



# INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



Inside Out Reentry Community is excited to host our 2023 Spring Concert ***Be an Instrument for Change*** on May 20 from 5:00 - 7:30 at the Riverside Festival Stage in City Park to 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 to hear **Pictoria Vark, Anthony Worden and the Illiterati, Jordan Sellergren**, and more!

Join us for this family friendly event, which will include yard games, snacks and more! The concert will raise funds for all aspects of reentry support that Inside Out provides its members. Refreshments provided free of charge!



**Pictoria Vark**



**Anthony Worden  
and the Illiterati**



**Jordan Sellergren**

## Thank you to our Spring Concert sponsors!

Valerie Kemp  
New Song Episcopal Church  
Billion Auto  
Malott Law, PLC  
Dale and Diana Helling  
Billion Auto  
Linder Tire Service

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

***"By coming to Inside Out, I've been able to connect with other people in the same situation. I've been able to share my story and share what is happening on the inside with people in the community that need to know what's going on. My advice is if anyone gets the opportunity to come here when they get out. This is the place to go to get on your feet. They will help you."***

**-Lloyd**



## INSIDE OUT PURCHASED A HOUSE!

We are glad to announce that we have closed on our Inside Out Reentry House! The six-bedroom house will provide sober, transitional housing with stays up to 24 months for men leaving incarceration. Inside Out will provide on-site case management, mentors, and other services for residents as they get established in the community. A safe and affordable place to call home is so important to successful reentry, and we are grateful to all our donors and funders for helping reach our goal. We are on track to have the house open in early Fall, when there will be an opening reception for major donors and neighbors.

Now we begin the exciting work of remodeling and furnishing the house for our first residents. If you are interested in helping with the reentry house, there are several ways to get involved. If you are the handy type, keep an eye out for chances to help with painting and other projects. We are also looking for volunteers to serve as mentors to residents as a part of their stay in our Reentry House.

## INSIDE OUT REENTRY HOUSE: NOW TAKING DONATIONS

The Furnishings Committee is now taking donations of furniture, kitchenware, artwork, and pretty much everything we'll need to furnish Inside Out's new Reentry House. Our main requirement is that everything donated be in excellent condition – nothing extremely worn or at all damaged.

We need to furnish 6 bedrooms with a double/queen bed, bedside table and lamp, dresser, chair, reading lamp, and an end table. There are 3-4 gathering spaces to furnish with sofas, easy chairs, end tables, TV consoles, and lamps. We need an office desk, and could use another couple of computer desks. We're looking for 2 vacuum cleaners, a washer and dryer, a mini-fridge, and microwave. We need small kitchen appliances, cooking utensils, 2-3 sets of dishes, glasses and mugs, and two sets of silverware for the kitchen and kitchenette. And this isn't a complete list!

Please send a photo and description of things you'd like to offer to [jefripalermo@gmail.com](mailto:jefripalermo@gmail.com) and someone will get back to you. We can arrange to pick up larger items if needed, usually on the weekend. (Please let us know if you can help with pick-ups!)

In addition to individual donations, we invite churches, civic and other groups to "adopt a room" and donate everything needed for that space. And please pass this information on to others. Thank you!

# WELCOME HOME KIT



Donate this entire kit for one individual!

- laundry detergent
- laundry basket
- 1-2 towels
- 2 washcloths
- 1 set of sheets
- 1 pillow

Support those returning to the community!  
Email [hello@insideoutreentry.com](mailto:hello@insideoutreentry.com) to donate!

***Help us provide Welcome Home Kits to the residents of our Reentry House.***

### **Want to host a drive?**

If your church or community group would like to support returning citizens with your own Welcome Home Kit drive, we would be happy to support these efforts! Community groups collect items and then get together for a Welcome Home Kit packing event, even including notes welcoming someone home.

We are very grateful for all of the groups who have supported Inside Out in the past!



## BUILDING COMMUNITY: GAME NIGHT AND MOVIE NIGHT



On Thursday, March 30th Inside Out's Social Activities Committee organized a Game Night, where over 20 volunteers, staff, and members played Bingo and Trivia. Prizes were given out, including large packs of candy, gift cards, and DVDs! It was a great time for everyone to share laughs and a yummy meal served by our generous Board of Directors.



On Wednesday, April 26th our Social Activities Committee held a showing of the movie ***Hidden Figures***. Thanks to our volunteer Peter, we were able to enjoy it projected onto a 6 foot screen! 20 Inside Out staff, volunteers, and members shared pizza and popcorn while enjoying a good movie. DVDs were given out as a surprise at the end of the movie so everyone could enjoy movies on their own time. Thank you to our intern Barbara for her work getting us together for a fun evening!

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***"This is a wonderful group. They do a lot for men and women coming out of prison and jail. The staff and all the volunteers go out of their way to help us out here." Eddie***

### THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS!

We are grateful to our supporters who are passionate about helping those impacted by incarceration. Thank you **Keto Kitchen, Blackstone, and Hudson's Southside Tap** for our recent business share the profits (and all those who participated)! Thank you also to our **Mystery Hour event sponsors** and attendees, the **Green Market Group from Iowa Medical Classification Center**, and **Lyndsey Scott** for donating a portion of the sales from a recently released song, and to all the other donors who support Inside Out!

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## MENTOR PROGRAM: PROVIDING SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP

Inside Out 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-judgemental 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.

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



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## COMMUNITY GATHERING: DINING TOGETHER AT A FISH FRY

Thanks to the generous donation from Saint Wenceslaus Church, Inside Out enjoyed a fish fry dinner on March 10th. Our members appreciated spending time together and sharing a meal. We greatly appreciate all the opportunities we have to come together as a community in a fun and positive way. 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 10: Hudson's Southside Tap**  
15% of sales from 4-9pm
- **May 20: Be An Instrument for Change Spring Concert** from 5-7:30 pm at the Riverside Festival Stage
- **July 5 & 19, August 2 & 16: Pat and Frans** Pat and Frans will donate 15% of their food sales to Inside Out from 11am-10pm (not including Grubhub)

***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)  
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