



INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

SPRING/SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

INSIDE OUT SERVICE UPDATES

As we all have been working to adjust to these unprecedented times of the global COVID-19 pandemic we want to recognize the efforts of all of our amazing and dedicated volunteers and staff. Since our drop-in resource center closed in March, we switched our weekly community group meetings to virtual and support our members primarily from home. In March - June, we worked with 134 individuals, providing reentry services including employment and housing resources, social, emotional and general support.

Even though our drop-in resource center is currently closed, we are meeting with members by appointment. We take the safety of our staff, members, and volunteers seriously, and are closely paying attention to the situation in Iowa. Group meetings, trainings, and forums will continue to be held online until further notice.

CONNECTING WITH INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, Iowa correctional facilities are not allowing visitors. As a response, we increased our correspondence to incarcerated individuals. In March - June we corresponded with over 68 individuals.

How to help? With our increases in mailed correspondence, Inside Out could greatly benefit from USPS stamp donations.

CALL FOR MENTORS

Inside Out is looking for volunteer mentors for our members. Mentors correspond with an incarcerated individual who will be reentering the community in order to listen, provide non-judgemental support and offer companionship. Form a meaningful friendship and help a returning citizen increase their confidence and reach their goals. If interested, contact Michelle (insideoutreentry@gmail.com)

VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION

Iowa is the only state where after a felony conviction an individual automatically and permanently loses the right to vote. Inside Out continues to advocate for the restoration of voting rights for those convicted of felonies.

"I believe I should have the right to vote. I contribute to my neighborhood and economy. I want to feel represented, even if the person I vote for doesn't win. I just want my voice heard."

Eric Harris, IO member and voting rights advocate

Governor Kim Reynolds has committed to signing an Executive Order restoring voting rights in Late Summer/ Early Fall. We encourage all of our community to urge the Governor to sign an order with no exclusions and to do so as soon as possible so individuals have time to register to vote before the upcoming election.



In February, ten Inside Out members, volunteers, and staff attended Iowa Justice Action Network's Lobby Day at the state capital in support of HJR-14, a proposed constitutional amendment to automatically restore voting rights once someone has discharged their sentence. HJR-14 failed to pass by the end of the legislative session.

PARENT CAFÉS AT INSIDE OUT

This Spring, Inside Out hosted a five-week Parent Café series. Parent Cafés are a safe, nonjudgmental opportunity for parents/caregivers to come together to share and explore various topics focusing on resilience, relationships, support, knowledge and communication.

Some of the weekly themes included: Coping With Stress, Taking Care of Yourself, and Parenting and Technology. We had a great turnout and deep and meaningful conversations were had.

Through the generous support from Theisen's Home, Farm and Auto "More for Your Community" Grant, we provided a family-style dinner, free childcare, and a weekly chance to win a prize that promoted positive family time.



PARENT CAFE

with Inside Out Reentry Community

Building Stronger Families in Johnson County

INSIDE OUT SPOTLIGHT



Art Feature: Adam Weinstein

"This is my recent work from April - May 2020. The paintings are acrylic on unstretched canvas. During this difficult COVID-19 time, I hope everyone is staying strong. I am sorry I can't have a live public show so that we can all get together." Adam's work is currently being featured online only. See more of Adam's work: <https://www.flickr.com/people/181666277@N07/>

AMAZON SMILE

Did you know that you can give back to Inside Out while you're shopping for items you already get through Amazon? By selecting Inside Out as your charitable organization at smile.amazon.com, Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

New Women's Group - Summer Session:

Mondays @ 6PM, 6/22, 6/29, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3

A weekly meeting for our women members to come together in a virtual space to build community and support. Contact us to join our Zoom meeting!

Next Reentry Forum: Coming this fall - watch for updates

IO REGULAR MEETINGS

Community Meetings Thursday evenings 6:30 - 8 pm, *Weekly group mentoring, allies welcome to attend*

Coffee and Connections Friday 11am-12pm, *Peer recovery group for individuals in all stages of recovery;*



Email: insideoutreentry@gmail.com

www.insideoutreentry.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ioreentry>

Instagram: [@insideoutreentrycommunity](https://www.instagram.com/insideoutreentrycommunity)