



INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

REENTRY RUN HOME FUNDRAISER SUCCESS

Thank you to all who supported Inside Out by participating in the Reentry Run Home fundraiser held October 8th! We raised almost \$6,000. We are grateful for everyone who registered and joined us for the evening. We are grateful that Pigs and Clover was able to donate their time and talent by performing. Thank you to Royceann Porter for cooking her delicious fried chicken and mac and cheese, Table to Table for their platters of cookies, and all our volunteers for staffing the event and donating drinks. And as always, we are so grateful to One Ancient Hope for letting us use their church property for this event. We enjoyed seeing everyone come out to participate - it really felt like we connected as a community!



THANK YOU TO OUR REENTRY RUN HOME EVENT SPONSORS!

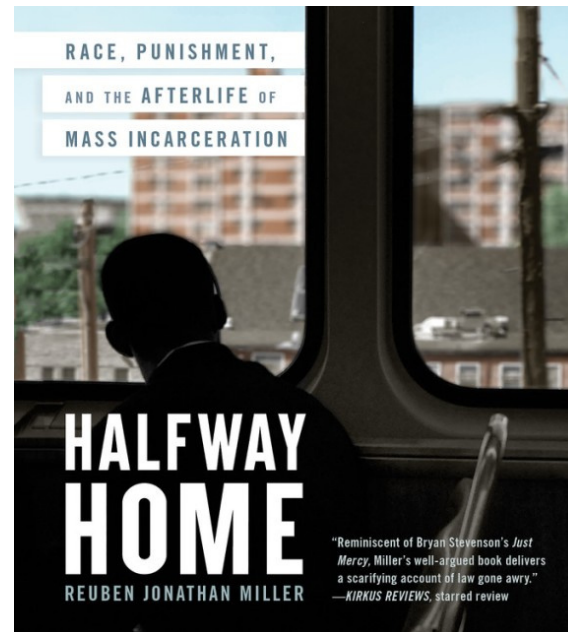
Farnsworth Law PC
Dorothy and John Whiston
Teamsters Local Union No. 238
New Song Episcopal Church
Valerie Kemp
Veridian Credit Union
First Presbyterian Church

Dale and Diana Helling
MidWestOne Bank
Faith United Church of Christ
Raygun
Big Grove Brewery
Ian Findlater
Hills Bank
Posh Closet ~ @Outlet_Fashion

"You are the only thing that's keeping me going. You don't know how much a letter means to me." - *an incarcerated member of Inside Out Reentry Community*

WEBINAR: HALFWAY HOME IN JOHNSON COUNTY

On October 26th, Inside Out partnered with the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights for the One Community, One Book webinar event: Halfway Home in Johnson County. The impactful panel discussion featured formerly incarcerated individuals, who discussed themes from Dr. Reuben Jonathan Miller's book *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*. Mass incarceration is designed to follow people home — from the effects of having lived in a dehumanizing environment to the continuing confines of life on parole; from legal discrimination in housing and job markets to widespread social stigma. Panelists shared their personal stories, challenges they faced during reentry, and their ideas for how to improve the criminal legal system. A video recording is available on Inside Out Reentry Community's Youtube page and on our website.



GIVINGTUESDAY AND END OF YEAR GOALS



It's the season of gratitude, and #GivingTuesday, November 30th, 2021 the global day of giving, is right around the corner! Facebook is matching up to \$8 million in eligible donations made on Facebook during GivingTuesday starting at 7:00 AM CST. Mark your calendar for November 30th - the biggest donation day of the year - and join others in helping to support returning citizens in our community. Our goal for this giving season is to raise \$10,000 and gain an additional 5 new monthly sustaining donors to keep our vital services going. Stay tuned for more updates and ways to give!

HOPE HOUSE MEETINGS

Hope House is a work release center with the 6th Judicial District in Coralville, where many of our members begin their reentry journey. Inside Out facilitates a group at Hope House every Friday where members, and those interested in becoming members, come in for questions, support, or just for a chat. The first hour of the group is focused on check-ins and resource connection, while the second hour is dedicated to the topic question of the week. The hope for each week's question is to nurture personal growth and reflection. We are grateful for partnerships such as this one where we can connect with those early in their reentry and provide integral support.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: IAN FINDLATER



"I became a volunteer at Inside Out, in part, because eleven years ago I got into legal trouble myself. I had my first major episode (bi-polar) and I felt the system in general lacks compassion and understanding of others. I was very fortunate to have resources that many people don't have, such as family support, monetary support, and medical support. Even though I had a very favorable outcome, I still experienced some of the issues that others experience. The system that is currently in place actually creates criminals and makes it more difficult for people to turn their lives around. We create barriers to reentry for things like work and housing, which are two very basic needs. The least we can do is to be there for others and to support them so they don't feel alone. I've found it's not that much of a commitment either, as I generally correspond once or twice a week - which makes a world of difference for those receiving them. It offers them mental and emotional support, which we all need as human beings."

Thank you Ian for your work as a volunteer mentor and for volunteering with our weekly peer recovery group Coffee and Connections!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER MENTORS

Inside Out is currently seeking male volunteer mentors to provide social, emotional, and practical support to a returning citizen. Mentors correspond with an incarcerated individual who will be reentering the community in order to listen, provide non-judgmental support, and offer companionship. Once the individual is released, the mentor continues to provide support during their reentry. These pairings form meaningful friendships and help a returning citizen overcome barriers, increase their confidence, and reach their goals. Virtual training is provided, and since mentorship is done by corresponding through letters, it can be done from home. If you're interested, apply on our website: insideoutreentry.com/volunteer



REENTRY HOUSING UPDATE



Inside Out is excited to announce that we are getting closer to our goal of owning transitional reentry housing. We were recently awarded a forgivable loan of \$100,000 from the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County to acquire a property. Our plans include purchasing a 4-6 bedroom home in Iowa City where men recently released from incarceration will reside and receive support during their reentry. Each resident will have their own bedroom, share communal spaces, participate in weekly meetings, and be paired with a mentor. We are grateful for the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County's financial assistance and our donors! Want to support our work? Consider donating or get involved in our housing initiative by contacting us at hello@insideoutreentry.com

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS!

We are grateful to our supporters who are passionate about helping those impacted by incarceration. Thank you **CHOMP** and **Hudson's SouthSide Tap** for our recent restaurant share the profits (and all those who participated)! Thank you to the **Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City**, and the **First Mennonite Church** for their recent donations, *and to all our donors who support Inside Out.*

Thank you to recent grant funders for furthering Inside Out's mission. Thank you **Community Foundation of Johnson County**, **Veridian Credit Union Fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa**, **St. Mary's Church Peace and Justice Commission**, and **Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County**.



SAVE THE DATE

November 9 The Vue Rooftop partnership- From 5-8pm, 10% of all food sales go to Inside Out

December 13 CHOMP partnership- 1\$ for every order will go to Inside Out

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



NOW AVAILABLE: I SUPPORT FAIR CHANCES TOTE BAG

Inside Out's new tote bags are perfect for gardening, a trip to the grocery store, and a way to share how you support fair chances in the criminal legal system. Want to purchase one? Shop online at www.insideoutreentry.com/shop

"Greatly appreciate the time staff and the volunteers commit to our transition for success! Thank you all!" *Inside Out member*

IO REGULAR MEETINGS

Coffee and Connections Tuesday evening 5:30 - 7 pm, *Peer recovery group for individuals in all stages of recovery*

Community Meetings Thursday evenings 6:30 - 8 pm. *Weekly group mentoring.*

Writing Workshop 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5:15-6:15, *Biweekly writing group*

Email: hello@insideoutreentry.com
www.insideoutreentry.com

Facebook: facebook.com/ioreentry

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

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