

# NEWS

February 2026

## → MINISTRY UPDATE ←

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## UPDATE

Praise be to our Father in heaven, who is King of all rulers of the earth. He



is patient, kind, forgiving, and caring to us in all our trials. He is a real Father to us, and He is always looking out for our good. He helps us grow into the vessel He

intended us to be. We look forward to His return for us, and we look forward to the new heaven and the new earth, where all things will be good. We thank God that He has shared with us the future, the things the world cannot see. Jesus come quickly!

I admit I have been a little impatient about getting the new website up and running. Now that it is up, I am so humbled by all the work that made it possible. Thanks so much to Donna Melchorrie and her team for the super results. We will always be adding information and updating things. Go to [handupministriesinc.org](http://handupministriesinc.org), and you see what has been accomplished.

Things have been happening quickly and often for us. The more the devil fights, the more God does. The devil just tried to shut us down again, but they forgot to read the law, which made it where they couldn't hurt us anymore. On top of that, a new law that takes effect in November 2026 makes living restrictions much better for those individuals we can't help and those who have enough money to go out on their own. There are other good things for those just getting out. God cares for all of us.

## THE FARM

David Nichols There is another good thing. The electric, water, and sewer are complete, so we can add 20 apartments in our metal buildings. We also have two apartments well on the way to being finished. We already added two trailers, so our population is 12 men and one couple. Over half of the 41 acres have been cleared. The big pond is about half finished, and it will become about one acre. The dirt will fill new areas and make the landscape smoother and ready for more projects. The water from the pond will feed the greenhouses and then will go

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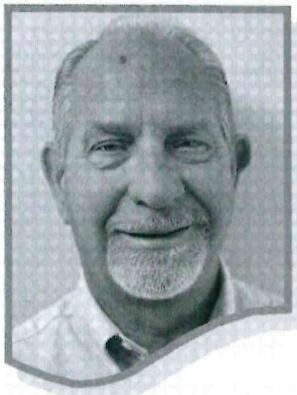
back into the pond to feed the fish. We will then be an aquaponics operation with the highest quality of food.

The laying hen operation has reached 400 laying hens, with nearly half of them producing daily. We also have added 50 hens to fatten for market, plus 100 ducks that are a special breed. We also have five gobblers and a herd of quail. With spring not too far off, we plan to have a banner year. Within another year we will have fish to sell, and who knows what else. Everything we do is done by our own clients!

Remember to check out our new website at [handupministriesinc.org](http://handupministriesinc.org). You will be glad you did.

-David Nichols

## A Little Fun in Chandler, Oklahoma



It is a privilege to report this month on a recent event held at our Chandler facility under our partner nonprofit, Love Foundation. All of the men residing at this location receive Social Security Retirement, SSI, or SSDI benefits.

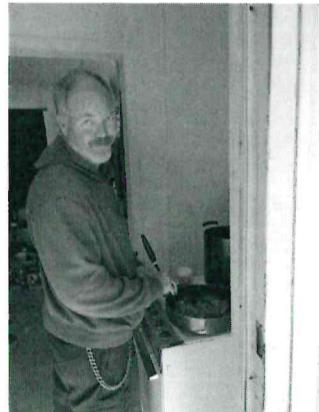
The staff at this facility does an

excellent job of keeping residents engaged and productive throughout the year. This year, they organized a Chili Cook-Off, bringing together residents for a fun and friendly competition.

In this article, we are pleased to share photos of the first-, second-, and third-place winners. The event was organized and led by Josh Roberts, Assistant to the Manager at the facility. Judging duties were handled by Manager John Hider, along with two resident judges.

Winners were:

Dallas Blevins in 1st place, Shawn Marazzo in 2nd place and James Osbahr in 3rd place. Two of the winners did not want their pictures published but I will present you pictures of some of the contestants preparing their specialty.



## Testimonies

I was born in 1962. My early childhood was okay. We attended church when I was growing up, but my siblings and I backslid a lot. My father introduced my brother and me to marijuana when I was nine years old. He didn't want us to fall to peer pressure. He was very abusive to me and my brothers. We were dropped off at a babysitter when my parents were working, and she sexually abused us. She forced us to do things to her body.

Things got better when I started playing my instrument and got into sports, but marijuana was always present. My parents got divorced when I was 14. Even though we lost our dad, I still loved him. I am named after him. I joined a gang when I was 14, and I got into a lot of illegal activity. My only outlet from all of that was my music. My music blossomed when I was 16, and everyone was proud of me. I graduated from high school when I was 18, and I joined the Army.

I served in the Army for six years, and I was injured on guard duty. I turned to cocaine after I left the Army. I got married while I was in the service, and I started a family. My wife decided to cheat on me, and I divorced her after 13 years of marriage. After I left her, she falsely accused me of spousal rape, and I went to prison. I lost my mother to diabetes and COVID, and I gave my life to Christ. I got baptized when I was in prison in 2023.

God has blessed me to be drug free for 22 years, and God has eased the pain of losing my mother. I attended Crossings Community Church services when I was in

prison, and I was told about Hand Up Ministries. Hand Up gave me a roof over my head after I was released from prison. If not for Hand Up, I would have been homeless. God has blessed me since I came to Hand Up. My life has gotten better, but I am struggling. As long as I keep putting God first, I know things will get better. I have given all of my current problems and issues to God.

-Tyrone Mason

I came from a poor home in the Chicago area. My parents' marriage was forced on them when they had me. They fought often, and we moved frequently. They divorced when I was 13. I struggled to find peace and direction, and I turned to alcohol and drugs. I began skipping school and running away from home. I dropped out of school when I was 16, and I started working fulltime.

I was unable to hold on to a job for very long, and I bounced from job to job. With the threat of being kicked out, I took whatever jobs had immediate openings, regardless of pay or cancer potential. I was never happy with any of them. My self-esteem was chipped away a little more each time I quit a job or was fired. I drank more and more. No matter where I moved or where I worked, I felt like a failure.

The worse I felt, the more I drank. My chaos eventually caught up with me, and I went to prison for three years. At first, it felt like the lowest point in my life, but something shifted while I was in prison. I realized I couldn't keep living the way I had been living. I decided to change, and I began by continuing my education. I

got my GED, and then I enrolled in college. Being on a positive track, as well learning about Hand Up Ministries from my case officer, gave me hope that success after prison was possible.

Hand Up was instrumental in starting my life over from scratch after I was released from prison. I literally had nothing. Now I have a stable job that I have held for two years, and I am saving money for an apartment I can call home. Life has had many challenges, and they are not over. Thanks to Hand Up and the growth I have experienced while at Hand Up, I am ready for those challenges. I am not the person I was before.

No longer do I feel like a failure, and I have no desire to drink. Last year my mother said she was proud of me. That brought me to tears. It will soon be my time to move on from here to make room for another. I hope the next guy grows here as I did.

-Anonymous

I am deaf. My mother had measles when I was in her womb, and I was born deaf. I was born in Texas, and I grew up in Texas and Oklahoma. We moved a lot because my father was in the Army. My family can hear. I am the only one who is deaf. My mother, my brother, and my sister can sing. I went to Oklahoma School for the Deaf in Sulphur, Oklahoma for three years, but most of my education was at public schools with programs for the deaf. I graduated from high school in El Reno, Oklahoma.

I moved to Oklahoma City after high school. I got married, but we divorced

after six years of marriage. I have a son who is now an adult. My crime was lewd acts with a minor. I spent 11 months in jail, and I spent 15 years on probation. I went to a church for the deaf in Moore, Oklahoma. That church is now in Oklahoma City. That church is where I learned more about God. I became saved, and I have been going to church since that time.

A friend told me about Hand Up Ministries, and Hand Up has been a big help with my life. The Hand Up office staff has been great. The church has closed caption so I can read what David Nichols says to us. I pray for each of my Hand Up brothers to know who Christ Jesus is. God is good.

-Carl Nichols

As we go this new year, let us not forget what God has said. In Hebrews 12:1, He says ***“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”***

If we run the race, God will show us the path if we believe.

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