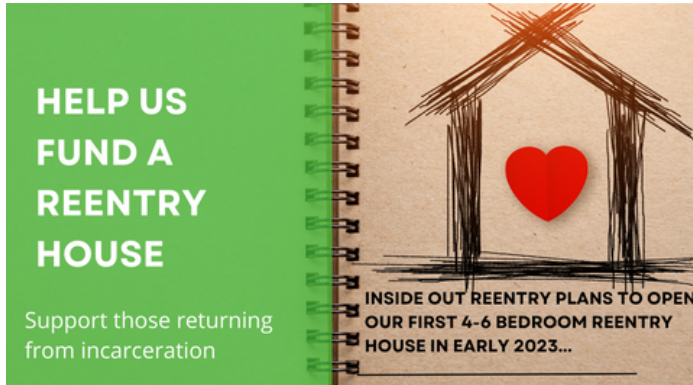




INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

REENTRY HOUSE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: OFF TO A GOOD START



Inside Out is well on our way to raising the final \$50,000 needed to purchase a house that will become the first Reentry House in Johnson County. Opening in 2023, the Reentry House will accommodate 4-6 low-income men returning to our community after incarceration. It will provide a sober, supportive environment, with on-site case management, weekly house meetings, and other services through Inside Out's regular programs. Residents will pay below market-value rent and generally stay for about a year, allowing them to save toward permanent housing.

Returning citizens are about ten times more likely to experience homelessness than the general population, which reduces the likelihood of long-term success. In Johnson County housing costs are high and rental vacancies low, so people returning here often live in unstable situations such as motels or friends' living rooms. Homelessness and housing instability are highly correlated with treatment failure, violation of supervision, and recidivism. A more detailed description of the housing initiative is on our website at www.insideoutreentry.com/help-us-fund-a-reentry-house/.

Much of the funding to support this project comes from those familiar with Inside Out's mission, which, of course, includes you! We hope you'll help make the IO Reentry House dream come true by donating today if you haven't already done so! Contributions of any amount are welcome and can be made online or by sending a check to the office at 500 N. Clinton, Iowa City 52245.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS: WEEKLY SUPPORT AND CONNECTION

Every Thursday evening, members gather together in a place where they can escape the stigma of criminal legal involvement. Inside Out's weekly community meeting is facilitated by a staff member, and usually hosts between 15 and 20 group participants including long-time Inside Out members and newly released members and volunteers. Before diving into the weekly topic, meetings begin with a check-in, when members give their "highs and lows" for the week and offer one another encouragement and support. Successes such as job interviews and new apartments are met with applause. Challenges are met with knowing nods and moral support. The meeting then turns to the topic for the week. These discussions focus on life skills, navigating the challenges of reentry, and presentations by community partners. Members are encouraged to share as much or as little as they want and can ask for advice from others in the group if they like. Community meetings provide an important space where members can build connection and gain skills. The need for this supportive environment shows! ***Inside Out has seen a 65% increase in attendance at community meetings since this time last year.***



SUMMER GAME NIGHT

Every quarter we host a game night during a community meeting to celebrate successes and socialize. On June 30th, we held it outside, grilled food, and played card games and bags. Over 30 of us including members, their family, staff, and volunteers came together for a great evening! This was a great opportunity for Inside Out members to connect with each other and for newer members to become acquainted with the larger community. A lot of members let us know how much they appreciated the event, and we capped it off by giving away a new air fryer! Many thanks to all of our volunteers and community members who made this event happen.



SUMMER WRITER'S WORKSHOP

This summer Inside Out was excited to resume our Writing Workshop. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 5:15 – 6:15 pm, we host a writing group for returning citizens of writing skill levels. The group helps those interested in writing expand their skills, experiment with different styles, and engage in the healing properties of writing. Participants discussed and worked on creating and building characters, using sensory detail to connect with readers, and describing the same moment from different perspectives. They shared their writing and gave thoughtful feedback and encouragement.



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Inside Out has been involved in a number of amazing fundraising partnerships in the last couple of years! Just recently we had a fantastic musical event organized by **Anthony Worden** that raised \$1,450, an event with **Hudson's Southside Tap**, as well as a new partnership with **Pat & Frans** for the month of July! We are so appreciative of everyone who participates in these events and shares them with friends. Our upcoming events include:

August 29: Blackstone. 10% of net food sales from 3pm to close. Plus custom Inside Out drink will be sold, for an additional \$1 donation each.

September 7: Wildwood Smokehouse and Saloon: 10% of the day's sales.

October 12: Short's Eastside. 15% of ALL sales after 4pm will go to Inside Out, including dine in, carry out, food, and drinks.

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

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: KATI MCVAY



Inside Out would like to welcome our newest staff member, Kati McVay. Kati is our Reentry Services Coordinator, and in her role with us (among other duties) will be providing volunteer coordination and training. Before joining Inside Out, she was a case manager for those with mental health and substance use disorders and those with extremely high housing barriers. She is very passionate about this work and feels lucky to be an advocate and ambassador for those in need. Kati has a son who she says is her life. She enjoys creating new and lasting memories with him and supporting his athletic endeavors. She is a HUGE Hawkeye fan, Green Bay Packers fan, and New York Yankees fan. When not working to support those in need, she enjoys tie-dyeing with her son and grilling with her family. To contact Kati, email her at kati@insideoutreentry.com.

BACKPACK DRIVE TO BE HELD EACH QUARTER

We are always looking for and need Community Groups to help with our Backpack drives. Does your church, men's group, woman's group, employer, friends group etc. want to help with our backpack drive? This includes collecting donations, packing up bags so they are ready for our members upon their release, or simply making some phone calls to make the connections with different companies/organizations/individuals requesting donations. Contact Kati at kati@insideoutreentry.com to coordinate!



Our sincere gratitude to volunteer Esther Smith for coordinating a backpack drive for Inside Out. These backpacks are a helpful start for individuals upon their release from incarceration. Esther coordinated donations from a Thrivent grant, and from members of New Song Episcopal Church, and then stopped in with extra help to pack all the backpacks so they'd be ready to give out. Thank you Esther and to the donors that made these backpacks possible!

“Coming here, to Inside Out, was like coming out into the community, being part of the larger community.” Returning Citizen

“I feel touched these days by the way people react to me compared to how it used to be... I'm not used to feeling this way. Like dirt is how I used to feel and that's how I'm used to people reacting to me...like I'm not worth their time or efforts... the people of Inside Out have had a major effect on helping me to learn how to love myself again and giving me the courage to do what I'm doing today” Returning Citizen

FILMSCENE SCREENING OF JUSTUS



JustUs was created by Cedric B. Theus and Maya Ben-Shahar to highlight the grassroots efforts of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals and activists in reforming the criminal justice system and ending the racial disparity in sending African Americans to prison with an Iowa focus. Featuring interviews with ex-prisoners and activists, the film interrogates the structures that have targeted Black citizens with overwhelming disparity. On June 17, FilmScene had a screening of JustUs and Inside Out led a post-screening discussion of the movie. Inside Out members Vince Allen and Eddie Walker shared their personal experiences with being impacted by incarceration. We had powerful conversations on incarceration, mentorship (both inside and outside of prison) and reentry. If you would like to host a screening of the film JustUs, please reach out and let us know!

JOIN OUR EVENT VOLUNTEER TEAM TO HELP IO RAISE MONEY

The community has a number of non-profit volunteer opportunities where organizations bring 10 volunteers to an event for a specific time period and the non-profit raises a certain amount of money. Inside Out needs a volunteer crew of more than 10 who would be willing to be a part of these fundraising opportunities. There's no need to go through the IO volunteer training, so friends and significant others are great additions to this list. Please email kati@insideoutreentry.com to sign up - and ask your friends if they want to join our volunteer team. Some of these events include Taste of Iowa City, Oktoberfest, and the Iowa City Block Party. Each event that IO can be a participant at brings more awareness to the organization and brings in funds.

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: THE MYSTERY HOUR WITH JEFF HOUGHTON

Inside Out is excited to announce that 4-time Emmy award winner Jeff Houghton will be performing The Mystery Hour, a Late Night Talk Show, as a fundraising event in support of Inside Out at the Englert on Friday, March 24, 2023. Jeff has been performing The Mystery Hour for many years and features viral-worthy comedy and outstanding music. Stay tuned for more details and how you can purchase tickets! For more information on The Mystery Hour, click here: themysteryhour.com

Email: hello@insideoutreentry.com
www.insideoutreentry.com
Facebook: facebook.com/ioreentry
Instagram: [@insideoutreentrycommunity](https://instagram.com/insideoutreentrycommunity)
Twitter: [@IOReentry](https://twitter.com/IOReentry)