

# JUMPSTART®

*Transforming the lives of prisoners from the inside out*



***“I volunteer four times a week because I can and it’s thrilling to me. I have time to do it and I love to do it. It’s not a burden – it’s a blessing!”*** *Dr. John Beard, JUMPSTART Inside Program Volunteer*

JUMPSTART would not work without our volunteers and their families. They keep the programs running, investing their time and wisdom into the lives of our participants. One of these families is Dr. John & Laura Beard from Columbia SC. Dr. Beard is a retired Cardiologist/Electrophysiologist, and Mrs. Beard is a Senior Risk Manager at OB Hospitalist Group. They have two beautiful daughters.

Dr. John and Laura Beard moved to Greenville in 2014 after living in Columbia for many years. They became involved with JUMPSTART very soon after hearing about the prison ministry through their church’s missions committee. Dr. Beard immediately thought, “Wow! That sounds great. I need to be a part of that!” He has been ever since. Dr. Beard volunteers four times a week at Perry, Livesay and Tyger River Correctional Institutions. It’s a big commitment, but Dr. Beard would not have it any other way.

JUMPSTART’s transition program is what attracted the couple initially. The Beard’s had worked in another prison ministry in the early 90’s and loved the teaching of it, but were disheartened by the lack of assistance after prisoners were released. They felt this gave former inmates little hope of being successful on the outside.

## ***Inside Discipleship Prepares for Outside Success***

The couple is so thrilled with JUMPSTART’s vision to ‘break the back’ of recidivism and feels the organization has done this very, very well with an in-depth focus on discipleship of the inside program while participants are still incarcerated. Then as they transition out, JUMPSTART provides critical assistance by giving them the resources they need and teaching them the skills required to be successful on the outside. The JUMPSTART program walks beside its participants the entire way. Although the transition program was the initial appeal for the Beard’s, they soon realized there is so much more. “What really thrills me about JUMPSTART, in addition to the transition program, is the emphasis on discipleship.” stated Dr. Beard.

While our volunteers witness a lot through their time with JUMPSTART, the blessings extend beyond the volunteers themselves. Laura talks about some of the wonderful things that she has been blessed to see herself. “It’s really cool to see men who were put in prison for significant crimes against society like severe anger, rage, murder and rape,” she says, **“and then watch them as they transition through the program and start to know Christ personally. They recognize ‘I don’t want to be like I was when I first got here’.”** Dr. Beard adds, “These are guys that you would love to have next door or maybe even date your daughter because they demonstrate the evidence of life change.”

## For Those Who Are Called According to His Purpose

Often, as Christians start working with a ministry, we find that we are as impacted as those we go to minister to. It is no different for Dr. Beard and JUMPSTART. “For me, just being allowed to witness on a weekly basis the power of the Spirit of the Living God in the lives of these men and in my life has been an exceedingly great blessing.” He goes on to say, **“It is so obvious that discipleship is a priority behind those fences, and for me, I am growing in grace and understanding by association with those guys. My faith has greatly matured since I became involved with JUMPSTART...and I can see daily the impact that this has had on my life. Again, I am more trusting and sure that the God who created Heaven and earth can work together for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose.”**

In fact, when asked if he had a message for those considering volunteering with JUMPSTART, Dr. Beard said, “It is as much for you as it is for them. Don’t go in thinking that you are going to save the world. Instead, go in thinking you’re going to partner with these guys in their walk and in your walk. Personally, I am in a much better place with my Lord because of the time I have spent with JUMPSTART.” Adding to that he said, “Witnessing what the Lord can do in these desperate circumstances that takes people devoid of hope, suicidal in some cases, and transform them to the point where they are not only full of hope, they are purveyors of hope.”

## Join Us and Grow Your Faith

JUMPSTART is in need of more volunteers, and as the program grows, support in all facets of the ministry. When asked about volunteering, Laura Beard says, “Just do it! There are so many ways you can be involved. You can start out small and as your comfort level grows, you can move into more active roles.” She added, “It will really help you grow your faith. When you face the trials that are going to come in life, then you know that you have the same access to the same God that helped these men and women face immeasurable obstacles in their lives, which they have overcome.”

JUMPSTART invites you to be a part of what God is doing through this ministry. We welcome you to come take one of the monthly tours of our program to see first-hand how lives are being transformed from the inside out. If you want to know more, you can take a tour of one of the prisons and to learn about our inside program and see how you can be involved.

For Him, for them



Tommy Moore, Executive Director

**“My faith has greatly matured since I became involved with JUMPSTART”**

**PS: It cost \$57 a week (\$240 a month) for JUMPSTART to provide prison re-entry ministry services. Your financial gift to support our ministry will change a life. Please use the enclosed response card or give securely online. Thank you!**

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**



**Serve**

Get plugged in:  
volunteer@jumpstartvision.org



**Give**

Return the enclosed card or give online:  
jumpstartvision.org/financialsupportoptions



**Pray**

Join our prayer team:  
team@jumpstartvision.org

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JUMPSTART is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing a Christian environment for ex-offenders that will allow them to transition from incarceration to a productive life.