

GCS recognizes Reconciliation Ministries as its Organization of the Month

Government and Community Services (GCS) is a proactive outreach arm of the County. GCS focuses on facilitating improved community outreach, administration of government services, and the resolution of community issues. GCS recognizes an “Organization of the Month” that exemplifies the importance of supporting the community and assisting in getting resources to those most in need. This month’s organization of the month is Reconciliation Ministries.

Reconciliation Ministries (RM) unites with donors, volunteers, and advocates to provide a platform that enables those suffering from addiction to experience life changing freedom, hope, healing and reconciliation to God, themselves, and others. RM carries out its mission by providing a highly structured, long-term residential recovery and discipleship program for men and women seeking substance abuse treatment. Students (the term used instead of “clients” to describe program participants) in the program work through three phases of curriculum focusing on transformation of old mindsets through character development, application of character qualities, leadership development and life skills classes, and vocational training. The third phase is focused on helping students transition back into being a productive member of society. In this phase, students receive help getting employment, regaining legal documents (i.e. driver’s licenses, birth certificates, etc.), working on legal issues, and any other barriers students may face in getting back on their feet.

**Recent Accomplishments/New Initiatives**

* Partnered with Forward City Church to help pass out over 40,000 lbs. of food
* Passed out over 100 food boxes to families in our neighborhood.
* RM Coffee was started as a unique way to provide job training and equip students. Larry was one of the first students trained as a barista... this month he is getting the opportunity to train others!
* RM Choir has been busy singing and sharing testimonies at local churches and we would love to come to your church! Our spring schedule is filling up quickly, so send us an email at info@reconciliation-min.org if you are interested in learning more.
* Restore. Each year RM has a word representing the theme and focus for the year. This year the word is restore. Psalm 51 & 23 are focal points for this word. Specifically Psalm 51:12b, "grant me a willing spirit." The restoration process is always a lot of work and requires perseverance, but is always worth it! We can't wait to see all that God restores this year!

**Pictures/Stories**

Stephanie’s Story- <https://vimeo.com/623380827>

Larry’s Story- <https://vimeo.com/612839260>



Brian and Karla Poirier serve as Reconciliation Ministries’ coffee campaign manager and assistant. Prior to their involvement with RM, they served as missionaries in Puerto Rico. While there, they experienced Hurricane Maria and were devastated by the impact it had on the people of Puerto Rico. Everyone needed money and they faithfully prayed, “God, we found a need. How do we meet it?” Shortly after praying that prayer, a friend called with the news that he had bought 400 acres on the side of a mountain and wanted to start a coffee business. They came up with the slogan “more than coffee” – their mission was to make a difference by reaching orphans and addicts. This was the start of something more than they imagined.

After serving in Puerto Rico for a few years, Brian relapsed and knew he needed help – he had a connection to RM and decided to join the Restoration Track which he completed at the end of 2019. Since being at RM, he has experienced reconciliation to God, himself, his wife, and so many others.

Once Brian completed the program, his wife, Karla, decided to move to South Carolina and serve within the ministry as well. God continued to use their “more than coffee” mission to help addicts within RM. When the pandemic hit, plans were changed, but the mission remained – “more than coffee”. RM began setting up tables in front of stores, selling bagged coffee, evangelizing, sharing about the ministry, handing out thousands of flyers, and receiving thousands of prayer requests. It’s so exciting to know that through RM Coffee, we will have the opportunity to disciple students and encourage individuals.