

CHATTANOOGA ENDEAVORS, INC



Second Chances for
Former Offenders & their Loved Ones.

MEETING PURPOSE

1. Learn about Chattanooga Endeavors
2. Understand of how Stephen's Table works
3. Define the role of volunteers in prison
4. Decide whether Stephen's Table is a good match for you
5. If so, join a Yellow Ribbon Committee
6. Test the benefits of this online format

MEETING AGENDA

1. Brief Introductions (Breakout)
2. Overview of Chattanooga Endeavors
3. Purpose of Stephen's Table
4. Role of Volunteers (Breakout)
5. Structure of Volunteer Service
6. Next Steps
7. Open Discussion

GROUND RULES

1. Keep yourself muted when not speaking
2. Make everyone's minute count
3. Set aside distractions to be fully present
4. Make space for different perspectives and styles
5. Surface disagreements
6. Listen for understanding
7. Preserve the integrity of the adjourned meeting
8. Everyone has a learner's permit

BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS

- 1 What's your name?
- 2 Where were you born?
- 3 What do you hope to get out of this meeting?
- 4 What concerns do you have that you would like addressed?

The world about us would be desolate except for the world within us.
– Wallace Stevens



US PRISON POPULATION – 2.2 M

29,000

Tennessee Prison Population

From Hamilton County

850

375

Returning to Hamilton
County each year

ENDEAVORS' MISSION

Everyone deserves a second chance. However, second chances can be hard to find for former offenders and their loved ones. Through grassroots efforts and community initiatives that are restorative in nature and that provide realistic hope for those who have been affected by the criminal justice system, Chattanooga Endeavors creates true second chances for men, women, and their loved ones to overcome the stigma of incarceration, to regain purpose in their lives, and to build a better tomorrow for all.



THE ENDEAVORS MODEL



STEPHEN'S TABLE: PREAMBLE

Stephen's Table is a fellowship of ordinary citizens who have made the extraordinary commitment to stand in compassion with members of their hometown who are serving time in prisons that the pain of incarceration might not break their bond with the community they share and that their homecoming might be a time of celebration and renewal and not desperation and divorce. By simple acts of human kindness through letter writing and visitation, members reignite hope in the hearts of those living in the shadow of the criminal justice system:

- Reminding them that they haven't been forgotten
- Helping them to make the most of their time in prison
- Assisting their loved ones who may be suffering in silence, and
- Supporting them during their transition home

The only requirement for membership is a desire to preserve the bond between prisoners and their hometown. Although Stephen's Table committees may be formed in religious, civic, and social organizations, it is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, or social agenda; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to be in relationship with members of our community who are serving time in prison and to create a support system for when they come home.

PURPOSE

To preserve the social bond between prisoners and their hometown – which studies have found improve success after prison by 30%.

- A framework not a program
- A network not a project
- A response not an intervention



LETTER WRITING

The Cost of a Stamp

Two letters a month during the last 12 months of incarceration reduces recidivism by 30 percent.

Letters come from the group not an individual

- o Safer for volunteers
- o More stable for former offenders
- o Longer living for the initiative
- o Emphasizes the bond with a community over an individual.

Sept 30,

Dear Stephan's Table,

My Name is Madeline Dorey Baker (Broomell)
446325, I am currently in Bledsoe Co.

T.D.O.C. I am from Chattanooga, and have
lived there 4-5 years. I am eligible for parole
on July-2016 and want to return to Chattanooga.

My circumstances are hard, I have really
no one, my mother passed 2007, and sister 2012.

I am a hard worker and want to give my life
a different direction, I have no children and
have a probation sentence for Hamilton Co

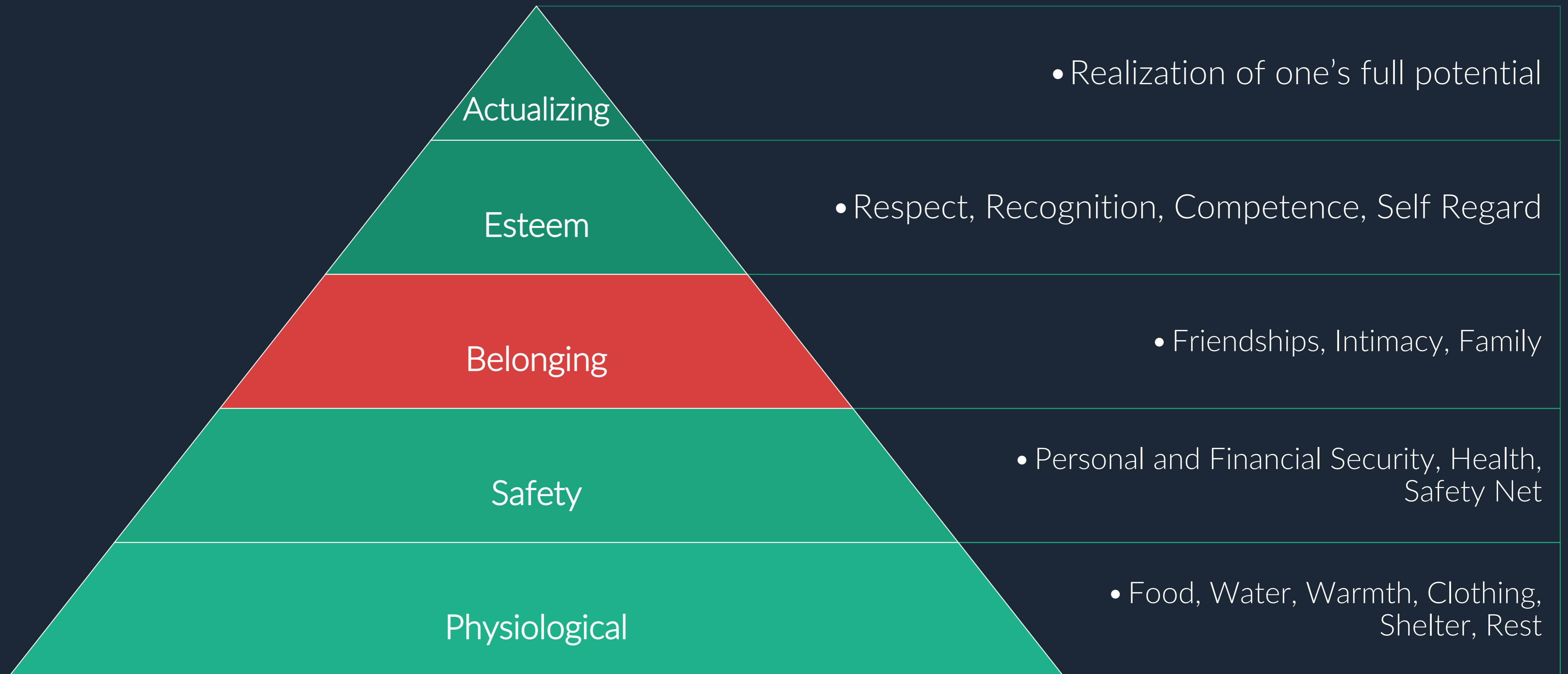
until 2021. It's hard to find living, and other
resources when you are limited, But I am

willing to do all it takes to correct what
I can. I am in Computer Arts-Drafting (school)

now, in Prison, to better myself, I have my
GED, I have never gotten any financial aid,

so I plan on going to school. I am interested

HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



PRISON VOLUNTEERS

Programs provide services that improve conditions:

- Professional
- Standardized
- Efficient
- Collective impact

Volunteers build relationships that transform people

- Personal
- Individualized
- Sloppy
- Single impact



DISTANCE AS PUNISHMENT

 **Geographic**
The Distance from Home

 **Cultural**
The Distance from Social Acceptance

 **Intrapersonal**
The Distance from Self

 **Interpersonal**
The Distance from Others

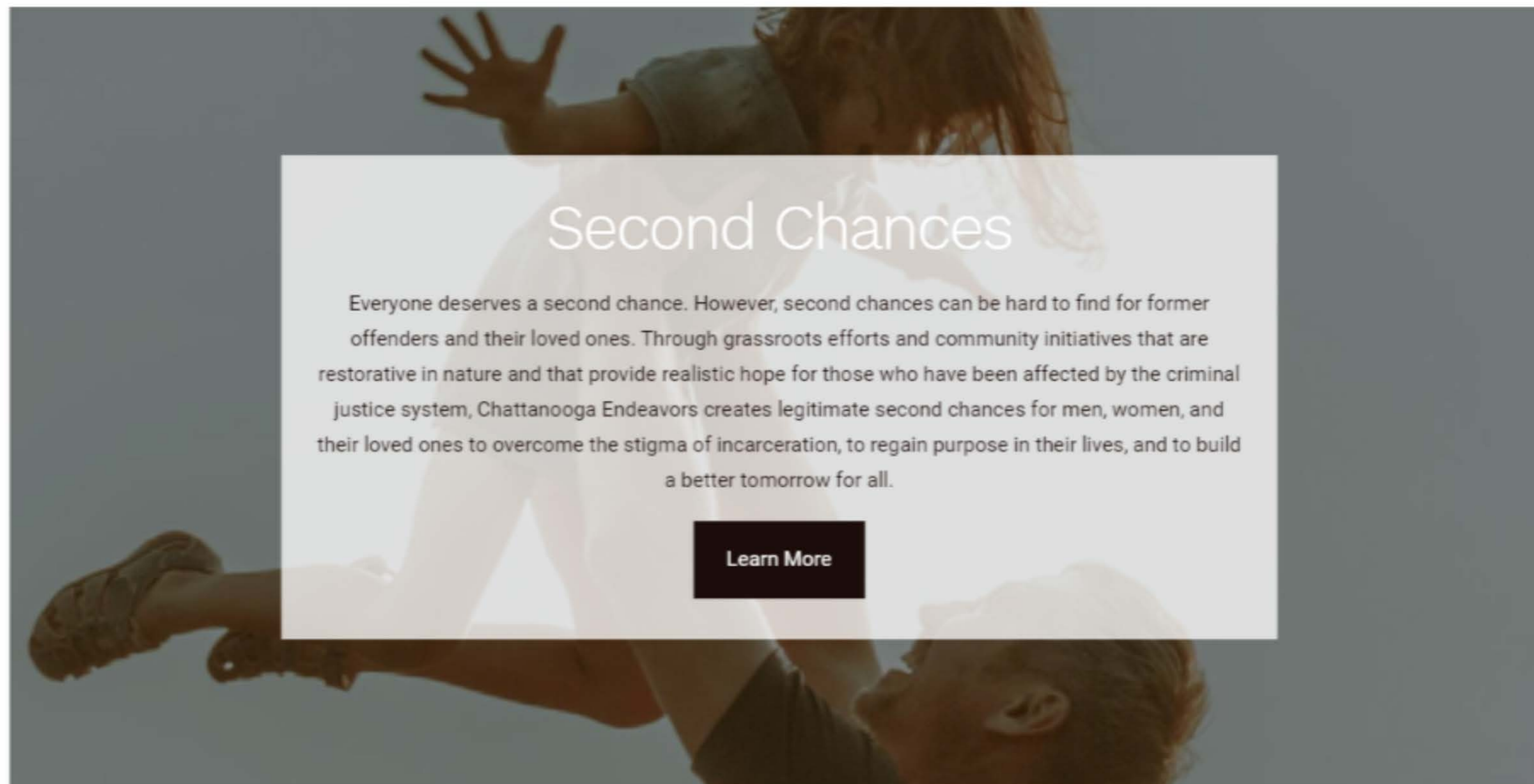


FACEBOOK COLLABORATION

The screenshot shows a Facebook group interface for "Stephen's Table Inner Circle". The top navigation bar includes the user's name "Timothy", "Home", and notification icons. The group name and search bar are at the top left. A large landscape photo of a bridge over a river is the main header image, with a "Change Group Photo" button in the top right corner. On the left sidebar, there are navigation options: "About", "Discussion" (highlighted), "Members", "Events", "Videos", "Photos", "Files", and "Manage Group". Below these is a search bar for the group and a "Shortcuts" section with links to "Expressive Change", "Stephen's Table Inner C...", "Stephen's Table Champ...", "The Sun Comes" (7 items), "Community Building I..." (1 item), and "Stamp Out Despair" (12 items). The main content area features a "Write Post" section with options for "Add Photo/Video", "Live Video", and "More". Below this is a text input field with a "Write something..." placeholder and buttons for "Photo/Video" and "Feeling/Activity". The "RECENT ACTIVITY" section shows a post by "Timothy Dempsey" shared on June 8 at 11:32am, with the text "Don't lose sight of the outrageous conditions of this prison because of the uplifting sound coming out of it. But it is a brilliant example of what Victor". On the right, the "GROUP BY" section shows the group name "Stephens Table" with 147 likes. Below that is the "ADD MEMBERS" section with an input field for "Enter name or email address...". The "MEMBERS" section shows 15 members with circular profile pictures. At the bottom, the "DESCRIPTION" section is partially visible, starting with "A secret Facebook page only for members of".



- [Home](#)
- [About](#) ▾
- [WeekendCEU](#) ▾
- [Lenten Cross Project](#) ▾
- [Resources](#) ▾
- [Contact](#)



Second Chances

Everyone deserves a second chance. However, second chances can be hard to find for former offenders and their loved ones. Through grassroots efforts and community initiatives that are restorative in nature and that provide realistic hope for those who have been affected by the criminal justice system, Chattanooga Endeavors creates legitimate second chances for men, women, and their loved ones to overcome the stigma of incarceration, to regain purpose in their lives, and to build a better tomorrow for all.

[Learn More](#)

OPEN DISCUSSION



NEXT STEPS

1. Submit Volunteer Application
2. Join a Yellow Ribbon Committee
3. Accept someone in prison to write to



CHATTANOOGA ENDEAVORS, INC

THANK YOU!



Second Chances for
Former Offenders & their Loved Ones.

