



# INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

## UNHEARD VOICES: VIRTUAL FORUM APRIL 22ND 12 - 2 PM



Inside Out Reentry Community Presents

## UNHEARD VOICES:

### Impacts of Incarceration on Children and Families



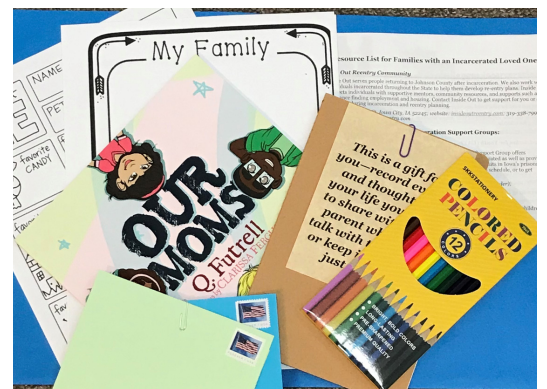
**Inside Out Reentry Community presents Unheard Voices**, a forum to discuss the impacts of incarceration and reentry on children, partners, and family members. These groups often face challenges finding support for their situation, as well as the effects of the societal stigma surrounding incarceration. The event includes a panel of service providers who will discuss programming and support groups for these families and children, as well as a panel of individuals who have been impacted by the incarceration of a loved one. Panelists include Sue Hutchins, founder of the Living Beyond the Bars support group, and Daniel Johnson, founder and CEO of the Children of Promise Mentoring Program. **Join us on Zoom on April 22, from 12:00-2:00pm. Register at: [bit.ly/IOVoices](https://bit.ly/IOVoices)**

As a reentry community, we frequently hear from family members seeking help for their incarcerated loved ones. Prior to the event, we created an anonymous form where family members could submit their experiences. These often unheard voices will also be featured at the event. Partners shared: "Holidays are really hard because they are not around to spend time with" and "My birthday is Monday and he's not going to be here. It's just really hard." A child of an incarcerated parent shared: "It felt like a part of the family was missing."

This event is sponsored by the City of Iowa City Human Rights Commission through the Social Justice and Racial Equity grant. Additional sponsors include University of Iowa Liberal Arts Beyond Bars and University of Iowa Center for Human Rights.

## YOUTH KITS FOR CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

Utilizing funding from the Social Justice and Racial Equity grant, Inside Out is supporting children impacted by incarceration by providing youth support kits. Kits are for children in Johnson County who are age 9 and younger and have an incarcerated parent. Kits include a children's picture book about having an incarcerated caregiver, pre-stamped note cards to send to an incarcerated loved one, a resource folder with activities, coloring pencils, and a journal. To request a kit, visit our website: [insideoutreentry.com](https://insideoutreentry.com)



## THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS!

We are appreciative of our supporters who are passionate about helping those impacted by incarceration. Thank you **Faith United Church of Christ** for generously applying for Inside Out grant support - funds are used to purchase gift cards for our members to help with gas, food, and other needed items, birthday cards for incarcerated individuals, and more.

Even though we couldn't dine together in person, we are grateful for **Debbie Kratz** and **St. Wenceslaus Church** for funding Fish Fry dinners for our members. We provided take out meals - and our members were very appreciative!

Thank you **Hudson's Southside Tap** for our April restaurant share the profit. Thank you to **Christ the King Lutheran Church** and **Full Circle Faith Community** for their recent donations, and to all the other donors who support Inside Out.

## SAVE THE DATE

**May 3 CHOMP** partnership- For every order through **CHOMP Delivery** on Monday May 3rd, Inside Out will receive \$1.

If you would like to host a restaurant partnership, we would love to hear from you!

Stay tuned for info on our August 7 5K Fundraiser!

## INSIDE OUT SPOTLIGHT: VOLUNTEER RICHARD GRUGIN



Richard has spent his life serving the needs of others - volunteering with Inside Out since 2016 and currently as Board treasurer - before retirement as a middle school principal and later as

a Kirkwood employment consultant. In his consultant role with Kirkwood, Richard often worked with individuals with employment barriers, including felony backgrounds. Initially volunteering on Thursdays evolved into helping with planning and participating in parole simulations - an experience he feels has been valuable to enlighten community stakeholders and build support for the Inside Out community.

Richard enjoys being an advocate for Inside Out and was pleased to develop an outreach ministry connection with his church (First United Methodist of North Liberty). Richard says, "It has been a great joy to deliver bicycles for transportation and other items from our church ministry to IO community members. Being called the 'connector' is something that I hope to continue doing, mainly for the purpose of connecting IO community members with success."

**If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, please contact us!**

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS: GAME NIGHT

Inside Out hosts weekly community meetings, which are a great support for those impacted by the criminal legal system. After the success of New Year's Game Night, Inside Out hosted another during a recent meeting. Games included trivia put together by one of our interns, as well as "Name That Tune" with Rich. We gave away gift cards and Inside Out t-shirts as prizes. Offering these quarterly game nights is a fun way to socialize and celebrate the successes of those who have returned to our community after incarceration. Inside Out holds our weekly community meetings every Thursday from 6:30 - 8 pm.



As the weather warms, we will be holding outdoor in-person Community Meetings with masks and social distancing. We look forward to seeing one another.

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