



Pathway to Freedom, Inc.

April 2026

“Empowering Lives for Success” Fundraiser Dinner

By Scott McLean, Founder/CEO

On Saturday, April 11, Pathway to Freedom was honored to host its 2026 Annual Fundraiser in Springdale, Arkansas—an evening centered on connection, purpose, and the life-changing impact of restoration.

The event began with a warm reception, where supporters, partners, and friends of the ministry gathered in fellowship. Guests had the opportunity to connect with one another, share in the mission, and take photos with our keynote speaker, Coach Gene Chizik. The atmosphere was filled with anticipation and gratitude as the evening set the stage for what would become a powerful and memorable experience.



Coach Gene Chizik with PTF staff

As the program officially began, guests were welcomed and introduced to the heart behind Pathway to Freedom’s work—restoring lives through accountability, faith, and transformation. Throughout the evening, moments of reflection and celebration were woven together, including a moving musical performance featuring “Chain Breaker” and “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone).” These songs served as a fitting reminder of the freedom and redemption that define the mission of PTF.

One of the highlights of the evening came just before the keynote address, when former Pathway to Freedom participant Deymon Webb shared his personal journey and the life-changing impact the program has had on him. His testimony offered a powerful, firsthand example of transformation, setting the stage for the message that followed.

Building on that moment, keynote speaker Coach Gene Chizik—former national championship head coach and current ESPN college football analyst—took the stage after spending several hours inside the prison the day before, where he experienced the PTF program firsthand during a 540 event—an encounter that left a lasting impression.

Coach Chizik shared that before arriving, he had asked his family to pray that he would be able to say something impactful to the men in the program. However, as he reflected on his visit, he made a powerful and unexpected admission—he was the one who had been impacted.

He spoke with great respect about the men in the program, noting their intelligence, their willingness to take accountability for their past, and their commitment to personal growth. He also praised Pathway to Freedom’s leadership, describing CEO Scott McLean as “a unicorn,” emphasizing that there are not many individuals like him carrying out this kind of work.

Drawing from his storied coaching career—including conference and national championships—Coach Chizik made it clear that what he experienced through Pathway to Freedom stood apart. In his words, it sits at the top, surpassing even the greatest accomplishments of his career.

He closed by sharing his intention to return and encouraged those in attendance that there are meaningful ways to support the mission—even indirectly—through giving and continued partnership. The evening served as a powerful reminder that transformation is not only possible, but happening every day through Pathway to Freedom.

Because of people like you, we were able to raise \$85,181.50 with proceeds going toward general operations. Thank you for standing with us and helping make events like this possible.

A Second Chance: Redeemed by Grace

By Deymon Webb, PTF Graduate

God was guiding and protecting me long before I understood what grace or mercy truly meant. Even when I didn't recognize His hand on my life, He was there—keeping me through situations that should have broken me.

As a child, I was rebellious and chose my own path. Growing up without a father left a void that turned into anger, confusion, and poor decisions. By 16, I was already in and out of jail.

At 28, I found myself incarcerated again—this time facing the death penalty. That moment forced me to confront my life, my choices, and the path I was on. By the grace of God, I was sentenced to 10 years instead. That wasn't just a legal outcome—it was mercy. It was another chance. I was determined to become a better man, husband, and father.

While in prison, I heard about different programs, but most had negative reputations. Over time, I began hearing about Pathway to Freedom, and it stood out. No matter who I asked—even those who didn't complete it—they all said the same thing: *"It will change your life if you're ready."* That kind of positivity is not typical in prison. I applied and was accepted within two weeks. Even on the way there, I met someone leaving the program after only two days who still said it was a great program.

From the moment I arrived, I knew it was different. The environment was filled with positivity, accountability, and genuine care. Men welcomed me with positivity, encouragement—even love. For the first time, I began to understand biblical manhood—not just in words, but in how I lived each day. I learned discipline, responsibility, and how to take ownership of my actions.

During my time in Pathway to Freedom, I began to truly find myself—not the version shaped by anger and brokenness, but the person God created me to be. For the first time, I began to understand grace through Christ—not just as something I had heard about, but as something I was living.

The program challenged me to grow spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. It taught me how to lead my family, communicate with purpose, and build relationships the right way. I began to rebuild my life from the inside out. I started to reflect on the decisions that led me there and take responsibility for them. Pathway to Freedom didn't just change me—it helped restore my marriage and gave my family a stronger foundation. The impact goes beyond me; it is shaping the lives of my children and will influence generations to come.

Programs like Pathway to Freedom are essential in Arkansas. It is one of the most important programs in our state prison system. It addresses the root issues and helps cut recidivism in half. They don't just release men back into society—they transform them. Men who fully commit return home as leaders, fathers, and contributors to their communities. That kind of transformation strengthens families and makes our communities safer.



Deymon at PTF Reentry Graduation



Group 50 with counselor Anousack Vongphachanh, celebrates pre-release phase completion



Contact Us:
ADC-Wrightsville Hawkins
Unit for Males
P.O. Box 1010
22522 Asher Road
Wrightsville, AR 72183

Phone: 501-897-0764

Mail Donations to:
Pathway To Freedom
17200 Chenal Parkway
Suites 300-319
Little Rock, AR 72223

E-Mail: info@ptfprison.org
Web: www.ptfprison.org