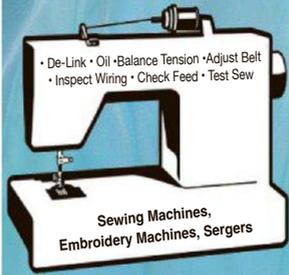


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## Two jail ministry leaders honored with award

**By Olivia Fellows**  
STAFF WRITER

**MECOSTA COUNTY** — Two leaders with the Reach The Forgotten Jail Ministries and the Jonah Foundation received recognition for their work with individuals facing incarceration, recidivism and addiction challenges.

Randy Hahn, a lead chaplain at Mecosta County Jail through Reach The Forgotten Jail Ministries, and Amanda Hahn, execu-

tive director with the Jonah Foundation, received the Liberty Bell award from the Mecosta Osceola Bar Association May 1.

Reach The Forgotten Jail Ministries works with inmates in Michigan county jails to provide ministerial guidance, addiction recovery resources, post-incarceration and probation resources and more.

The Jonah Foundation serves previously incarcerated or facilitated indi-

viduals who are committed to becoming productive citizens through encouraging biblical principled living and healing, providing biblical counseling, mentoring and fellowship, establishing peer-accountability sober living environments, assisting with probation navigation and advocating for vocational opportunities.

Randy Hahn said the goal is to help people break the recidivism and

addiction cycles.

“We’ve worked with those who have been incarcerated, those who are stuck in the loop of this system and can’t seem to break out, to help facilitate them back into useful and productive members of society,” Hahn said.

The mission was inspired in part by experiences the Hahns have had in giving personal assistance to two young men in the community who had

*Award continues on A3*



Photo courtesy/Randy Hahn

**Randy Hahn (right) and Amanda Hahn pose with their Liberty Bell award from the Mecosta Osceola Bar Association at a ceremony May 1.**

# AWARD

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difficulties with incarceration and addiction. They welcomed the men into their home and provided support for them through their addictions, eventually helping them achieve long-term sobriety and independence.

Randy Hahn said they worked with one of the men on self-esteem and grew his understanding of Christian teachings.

"We spent a year just loving on him and teaching him just a biblical worldview," Hahn said. "He has been out of our house now for quite a few

years. He has not re-offended, has held down a job has been a productive member of society. We thought if we can do it in our house, what if we did it with more people in a house? So we created the Jonah Foundation."

Hahn said the organization is working toward the eventual goal of creating a kind of halfway house for people facing post-incarceration, probation and/or addiction challenges to stay and get resources for recovery and reintegration.

They are hoping to create a program that allows individuals to get assistance and housing with the organization for up to

two years.

Hahn said there would be no specific conversion requirements for individuals seeking resources.

"You don't have to be saved; you don't have to commit to being a Christian," Hahn said. "All you're going to do is sign a covenant that you agree to live by biblical standards in that you're going to learn how to how to steward your money, you're going to learn the biblical definition of what marriage is (and) your responsibility in that."

Randy Hahn said he and Amanda are grateful to the Mecosta Osceola Bar Association for recognizing their efforts and are

hopeful to grow the programs and reach more people in need.

"Anybody in Mecosta County, or the surrounding counties, who are interested in helping with this endeavor, they're welcome to contact us," Hahn said "We got the award, but there's a team behind (us) of individuals who care so deeply about this group of individuals. We are looking to grow, and anybody is welcome to reach out to us to help."

For more information on the Jonah Foundation, visit [www.jonahfoundation.com](http://www.jonahfoundation.com). For more information on Reach The Forgotten Jail Ministries, visit [www.jailministry.org](http://www.jailministry.org).