



# INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



Inside Out Reentry Community Spring Concert

## Be An Instrument for Change

Saturday, May 21 from 5 - 7:30 pm



Inside Out Reentry Community is excited to host our upcoming spring concert **Be An Instrument for Change** on **May 21 from 5-7:30** at the **Riverside Festival Stage** in City Park. This concert fundraiser will benefit people returning to our area after incarceration. To promote awareness of the many challenges people face on their return and to celebrate their successes, Inside Out will bring the community together in this family-friendly event to hear **Two-Bit Maniac** featuring the powerhouse vocals of Aimee Underwood backed by Jeff Roush on guitar and Laurie Haag on everything else, **The Oakdale Community Choir** that enables people incarcerated at the Oakdale prison and people from the community to sing together, and **Caleb "the Negro Artist" Rainey** who is a spoken word performer, an author of two books, and producer. The concert will raise funds for all aspects of reentry support that Inside Out provides its members. Food provided free of charge!



**Two-Bit Maniac**



**The Oakdale  
Community Choir**



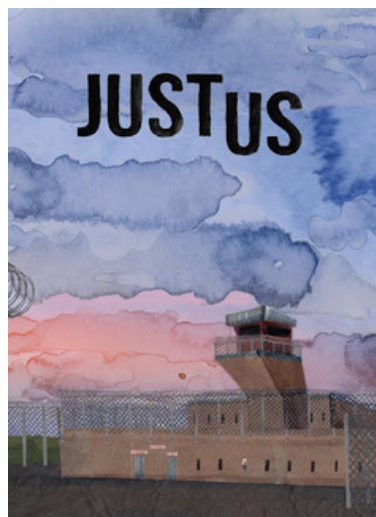
**Caleb "the Negro Artist"  
Rainey**

### Thank you to our sponsors of the event!

New Song Episcopal Church  
Congregational Church UCC  
AlphaGraphics North Liberty  
CHOMP

Hawkeye Title and Settlement  
Dale and Diana Helling  
Linder Tire Service.

And thank you to Pancharo's,  
Table to Table, New Pioneer Co-  
op, and Hy-Vee for your food and  
drink donations.



### JUSTUS FILM SCREENING

**June 17, 7 - 8:30 pm at**

**FilmScene**, JustUs sheds light on the racial disparity in Iowa's prisons and offers hopeful solutions through former prisoners' stories. It's produced, directed, and narrated by Ced Theus, a current prison lifer. After the screening, the audience will hear from formerly incarcerated community members from Inside Out. Join us for a powerful film and discussion! Tickets: \$5

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## BIG GROVE FOR GOOD GRANT

Inside Out is excited to be selected as one of three community nonprofits to receive the Big Grove for Good grant in the amount of \$8,000, along with additional partnership support with exposure on Big Grove's website, as well as working with Inside Out to plan volunteering events with Big Grove staff. Giving back to the local community is central to Big Grove Brewery's mission, where they strive to be intentional with their "good giving." Inside Out's mission aligns with Big Grove's Equity & Equality focus of working towards a diverse and equitable community while being a good human to other humans, as well as their Our Backyard focus by supporting local organizations that work to make the Johnson County community a better place to live, thrive, and have opportunity. Thank you to Big Grove Brewery for this amazing fundraising and outreach opportunity in the community!



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## INSIDE OUT REENTRY HOUSE



*Inside Out's Dale Helling and Michelle Heinz are pictured here with Veridian's LeKeisha Veasley and Tyler Roatch.*

Inside Out continues to advance on our long term goal of purchasing a 4-6 bedroom home in Iowa City for individuals returning from incarceration. We're making excellent progress on developing the programmatic aspects as well as raising funds towards the purchase of the home. We are excited about this opportunity to provide recently released individuals with stable and affordable housing, which will greatly benefit their reentry transition.

We are very grateful to recently receive two large donations towards the housing project. Thank you to GreenState Credit Union for your donation of \$7,500 and Veridian Credit Union for your donation of \$15,000! These valued partners mean so much to us!

Our goal is to purchase the home by April 2023 and we continue to raise funds necessary. If you or your business would like to donate to our Reentry House, please reach out.

***"Inside Out Reentry group is all about helping those that need help the most like myself. I returned home after 18 yrs and very few people extended a hand, but Inside Out Reentry was there and is still behind me amen. I would not have a roof over my head if not for them." Inside Out Member***

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## 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 **Renee's Ceramic Café** for our recent business share the profit events (and all those who participated)! Thank you also to **Heartbeat Opera**, **Healthline Holdings, Inc.**, and the **Johnson County United Nations Association** for their recent donations, and to all the other donors who support Inside Out.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: NEIL GOETTSCH



Inside Out is excited to welcome Neil Goettsch to our team as our new Case Manager! Neil graduated from the University of Iowa in 2014 and has volunteered as a mentor with Inside Out since 2019. Before starting work as Case Manager, Neil was the head metrologist for Central States Group in Cedar Rapids. In this role, he worked with local industries on their pressure, temperature, and electrical measuring systems. When he's not working at Inside Out or taking industrial measurements, Neil enjoys bird watching and riding his skateboard. Welcome Neil!

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## MENTOR PROGRAM: PROVIDING SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP

Inside Out Reentry acknowledges that reentry is not an easy process. Our mentoring program aims to provide returning citizens with social, emotional, and practical support through meaningful companionship. Our Inside Out volunteer mentors provide non-judgmental support for mentees as they navigate their reentry process and achieve their goals. Correspondence, which frequently begins during incarceration, can transition into activities like meeting for coffee or resource connection following release. Friendships take time to build; the mentoring relationship provides opportunity for a mutually beneficial relationship and genuine connection to blossom.

***"To me, the best part of mentoring is getting to know another human being and what their life experiences have been. I learn and grow as a person because I mentor, and I'm inspired by what mentees teach me."*** ~Jen F, Inside Out Volunteer Mentor

***"Being a mentor has been a very fun experience and has helped me make a new friend. I have greatly enjoyed seeing my mentee grow and transition from incarceration to reentry and I am glad to have been a part of his journey."*** ~Chan T, Inside Out Volunteer Mentor

***"Having my mentor help me during prison was a godsend. He's one of those people I can trust and depend on. I consider my mentor as a friend, and I didn't think I would get that from a mentor."*** ~Trystian, Inside Out Mentee

**Interested in becoming a volunteer mentor?** Inside Out is currently seeking male mentors over 30 years of age. Apply on our website at [\*\*insideoutreentry.com/volunteer\*\*](https://insideoutreentry.com/volunteer)

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## ASSISTANCE NEEDED WITH PROVIDING BACKPACKS TO OUR MEMBERS

Inside Out provides backpacks filled with personal care items to members upon release from incarceration. Due to an increased number of individuals seeking support, **Inside Out is in urgent need of donations of hygiene products and backpacks.**

Donations can be made individually through our [Amazon Wish List](#), or by shopping locally.

### Want to host a drive?

If your church or community group would like to support returning citizens with your own backpack drive, we would be happy to support! Community groups collect items and then get together for a backpack packing event, even including notes welcoming someone home. We are very grateful for all of the groups that have supported Inside Out in the past!



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## COMMUNITY GATHERING: DINING TOGETHER FOR A FISH FRY

On April 8th, thanks to the generosity of St. Wenceslaus Church, Inside Out enjoyed a wonderful fish fry dinner. Seventeen of us got together to share a delicious meal and socialize with one another. We greatly enjoy opportunities like this to introduce our Inside Out community to fun and positive events in the broader Iowa City community. If you would like to sponsor our members to attend any community events, please reach out and let us know!



### 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.*

### SAVE THE DATE!

- **May 21 Be An Instrument for Change spring concert** from 5-7:30 pm at the Riverside Festival Stage
- **June 17 JustUs** film screening at **FilmScene** - 7-8:30 pm. Tickets are \$5
- **June 22 Hudson's Southside Tap** 15% of sales from 4-9pm
- **July Pat and Frans** Every Wednesday of this month, Pat and Frans will donate 15% of their food sales to Inside Out.

***If you would like to host an event or partnership, we would love to hear from you!***

Email: [hello@insideoutreentry.com](mailto:hello@insideoutreentry.com)  
[www.insideoutreentry.com](http://www.insideoutreentry.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/ioreentry](https://facebook.com/ioreentry)  
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