



Tiny Home Community

Partnership Opportunities



Benevolence Farm

WHERE SECOND CHANCES GROW NATURALLY

About Benevolence Farm

Our mission is to cultivate leadership, promote sustainable livelihoods, and reap structural change with individuals impacted by the criminal legal system in North Carolina.

The rate of women's incarceration in the US has surged, increasing by 700% in the last 40 years. More than 2,500 women are released from North Carolina state prisons annually, with just \$40 from the state, expected to seamlessly reintegrate into their communities.

Benevolence Farm, established in 2008, is among the few organizations addressing the unjust practices of the criminal legal system in rural North Carolina. The criminal legal system predominantly focuses on deterrence and punishment, lacking significant investment in rehabilitation and restoration. We work to ensure fair opportunities for women leaving incarceration, enabling them to construct fulfilling lives and thrive in their chosen communities.

Much of this work takes place on our 13-acre farm where the original housing and enterprise program was established in December 2016. Since then, our work has blossomed into statewide advocacy and support for formerly incarcerated people.



About Benevolence Farm

Central to our mission is the belief that every person, regardless of their worst mistake, deserves a dignified life. We assist women leaving prisons by providing connections to housing, professional opportunities, education programs, and practical support. Our team meets their immediate needs through wraparound services detailed below:

- We manage two shared living residences in Graham and Burlington (North Carolina) that can accommodate 10 women rebuilding their lives.
- Our programs address dimensions of well-being — physical, mental, spiritual, financial, occupational, and environmental. Women participate in trauma-informed peer support groups, financial literacy sessions, and personalized coaching led by our staff. Once women are ready to leave these spaces, we support their transition to homes in counties across the state.
- We grow and sell fresh produce, flowers, and herbs using organic practices. We manufacture natural body care products by infusing them with the medicinal herbs and flowers we grow. All the proceeds from sales go back to our residents' living wages.
- We strive for systemic change to the criminal legal system through advocacy, education, and outreach.
- Our advocacy efforts include addressing second-chance employment, fair housing laws, drivers' license restoration, and voting rights for people with felony convictions. We also train fellow social service providers, government employees, and businesses on how to collaborate and support people with criminal records, with an emphasis on housing access.

Why Tiny Homes?

For the past three years, Benevolence Farm has maintained a waitlist for our housing program. As one of the only reentry programs in the state for women of all conviction records, we witness a high demand that only continues to grow. Despite opening a second home in 2022 that increased our housing capacity by 66%, we are still unable to meet the demand.

Additionally, we take resident feedback very seriously. In 2020, a former resident who was incarcerated for 27 years came to us with a proposal. While it's nice to have the shared community of our original six-bedroom home, she feared the transition to a community where she would live alone for the first time in her life.

As someone who experienced such a long incarceration period, she had never held a cell phone until she exited prison in 2018. Now, in her 60s, she was anxious about all the new technology she might have to navigate on her own without any help from the community she had at the Farm.

The Tiny Home Community, seven tiny homes built on the backside of our 13-acre property, would not only double our housing capacity at the Farm, but would allow residents the dignity and practice of living in a place of their own while still having access to a non-judgemental and understanding community of neighbors who can provide care and support in the transition phase after prison.

With your help, we can make this Tiny Home Community a reality in 2025.

What's it going to cost?

We intend to build seven 380 sq. ft. single occupancy homes on a permanent foundation. Each home is designed to reflect the individuality of the community we serve thanks to input sessions of current and former residents. For example, there will not be lofted beds as these beds trigger memories of bunk beds residents were forced to use for sleep during their incarceration.

Additionally, all our tiny homes are designed for accessibility and environmental sustainability, which will minimize the long-term costs for maintenance and utilities.

In June 2024, Benevolence Farm was awarded 0% interest financing from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency's Supportive Housing Development Program — one of only nine organizations selected. While this is an incredible step forward, we need your help to bring these homes to life.

We've secured \$437,000 in community investment, but we need to raise an additional \$60,000 to complete the project.

You can be part of this life-changing effort by:

- Sponsoring construction materials, appliances, or labor
- Making a financial contribution of any size

Every dollar you give directly helps create these vital spaces for women transitioning out of incarceration, supporting them as they rebuild their lives with dignity, stability, and hope.

In recognition of your support, we'll proudly share your contributions through our communications efforts, ensuring the community knows of our partnership and your generosity.

BSIDE HOMES HLDN MODEL

Exterior



BSIDE HOMES HLDN MODEL

Interior



Tiny Home Community

Site Map



Learn More

To have a deeper discussion about our Tiny Home Community and how you, your faith organization, and/or business can partner in this effort, please contact Executive Director Kristen Powers.

E-mail: kp@benevolencefarm.org
Text/Call: 336-639-8436



© Above the Trees Photography

We thank you for your
continued support in
our programs.

Benevolence Farm
PO Box 1313
Graham NC 27253
336-639-8436
www.benevolencefarm.org
info@benevolencefarm.org