming alongside Washington County leadership about how we could do jail differently—moving toward a model that is deeply program-driven and outcome-focused.

In April 2025, that shared vision resulted in the launch of the Community Rebuilding Initiative. This program serves men currently incarcerated in the Washington County Jail with low-level, non-sexual charges, with plans already in motion to open a women's counterpart in 2026.

What makes this initiative unique is the strategic partnership between Arisa Health and RSAT (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment), which makes mental health and trauma-informed care a top priority. Our data revealed that 83% of these individuals were experiencing homelessness prior to their incarceration. Once we understood the specific needs of this population, we knew that community connections and reliable resources would be the vital keys to their success.

Returning Home has the incredible opportunity to provide ten "Community Blocks" each week, educating clients and connecting them to the amazing resources available to them upon release. Most vital to this mission is our connection to residential programming, including:

- Held Housing
- Freedom Seekers
- Micah's House
- Community Alternative Program
- Salvation
- PEARL

In addition to these residential programs, we provide a unique opportunity for residents to invest in their education. Through our partnership with Fayetteville Adult Education, these men can pursue their GEDs. Furthermore, our strategic partnership with Goodwill Industries of Arkansas provides specialized courses in Project Management, E-commerce, and Digital Marketing.

Additionally, PEARL has invested directly in this vision by placing Jim, a Peer Support Specialist, onsite. Through consistent engagement, he has effectively connected participants to the recovery community and the critical resources needed to sustain progress beyond incarceration. This intentional programming strategy addresses existing gaps in continuity of care and reentry support, ensuring participants are not only stabilized in the short term but positioned for long-term recovery, accountability, and successful community reintegration.