



Volunteering in the Community

Story on page 2

Center residents help with Fayetteville project

The before (below) and after (at right) photos show what a bit of paint and some hard work can achieve as residents of the ACC's Northwest Community Correction Center in Fayetteville tackled a project of making old fire hydrants in the city look new again.



The hydrant at right with the blue cap is dedicated to the memory of Charlie Jordon (1946-2014) who was a Fayetteville Fireman for 25 years.

Residents of the center sanded the hydrants, painted each one and added in reflective material (as shown in the photo on the cover). The photo below shows the painting process.



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Please send corrections/information to:

Rhonda Sharp, Editor
rhonda.sharp@arkansas.gov
or
Dina Tyler
dina.tyler@arkansas.gov

Logan County Drug Court celebrating 'RED NOSE DAY'



A Drug Court participant in Logan County purchased \$30 of Red Noses from Walgreens - enough for everyone in the court to wear as seen in the photograph above - in support of Red Nose Day. From its web site, the organization that sponsors the charity event explains its function: Red Nose Day is a fundraising campaign run by the non-profit organization Comic Relief Inc., a registered U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity. Red Nose Day brings people together to have fun, raise money and change the lives of kids who need our help the most. Red Nose Day launched in the U.S. in 2015 and is dedicated to ending child poverty, both in this country and in some of the poorest communities in the world. The money raised by Red Nose Day in the U.S. has benefited programs for children and young people in all 50 states and in 34 countries internationally. Globally, Red Nose Day has raised more than \$1 billion since its launch in the UK in 1988.

Area 9 staff collect cereal for hungry children



The West Memphis Probation/Parole office recently took part in a Cereal Drive along with LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis for the Memphis Food Bank. The cereal drive was held so that children in the mid-south area could have breakfast on days that they are not in school and otherwise might not get to start the day with the most important meal. Pictured above with members of the West Memphis office is Stephanie Foster from LeBonheur. Almost 60 boxes of cereal were collected, which amounted to 587 breakfast servings. Area Manager Brian Holt says his staff hopes to make this an annual event.

Area 4 staff work with local Special Olympics



The local Special Olympics games were held at Jonesboro High School in April and Area 4 staffers were on hand to help.

The events consisted of opening ceremonies, torch lighting ceremony, various athletic events for participants and medal presentations to the athletes.

Shown above is Craighead County E-911 Director Jeff Presley, Jonesboro Police Department Chief Rick Elliot, JPD Detective Nathan Coleman, ACC Agent Ashley Stuart, Poinsett County Deputy Ryan Stone, JPD Officer J.R. Chambers, Poinsett County Deputy Jasen Rorie, Jonesboro Fire Department Scott Mangrum, JPD Detective Bill Brown along with local Special Olympic Athletes. Stuart is shown at right presenting medals.



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**Arkansas Community Correction hires
professional staff throughout the state for positions ranging
from**

**Correctional Officer to Counselor to Probation Officer.
For information about applying for a job at ACC, go to:
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Taking back unused drugs in Jonesboro



In April, Area 4 Agents Bryan Hook and Ashley Stuart, both shown above, assisted the Jonesboro Police Department with the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Event at the Jonesboro Police Department. The event had volunteers from the Jonesboro Police Department, Arkansas Community Correction, Crowley's Ridge Development Council, Jonesboro Citizens Police Academy and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Jonesboro Police Department K-9 Rico and his handler Officer Dustin Smith were present to shake a few hands and provide entertainment.

The total weight collected at the JPD location was 69.4 pounds. This was added to the amount JPD had previously collected leading up to the event and makes a grand total of 756 pounds. That's 756 pounds of medication that will be properly destroyed and not out on the streets thanks to this program!

Find information ...

... about what is going on in your community by visiting The Good Grid for reentry website:



<https://goodgrid.com/>

Williams speaks to inmates on reentry



Assistant Director for Reentry Carrie Williams spent some time behind bars herself when she spoke to the Think Legacy participants at the Arkansas Department of Correction's Ouachita River Correctional Unit in Malvern.

Williams spoke on the screening, qualifications and programming requirements for ACC Reentry facilities.

According to ADC, The Think Legacy Program is voluntary program that inmates can sign up for when they are 6 to 18 months from their release date. Think Legacy Reentry provides housing of like-minded individuals that are about to transition back into communities as returning citizens.



Residents in West Memphis Center learn how to weld



A group of residents, shown above, at the East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center in West Memphis received certifications this spring in welding. Welds of the 28 participants were tested and 27 passed. That's a 96% pass rate, which is outstanding!

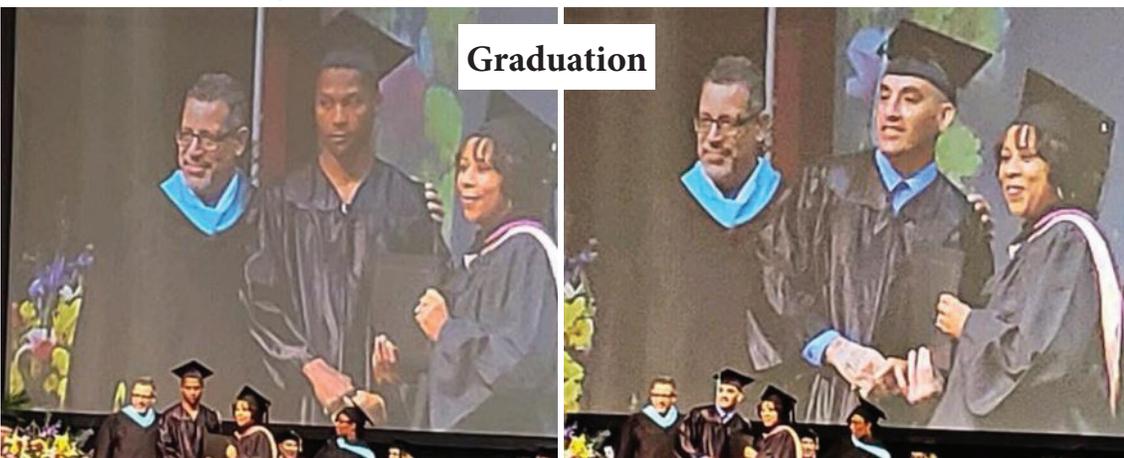
The ASU Mid-South in West Memphis instructor who taught the class said he saw "some absolutely amazing welds; I also loved seeing some of clients who did really well in the class helping others to get better!"

"As it turned out, this project was an additional opportunity for your clients to develop camaraderie and teamwork!"

"I think we have a wonderful foundation to build on and continue training more cohorts of your clients going forward," said Alexander Lamm, ASU Mid-South Director of Employer Engagement & Business Services.

Plans are to hold the class again this Fall.

Reentry news from across the state



Covenant Recovery Reentry Center in Pine Bluff held a GED graduation ceremony for two of its residents. The GED test was NOT a barrier for these two—that's a huge accomplishment! Congratulations to Kendrick A and Ricky A, a job well done!

Reentry news from across the state

Returning Home



who need a “hand up” and not a “hand out.” Assistant Director for Reentry Carrie Williams presented Jones with the license for Phoenix Recovery NWA facility, as shown above, during a TEO graduation event held by Goodwill Industries of Arkansas in Rogers.

Phoenix Recovery of Northwest Arkansas houses 55 male parolees and will be a part of the Returning Home location in Springdale.

The community has embraced the opportunity to help these men being released from incarceration to northwest Arkansas overcome barriers and have a successful reentry. The Director of Phoenix Recovery NWA is Johnathon Jones.

Jones previously worked with ACC for seven years as a parole officer. He has the experience and the heart to work with those

A Letter of Success

Zachary, at left, has been to prison four times, but now he's firmly committed to staying out. He's in ACC's Reentry Program where he's making good choices and his life is changing. This is a letter from Zachary:

“My name is Zachary, and I entered Covenant Recovery on April 3, 2018. I haven't had my driver's license for 17 years. It is the main reason I resort to selling drugs because I am unable to maintain employment. I have hired lawyers to help me get my license and was told they couldn't due to an out of state warrant. So I just gave up on getting my license back which has cost me 2 trucks, 4 cars, 2 motorcycles and around \$7,000 in fines not counting the county time I have served for driving on suspended I have received over the years. I came to Covenant Recovery and in 2 days Mrs. Amanda called the courts and got me my driver's license back and the following Monday we went and got my driver's license back. I want to personally thank Ms. Amanda for helping me obtain this goal and would also like to thank the ACC for the opportunity to participate in this program.”



Reentry news from across the state

Driving Again



When Scott, at left, arrived at Sobriety Living Center in Pine Bluff from state prison he had no identifying documents.

He struggled to get a proper photo ID because he didn't have the right papers. Without a photo ID, you can't get a Social Security Card. Without an ID and a Social Security card, you can't go to work.

That's tough for anybody. And especially tough for someone trying to rebuild his life. Reentry Officer Jeffery Little and Ms. Jen at Sobriety Living Center in Pine Bluff bulldozed that barrier with Scott.

He is shown holding his state ID card. That's Ms. Jen standing beside him. With this ID card, he begins work at a new job.

This is the first step to getting back on track and doing positive things moving forward.

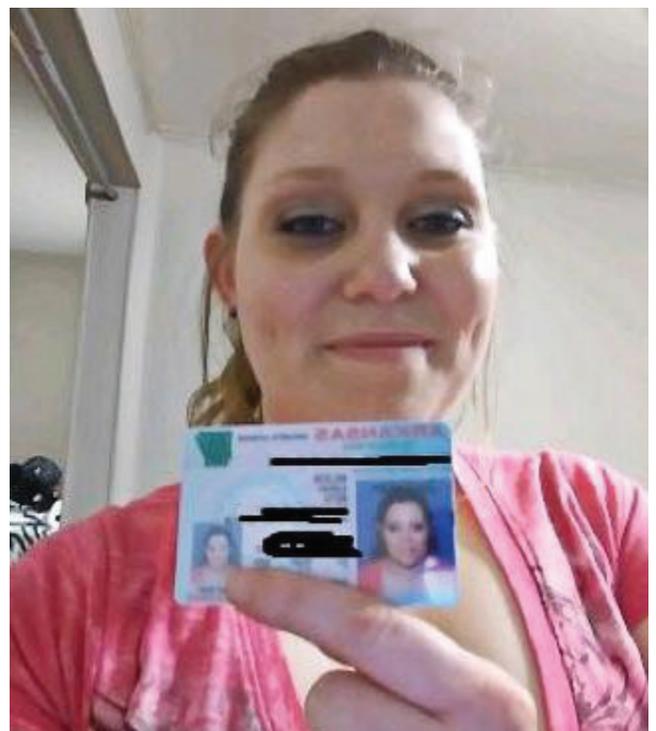
Sarah Takes Positive Steps to Regain Her Life; Is Living Clean and Sober

Sarah, shown at right, started using illegal substances at the age of 11, went to jail for the first time at the age of 15 and from there it went completely downhill.

Sarah entered the Reentry Program in November of 2017, and she has since maintained a job for the past 5 and 1/2 months. She's also been promoted to supervisor.

Sarah has her own place and she took care of 13 active warrants and \$9,000 in fines that have been completely wiped off of her record. She has a driver's license for the first time in nine years. Since being in reentry, Sarah regained a relationship with her daughter and family, gained her self-esteem back, and is living clean and sober.

**When you are looking for a new career with
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find the agency's open positions at:
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Reentry news from across the state



Success in Numbers

Eight-hundred and fifty-six ... 856

That's how many adult offenders have successfully completed ACC's Reentry Program.

Every single one of them left the program with a full-time job and housing.

It really can't get much better than that!

The program is six-months long, and it helps offenders get ready to return to the community.

The transition from incarceration to the community is usually, or can be, so difficult for a felon.

It's hard to find housing, transportation, employment, clothing and support services.

The Reentry program helps remove those barriers.

Reentry truly is the best hope for former inmates trying to rebuild their lives and their families in their community.

If an offender is serious about making the necessary changes, the Reentry program will help them get it done!

Reentry news from across the state

Tina and Jennifer, shown below, came in to ACC's Reentry Program in January 2018. It did not take them long once they arrived at Reclamation House to realize they were starting a new life.

These pictures were taken the day they signed the leases on their new apartments, which is a huge step for someone returning to the community!

Both women chose to relocate so they could change the people, places and things that remind of past actions and behaviors. Tina and Jennifer are leaving the Reentry Program with full time jobs. They are doing great and they have every right to be proud of their accomplishments.

A New Lease On Life



Reentry news from across the state



A Moment of Prayer

Reentry Officer Jeffery Little is shown at left praying with reentry residents to get their day started at Convent Recovery in Pine Bluff.

Move-Out Day

Move-out day at Reclamation House, shown below, is always a day of mixed emotions. The “good byes” and “see you later” are always tough, plus the “unknown” when leaving such a structured way of living.

But when a resident chooses to relocate, the support is given by every other resident and the community. This is an example of move out day.

The furniture is all donated by the community so residents do not have to stress about what to sleep on or how they will “rent to own” their furniture.

If the resident has children, their needs are met also. And the residents gather together and assist the resident that is moving out with loading up the furniture, unloading the furniture, and setting up their new home.

This is a true showing of the sisterhood that has developed during their time at Reclamation House.



Reentry news from across the state

If these guys look proud, it's because they are. And they have a good reason to be. All seven of these men are currently participating in the Reentry Program at Covenant Recovery Facility in Pine Bluff. In addition to everything else they are doing, they made time to attend a special program put on by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The program is designed to teach them empathy and to show the horrible consequences of impaired driving. Its tough training, but every one of them successfully completed the course. They have the certificates to prove it!



Completing The MADD Program

Employment Workshop in Fort Smith Brings In Offenders

Greg Bodiford taught a workshop in Fort Smith and offenders were present to get the information they needed



to find employment and to keep it.

Pauletta Martin set everything up and had the referrals sent to her from the staff in the ACC office. Ten offenders showed up for class was great, and Martin is doing great as a CPPS.

Reentry news from across the state

Driving Again



Jennifer came in to Reclamation House with several warrants and holds on her driver's license. ACC Reentry Officer Christa Glover made contact with judges, and was able to get those warrant holds lifted by explaining to the courts the efforts Jennifer has made to change her life through the ACC Reentry Program. For the first time in five years, Jennifer has her driver's license. The "Reentry bubble" cleared almost \$900 in reinstatement fees. Southwest Church of Christ paid the \$40 driver's license fee, like they do for the other residents who are eligible for their driver's license. Jennifer has also received a raise at work, and she's paid the deposit and rent for an apartment so that she can change her people, places, and things. Jennifer is making all the right choices to stay on track!



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It is 100% free and easy to create your own page and get started.

When you connect, you will be able to:

- Post volunteer & full time opportunities to the community of Arkansans who are passionate about your organization
- Access & search a database of more than 100,000 services
- Publicize events (like fundraisers, marathons, etc.) to a community of social impact minded people
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4. Complete the Sign up process

1

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2. Click [Confirm](#)
3. Create your password and sign in.

2

QUESTIONS?

Once you sign up, if you have any questions contact us by phone, email, or a help desk ticket.

team@goodgrid.com or
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3

Reentry news from across the state

Jordan was first arrested at the age of 18, everything from there went downhill. She began using drugs and she began going in and out of jail.

She lost custody of all three of her children and was sentenced to six years in prison last August and in November, she was pulled from prison and placed in the ACC reentry program.

She has learned so much from this program. She has built her self-esteem, learned to live clean and sober, to have feelings and be a better sister, daughter and most importantly, a better mother and person in general.

Jordan has never had a driver's license and she has accomplished another stepping stone in her new life - she is now a licensed driver.

New Driver



Hope Rises Group Session



The photograph above is of the fabulous women at Hope Rises attending group. In this particular group, the women who have made it to Phase 4 spoke to the new residents about how the reentry program has changed them and their path in life.

Reentry news from across the state

Another great job fair hosted by Goodwill that ACC was allowed to be involved in. With 25 different employers and resource providers including ASU Newport for educational information, child care options, the Department of Workforce Bus, and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for assistance with funding for higher education.



Job Fair in Jonesboro



Are you interested in becoming a mentor to an adult offender?

Contact Ardella Bearden at

501-743-0959 or by e-mail at

ardella.bearden@arkansas.gov

Mentoring is a rewarding way to help the people in your community

Reentry news from across the state

Driving Again

Dena Polk, at right, was at Hope Rises and claims that it is the best thing to happen to her in a long time.

She also is thankful for Hope Smith who was her officer while in the facility and has provided her with the motivation to succeed in her community.

Dena has not had a valid driver's license in more than two years. Recently she came into the ACC office smiling; with her Arkansas driver's license in hand. She believes that this is one less barrier in her life.

Dena will be working at a Goodwill center in the western part of the state.



In late November, Whitney White, who is shown at left, began the Reentry Program at Hope Rises.

Rebuilding A Life

Since entering Hope Rises, Whitney has obtained her driver's license; obtained a full time job; and committed her life to Christ, been baptized, and is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church

Also, she was able to parole to her own residence, and has her own vehicle.

White has a mentor as well as a sponsor. She says that throughout the past six months she has learned many things including, "There are people in the world willing to help you regardless of your past.

"By being at Hope Rises I have learned that people will open their hearts up to you.

"Everyone I have encountered has been positive support and encouragement.

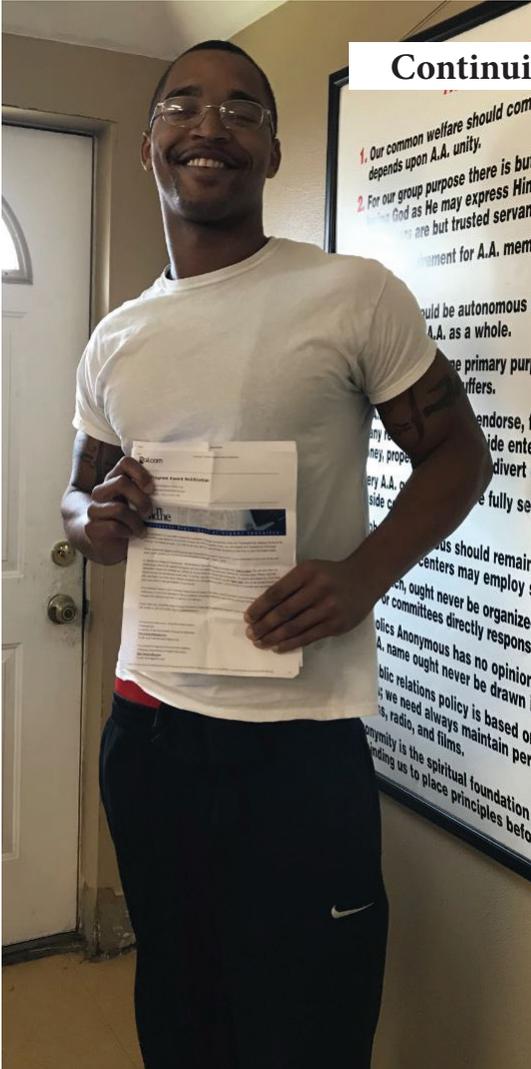
"Overall, I learned a new way of life. There are better things in life than being in the streets."



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Mentoring is a rewarding way to help the people in your community

Reentry news from across the state



Continuing Education

Resident Jerome Thomas, at left, has been awarded a scholarship to continue his education. He is in the Reentry Program at Covenant Recovery in Pine Bluff. He plans to attend Pulaski Technical College this coming fall.



Driving Again

Hidden Creek is part of ACC's Reentry Program and helps state inmates prepare to return to the community. You are looking at Gary and Christopher in the photograph above. Both of them now have a driver's license. Gary hasn't a license in more than 15 years. The license is a huge step for offenders trying to put their life in order. It's very hard to get to and from work without one.



Reconnecting With Family

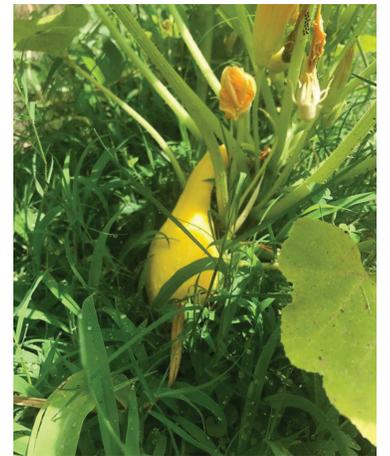
Family reunification is such a beautiful thing and something Reentry pushes. Amanda Leslie had not spoken to her father in two years. She would call and talk to her mom, but her father, even sitting in the same room as her mother, would refuse to get on the phone. He was so hurt and disappointed by the choices she had made. Now she talks to her father every couple of days. And she continues to patiently rebuild relationships with other members of her family, but she knows it's a process that involves her proving herself and her life changes.

Reentry news from across the state



Gardening

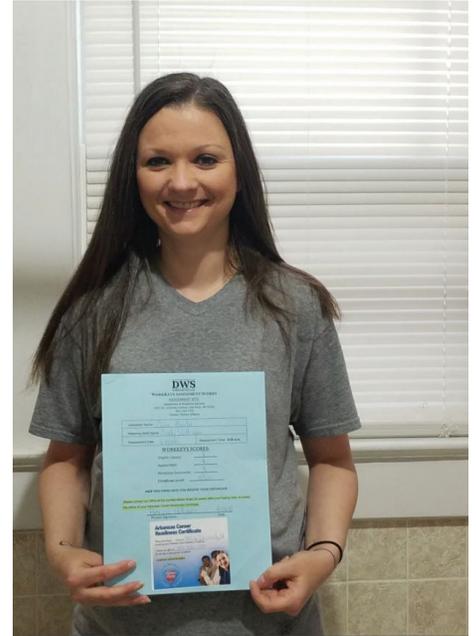
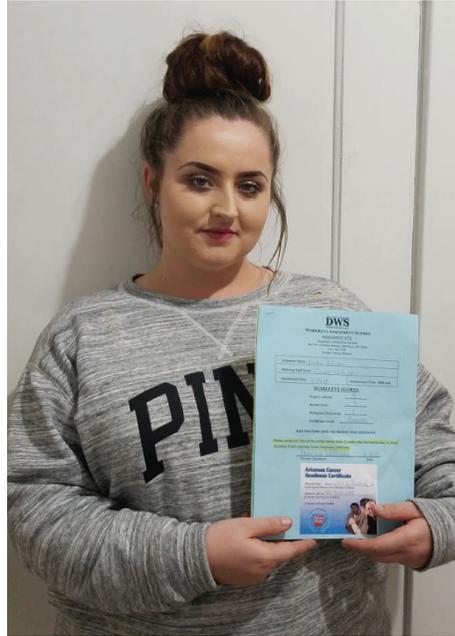
The residents of Hope Rises, part of ACC's Reentry Program, have a garden project. Gardening doesn't just produce food, it can also be very therapeutic. It can reduce stress, depression and anxiety. Gardening can also provide emotional, social and vocational benefits. To top it off, there's something very rewarding to be part of a team effort.



Walking With Purpose

There are so many barriers to reentry, some mental, some physical and some spiritual. But they're all important. Here are the female offenders of Hope Rises in downtown Little Rock and they're walking for a purpose.

Reentry news from across the state



Three Ladies Are Successful In Earning Career Readiness Certificates

Gina and Erika, shown above at right, are both residents at Hope Rises Reentry Facility. Both ladies completed Career Readiness through Goodwill in Little Rock!

Laneise Phillips, shown above at left, also is a resident at Hope Rises. She began the reentry program in May of this year. Just prior to coming to the Reentry Program, Phillips completed her GED while in the Arkansas Department of Correction. Phillips also has earned a Career Readiness Certificate.

What is The Good Grid?

The Good Grid in a Nutshell

Many people find themselves in helpless situations and having to deal with a multitude of poverty related troubles. Though there are many good people and organizations ready to help, people are still slipping through the cracks. We address this gap by:

- 🔗 connecting **beneficiaries** - those looking for help - to providers that can address their issues
- 🔗 helping **service providers** serve more effectively by connecting them to dedicated supporters & useful tools
- 🔗 channeling **volunteers** to causes that are meaningful to them.

👉 [How does the Good Grid work?](#)