

Greetings from New Executive Director, Cary Sanders

As you may know by now, I was recently appointed by JUMPSTART to serve our team as Executive Director. It is an honor and humbling privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility to steward the resources God provides as we work towards achieving our mission: transforming the lives of prisoners from the inside out.

In 2007, at the age of 20, I participated in the first JUMPSTART class at Tyger River as an inmate. I still remember the palpable presence of God's Spirit in that prison chapel. Hearing Don Williams, an ex-offender who has been successful, share about how he was "Just Using the Master's Plan to Stay True After Release" inspired us in a way that only those who have been at rock bottom can genuinely appreciate.

During the next six years of my incarceration, I was privileged to help JUMPSTART grow and develop into a process that helped men and women become captivated by the beauty of Christ so that they gladly lived surrendered to Him. Dozens of men and women on the inside and volunteers from the community invested hope and love into my life, and I am forever grateful.

Since my release in 2013 until now, many of these same people have enriched my life beyond measure. I'll never be able to repay you for the significant impact you've had in my life and in the lives of those who have journeyed similar paths, but I am committed to serving others in the same way you have shown me how to serve.



I am regularly amazed by our many supporters who give generously and serve faithfully. To date, the JUMPSTART family has helped thousands of men and women discover their God-given purpose as they transitioned from prisoners to productive citizens.

Our financial supporters and volunteers give generously and sacrificially. We recognize and rejoice in the impact each one of you is making. If you would like to know more about how your gifts are making a difference beyond what you receive through newsletters and social media, please send me an email as I'd love the opportunity to share more stories and updates.

Perhaps you receive our regular updates but have yet to decide about how to support the work of JUMPSTART. If this describes your situation, would you let me know? Together we can explore the options where the Lord might have you involved in this ministry. My contact information is below, and I look forward to hearing from you.

The future of JUMPSTART is bright because of the dedicated team of supporters we have in every aspect of our ministry. Enclosed, you will see how Restoration Village is quickly moving from an idea and plan to reality. You'll also see how JUMPSTART impacted George Miller's life and how he is now giving back by serving on our team as Resident Ambassador.

God has done extraordinary things in us and through us. As we pray faithfully, serve courageously, and give generously, God will continue to work through us so that many can have a future greater than their past. As we continue worshipping Him, He will do more than we can ask or think through us for His glory. ***Please join me on this servant journey!***

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cary Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cary Sanders

Executive Director

www.jumpstartvision.org

864-593-4288

Cary.Sanders@jumpstartvision.org

“I should have called the police - but I did not.”

George Miller’s life as an adolescent is an example of the staggering research revealing that 80% of males who go to prison have had traumatic life experiences growing up. He was 10 when his mother died, and his father soon remarried a woman who was verbally abusive to George and sent him to a boys’ home when he was 14, effectively cutting him off from his family. When confronted with a situation he didn't know how to handle or escape, he didn't call the police, but instead committed a crime that earned him a life sentence at the age of 22. George is sorry for the decision he made and looking back he admits he would have handled a lot of things differently. But thankfully God forgives, and He restores, and now George is using all he has learned to help others.

George joined JUMPSTART seven years ago while serving a life sentence at Lee Correctional Institution. What drew him to JUMPSTART, he said, was the discipleship of the program, and as he learned about a daily Christian walk, his life changed.

“
The thing that got my attention about JUMPSTART which made it different than other programs was the discipleship. The program itself focuses on your daily Christian walk.
”

Earlier this year, after 37 years of incarceration, he was finally recognized as a model prisoner and granted parole. “When I found out I made parole,” he said, “I couldn’t talk. It was overwhelming...God provides.”

It was overwhelming when he considered all the questions he had about life after release, from where he would live and work to how he would pay bills. For years he had encouraged those being released to go to JUMPSTART where there was a proven process for transitioning back into the community. In February, he finally got to follow the advice he had been giving. He said that the program makes re-entry into society “as easy as possible,” and the decision to join lifted a heavy burden from him.

With eagerness, he recently accepted the position of Resident Ambassador on our team. In this role, he will be developed as a leader to serve his peers and will oversee building maintenance at JUMPSTART’s 12 transitional homes and serve as the program’s transportation coordinator. He will serve as the key contact for any day-to-day facility issues, as well as schedule preventative maintenance.



Taking over these responsibilities will allow William Harrison to step into the role of Director of Pastoral Care where his primary focus will be helping transitional program participants live daily surrendered to Christ.

In a few days George’s story on video should arrive in your email inbox. Be sure to check it out!

RESTORATION VILLAGE TAKES NEXT STEP IN DEVELOPMENT

Restoration Village is progressing well and for that, we are grateful! We recently passed a zoning commission at the property site which was a necessary step for us to move forward. The biggest news that you may have seen on social media is that we made a deposit on the first three homes to be constructed within the complex! This is an exciting development and we expect to start grading this summer. Construction will then follow thereafter. We are also reviewing site infrastructure bids to ensure we have the right contractor in place for addressing these critical needs. And, we are moving closer to announcing an official groundbreaking date, so be sure to stay tuned for that exciting news.



Wendy White of Clayton Homes with Tommy Moore

Through the generosity of so many of you, Restoration Village represents a sustainable model that we are creating to help men and women make the transition from prisoner to productive citizen. It is incredible to see the Upstate community rally together to break the back of recidivism in our state. The Lord has exceeded our greatest expectations through this stage of the project and we are trusting Him to provide through His people to help us finish the project.

UPDATE on INSIDE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

For the past year, JUMPSTART has looked different inside of each institution. At some institutions, inside leaders have been able to conduct classes inside of the dorms, while at other locations participants and leaders have not been allowed to gather at all. Hopefully, all of that is about to change. Based on conversations with multiple state officials, it appears that volunteers could be allowed to return inside

of prisons for programming on a limited basis by the end of August. The Covid-19 vaccine has been offered to every state inmate and employee. Please continue to pray that volunteers are able to return soon. We will share further information with our inside volunteers as soon as the information is released.

Your support of JUMPSTART helps us impact lives in ways beyond what is possible to mention in this newsletter. We are thankful and grateful for the prayers, volunteer work, and financial gifts you provide for our ministry. Please use the enclosed response card and return envelope for convenient giving or you may choose to give securely online at jumpstartvision.org/financialsupportoptions.

Thank you!

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Serve

Get plugged in:
volunteer@jumpstartvision.org



Give

Give securely online at
jumpstartvision.org/financialsupportoptions



Pray

Join our prayer team:
team@jumpstartvision.org