

# COLLABORATE



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- ✓ Give
- ✓ Volunteer
- ✓ Partner
- ✓ School of Peer Recovery

"It is important to our family that we contribute to those that are often overlooked. We are confident that our gifts are expanding the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by partnering with this amazing work."

-Anonymous Donor



Golden Valley  
763.545.6558

Shakopee  
763.299.0808

Prior Lake  
952.248.3535

Rochester  
507.292.1700

Rochester Community Housing  
507.258.4566

School of Peer Recovery  
763.545.6558



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[www.damascusway.com](http://www.damascusway.com)



## TRAUMA-INFORMED SERVICES

*Through the Lens*

## OF REENTRY & RECOVERY







# STORY

Every Person Has A Story

**Damascus Way** is privileged to serve individuals with a broad spectrum of lived experiences. We recognize that every individual who comes to us is a unique human being made in the very image of God, worthy of dignity, opportunity and support on their pathway towards life transformation and restoration.

The reality in our field is that individuals and families come to us with significant barriers that impact their reentry and recovery journeys. These barriers can affect a person's ability to obtain stable housing, employment and social connection. As a result, we have observed that there are common threads of both resiliency and struggle that characterize the lives of those who participate in our services. Many of our residents and/or participants come from the harsh reality of damaged family systems, generational incarceration and/or substance use disorder. It is our belief that these harmful cycles are a result of various forms of trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Identifying these patterns and factors are an important ingredient in restoring an individual's autonomy and humanity, which in turn facilitates greater self-awareness, healing and meaningful community integration and connection.

*Acknowledging that every person has a story is an essential principle in our approach to serving with care that is authentic, informed and transformative.*

**Damascus Way** proudly serves diverse population demographics from several counties in the greater Twin Cities area with a strategic focus on developing community engagement and connections, career readiness and housing pathways. With a commitment to trauma-informed practices, Damascus Way supports and empowers person-centered routes to recovery and reintegration by placing a value on personal healing, development and transformation. Inspired by the powerful redemptive story of the Apostle Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, we are committed to the hope that each individual has the capacity to achieve and maintain long-term success on their own road to freedom.

*"I am not ugly on the inside. It is the shell on the outside, that has been built up by trauma, that is ugly."*

- Destiny Dads Participant

# TRANSFORMATIVE

Lorem Ipsum

Responding to the Story

Housing is an essential need for individuals on their path towards recovery, self-actualization, and stability. Many persons face the danger of being exposed to unhealthy circumstances that result in substance use and other risky behaviors. In addition, returning citizens encounter obstacles that make finding housing extremely difficult. Damascus Way's goal is to help people progress toward sustainable housing and homeownership that ultimately contributes to more secure and healthy communities.

Damascus Way offers comprehensive housing support, access to resources and peer recovery services. Research indicates that long-term success in reentry and recovery is aided significantly by access to affordable housing and home ownership. Through strategic partnerships and programs, Damascus Way helps our residents grow in financial literacy and the capacity to obtain stable housing, which is an essential catalyst in reducing rates of recidivism.

## Transformational Data Points



**Housing:**  
National and international research shows strong positive correlations between stable housing and significant reduced rates in recidivism. A Michigan State Housing Program for individuals on parole saw a 93% success rate for those who participated and received housing assistance.

*"Why Housing Matters for Successful Reentry and Public Safety"*  
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development  
April 19th, 2022  
huduser.gov



**Career & Employment:**  
"Recidivism rates were nearly cut in half for returning citizens who have full-time jobs compared with those who are unemployed."

*Jake Cronin*  
Institute for Public Policy, Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri.



**Community Connection:**  
Research indicates that positive social and family ties can reduce an individual's likelihood of returning to substance misuse and/or incarceration.

*Mark T. Berg and Beth M. Huebner*  
"Reentry and the Ties that Bind: An Examination of Social Ties, Employment and Recidivism."  
Justice Quarterly Volume 28, Number 2 (April 2011).

*"I really needed help getting back on my feet and Damascus Way was a great help. I didn't feel like just a felon here and that goes a long way in making life positive again. Damascus Way has given me the ability to live on my own, but with just enough structure to help me stay focused on becoming stable!"*

- Former Resident from the Shakopee House



**Counties of Services**  
Hennepin  
Scott  
Olmsted  
Dodge



**Locations**  
Golden Valley Campus  
Rochester Campus  
Rochester Community Housing  
Prior Lake House  
Shakopee House

# SERVICES

Youth & Family Preservation

Damascus Way promotes the power of healthy connection and community integration as essential to a successful recovery journey. The goal is to build a network of support that provides individuals with the resources they need to achieve long-term recovery. Peer recovery specialists and coordinators play an important role in helping individuals build strong networks of support within their communities. This includes providing access to "recovery capital" as well as other forms of support. Damascus Way has created an environment where individuals can receive the necessary assistance and guidance for their recovery. In recent years, Damascus Way has expanded our capacity to support the prosperity and health of family systems through our Destiny Dads and Destiny Way programs.

*"I've worked with men who have children of all different ages who still agree that the Destiny Dads is helpful and relevant to them!"*

Scott County Social Worker

## Adverse Data Points



**Substance Use:**  
Past research indicates that "between one-third and two-thirds of child maltreatment cases involve some degree of substance use."

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (1996).



**Broken Family Systems:**  
"Children of incarcerated parents are, on average, six times more likely to become incarcerated themselves."

*Eric Martin*  
"Hidden Consequences: The Impact of Incarceration on Dependent Children."  
(March 2017).  
National Institute of Justice Journal



**Fatherhood Absence:**  
Studies indicate that "children raised in households lacking a father experience psychosocial problems with greater frequency than children with a father in the home. These problems have been found to extend into adolescence and adulthood and include an increased risk of substance use, depression, suicide...and contact with the criminal justice system."

*Jerrod Brown*  
"Father-Absent Homes: Implications for Criminal Justice and Mental Health Professionals."  
Minnesota Psychological Association

## HISTORY & WHO WE ARE

For over 45-years Damascus Way has served the substance use recovery and prison reentry populations with peer services, family systems work and community integration support.

