



INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

WINTER 2022/23 NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING TOGETHER WITH A YEAR-END GAME NIGHT!



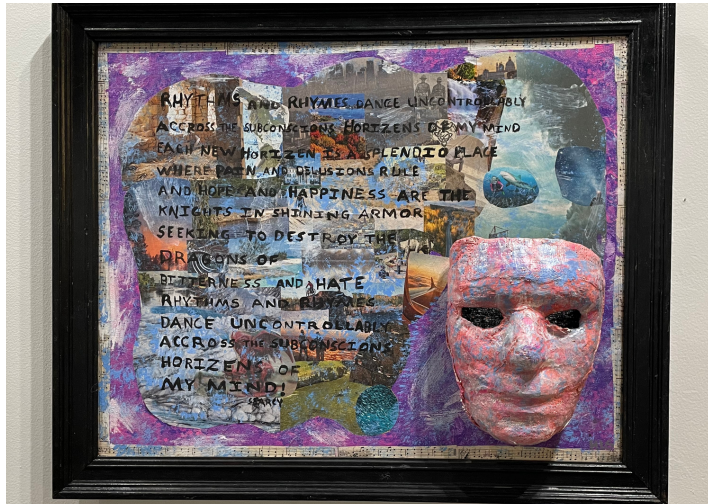
We held an incredible End of Year Game Night on December 29th at one of our community meetings. We played bingo, trivia, gave away prizes, and celebrated reentry successes for the year. Over 30 individuals attended, including members and their families, volunteers, and staff. It was a great evening to catch up and have fun. Thank you to the **Women's Group from First United Methodist Church of North Liberty** for serving a great meal!

Want to help out? We are looking for churches or groups who would like to serve a meal at the following game nights: March 30, June 29, September 28, December 28. Contact us if you're interested: hello@insideoutreentry.com!

JOIN US FOR ART FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Inside Out is holding an art show titled **Art from the Inside Out** from January 24 through February 20 at Artifactory (120 N Dubuque St., Iowa City, IA 52240). This event is free and open to the public and will showcase the incredible artistry of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals with more than 45 pieces of art.

Join us for a reception February 10 at 7pm, where some of the artists will be present to share their work, share spoken word, and attendees will have the opportunity to gather and build support for artists impacted by incarceration.



Artist: Harold Searcy

You can put a person's body behind bars but it is impossible to cage the imagination. Throughout time, people have turned to the arts to express their thoughts and emotions while incarcerated: memories, hopes for the future, regrets, work that expresses love for family, political commentary, humor, doodles that have helped pass the hours. **Art From the Inside Out** is meant to celebrate the talent and hard work of these artists as well as promote public awareness of the humanity and resilience of incarcerated people.

The Artifactory gallery is officially open on Saturday afternoons from 1-4 pm for people to view the exhibit and special appointments can also be made for groups on weekdays or evenings.

THE MYSTERY HOUR WITH JEFF HOUGHTON ON MARCH 24!

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. Tickets are available now! VIP with after-event party is \$53 and regular seating is \$28. This show is benefitting Inside Out, so share with your friends and family! **James Tutson and the Rollback** will perform music and Iowa City mayor Bruce Teague is Jeff's special guest. Inside Out will also have an opportunity to discuss reentry challenges and the Inside Out mission.

Sponsored by Dorothy and John Whiston; Stephen Hirsch; Alphagraphics of North Liberty; Anderson & Houghton, LLP, Hawkeye Title & Settlement; Blank and McCune; Hills Bank; MidWestOne; Faith United Church of Christ; GreenState Credit Union; and Riverside Casino and Resort. Interested in sponsoring this event? Click here: [The Mystery Hour](#)



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Inside Out had a wonderful Volunteer Appreciation Event in January. Thank you to our amazing volunteers for all they do to support those impacted by incarceration! And thank you **Big Grove Brewery** for generously hosting us!



2022 END OF YEAR GOALS

Thank you to all who helped support Inside Out Reentry Community during our EOY fundraising drive! We didn't quite make our \$10,000 goal, but we continue to look for ways to inspire and motivate support in the community. If you are interested in being a part of developing our fundraising efforts, please email susan@insideoutreentry.com to be a part of our fundraising committee.

SPREADING HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO INCARCERATED MEMBERS

Being incarcerated during the holidays is challenging, so every year Inside Out mails holiday letters and cards to our members incarcerated in prison and jail across the state. These messages are signed by our members, staff and volunteers and we aim to let those who are separated from their loved ones know that the community cares.



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

- We are grateful to our supporters who are passionate about helping those impacted by incarceration. Thank you **Hudson's Southside Tap** and **The Vue Rooftop** for our recent restaurant share the profits (and all those who participated)! Thank you to our faith community and to all our donors who support Inside Out.
- Thank you to recent grant funders for furthering Inside Out's mission: to support people involved in the criminal legal system in changing from the inside out, and to educate the public, in order to promote healing, restore relationships and achieve success in the community. Thank you to **St. Mary's Church Peace and Justice Commission** for their grant support!

Upcoming fundraisers: Feb. 25 at Keto Kitchen in Cedar Rapids

FINANCIAL EDUCATION SERIES

Starting over after incarceration can be very challenging financially. In February, Inside Out is partnering with **Veridian Credit Union** to host Money Moves, a three part financial education series to help members develop their financial goals. We are grateful for community partnerships like these that provide valuable information to those returning to the community after incarceration!

HOUSEHOLD DONATIONS: HELPING RETURNING CITIZENS FEEL AT HOME

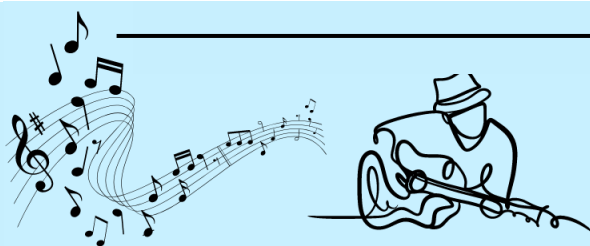
Getting set up in the community can be difficult when a person doesn't have basic household items - including pots and pans, plates and utensils, and towels! Inside Out wants to thank Richard Grugin and **First United Methodist Church of North Liberty** for their amazing donation of much-needed household items in December!



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2023
SPRING CONCERT!**

**Be An Instrument
for Change**

Saturday, May 20 from 5 - 7:30 pm



Riverside Festival Stage City Park in Iowa City

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS POST RELEASE WITH NEEDED ITEMS



First Mennonite Church

An overlooked key necessity to successful reentry is access to personal care items. Inside Out provides backpacks filled with items to members upon release from incarceration. In 2022, IO provided 77 backpacks to members in need - more than double the number of backpacks provided in 2021! We couldn't have met that need without donations from **Iowa Big Alburnett Schools, First Mennonite Church of Iowa City, New Song Church**, and individual donations. If you are interested in donating, please visit our Amazon Wish List here: <https://a.co/3CAU1qU>, 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!

A LOOK BACK AT 2022

Our mission: to support people involved in the criminal legal system in changing from the inside out, and to educate the public, in order to promote healing, restore relationships and achieve success in the community.

Inreach to incarcerated individuals



1665

total messages & letters sent & received

165

different individuals corresponded with

Resource Center Visits



456

total visits

148

number of individuals

Meetings

112

individuals at Community Meetings



98

individuals at Hope House Meetings

38

individuals at Coffee and Connections Meetings

Phone/Text/Email Outreach



1780

total outreach

267

number of individuals

Backpack and Bus Pass Distribution



77

newly released individuals received a backpack with hygiene products



82

individuals received 31-day and/or 10-ride bus passes



Iowa Big Alburnett Schools



New Song Church

IO REGULAR MEETINGS

Coffee and Connections Tuesday evening 5:30 - 6:30 pm, *Peer recovery group for individuals in all stages of recovery*

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

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

Facebook: facebook.com/ioreentry

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

Twitter: [@IOReentry](https://twitter.com/IOReentry)