



# INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



## FELLOWSHIP AT FALL DINNER

Thank you to **St. Wenceslaus Church** for inviting us to their annual fall dinner. Who doesn't appreciate stimulating conversation along with good turkey, exquisite mashed potatoes and gravy, and delicious desert!

**SEEKING MALE MENTORS!** We are 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. Form a meaningful friendship and help a returning citizen overcome barriers, increase their confidence, and reach their goals.

## FALL GAME NIGHT - COMFORT FOOD AND GREAT COMMUNITY

On the final Thursday of September, we took our community meeting outdoors for our quarterly game night. The competition on the cornhole pitch was electrifying, as we witnessed some of the most efficient scoring in Inside Out history. As competitors vied to have their names immortalized in IO history, **New Song Episcopal Church** provided everyone with a bountiful spread. Apple cider and barbeque chicken was accompanied by great merriment and socializing. Volunteers, members, and the New Song congregation all enjoyed the opportunity to get together and make memories. Thanks again to New Song for all their help! If your group would like to serve a game night meal in 2024, please reach out.



*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.*

## BACKPACKS: A NECESSITY FOR THOSE REENTERING THE COMMUNITY!



Thank you to **New Song Episcopal Church**, who restocked our shelves with backpacks with a grant from Thrivent. And special thanks to volunteer Esther Smith for coordinating it all and ensuring those returning to the community after incarceration have the basics.

Want to host a backpack drive? Contact us at [hello@insideoutreentry.com](mailto:hello@insideoutreentry.com)!

## CELEBRATING THE CREATIVE TALENT OF ARTISTS ON THE INSIDE

You can put a person's body behind bars, but it is impossible to cage the imagination.

Save the date for our second annual **Art from the Inside Out** reception at **PS1** Friday, February 2 at 6pm! This event will showcase the incredible artistry of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. Art will be on display from February 2 through February 16.

## ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT WORKSHOP DECEMBER 3RD FROM 2-5PM

AVP is an all-volunteer, grassroots organization that offers experiential conflict transformation workshops in prisons, reentry communities, refugee camps, classrooms, and other environments in more than 60 countries worldwide.

Workshops consist of structured exercises, games, role plays, and group discussions. They draw on people's life experience and inner wisdom to help change how we engage in the problems and conflicts in our lives.

**Sign Up:**

**December 3rd from 2-5 pm  
at the New Song Church in  
Coralville.**



## 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.*

[hello@insideoutreentry.com](mailto:hello@insideoutreentry.com) [www.insideoutreentry.com](http://www.insideoutreentry.com)  
[facebook.com/ioreentry](https://facebook.com/ioreentry) Twitter: @IOReentry  
Instagram: @insideoutreentrycommunity



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## MONEY MOVES - MOVING TOWARD FINANCIAL STABILITY



In partnership with **Veridian Credit Union**, we were able to again host Money Moves, a three-part financial literacy program. Inside Out members attended classes about budgeting, paying off debt, different types of loans, and how to improve their credit scores.

Members who attended all three classes are eligible for a \$250 match toward a secure credit card or CD account. Ten members completed the course. We are grateful to Veridian for supporting our members in this important learning!

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## WHAT A BLAST AT TRIVIA NIGHT - OUR FALL FUNDRAISER!



What an amazing night we had for our first annual Trivia Night fall fundraiser! We raised about \$8,000 - surpassing our goals. Thank you to all who came to enjoy baked goods, popcorn, silent auction items, as well as the main event - team trivia!

Thank you also to all of our sponsors: Blank and McCune, Congregational United Church of Christ, Hills Bank, Vondra Law Office, Malott Law, Dale and Diana Helling, John and Dorothy Whiston, Elora LaCroix, Linder Tire Service, Acceptance Recovery Counseling, Coe College Prison Learning Initiative, Costco, and the University of Iowa Prison Writing Project.

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## GIVING TUESDAY AND END OF YEAR GOALS

Celebrate Inside Out's unique programming by giving an end of year donation! From fish fry events, to member hikes, to game nights, Inside Out supports our members who are returning to the community! Your donation support is a vital part of our successful programming! Mark your calendar for #GivingTuesday, November 28th - the biggest donation day of the year - and join others in helping to support returning citizens in our community. Stay tuned for upcoming emails to help us raise \$15,000 through the end of the year!



## THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS!

- We are grateful to our supporters who are passionate about helping those impacted by incarceration. Thank you **Short's Burgers Eastside, Hudson's Southside Tap, and Wildwood Smokehouse and Saloon** for our recent restaurant share the profits (and all those who participated)! Thank you to our faith community and individual donors who support Inside Out.
- Thank you to recent grant funders for furthering Inside Out's mission. Thank you to **City of Iowa City, Johnson County, City of Coralville, and Veridian** for their grant support!

**Upcoming fundraisers: Dec. 7 Micky's Irish Pub, Jan. 30 The Vue Rooftop**