# Grateful & Growing – July at Inside Out Reentry Community (July 2025 Newsletter)

#### t's Been a Busy Summer in our Resource Center!

Our center has been a flourish of activity with more drop-in visits than we've seen before, with folks stopping in to cool down from the heat. Our members are also facing additional challenges with finding employment in our community. Two ways to support our busy resource center is by becoming a volunteer or donating keurig cups which we've been flying through each week! Lastly, if you are an area employer we'd love to connect with you to discuss the benefits of hiring those who are recently released.

## "A month in the life" Reentry Simulation for the County Attorney's Office



In June, we had the amazing opportunity to host a reentry simulation for the Johnson County Attorney's Office. The reentry simulation allows individuals to experience the barriers and challenges those who are coming out of incarceration and reentering their communities face. Inside Out aims to hold a reentry simulation each year when possible. If your organization or community group would like to host a reentry simulation, please contact us.

### **Money Moves: Financial Literacy Program**

In partnership with Veridian Credit Union, we were able to again host Money Moves in June, 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. We are grateful to Veridian for supporting our members in this important learning!

#### **Quarterly Game Nights - Celebrating Reentry Successes**

A huge shout out to our winners of the bags tournament at our Game Night in June! We love getting together as a community for our social activities! Inside Out is so grateful for all of our volunteers who made the event a huge success! Are you a member of a church or community group who would like to host our December 18th Game Night and provide meals for our members? Email hello@insideoutreentry.com!





## A Successful Spring Concert Fundraiser!



Thank you to The Beaker Brothers Band for not only rocking out with us, but also for helping spread the word about our annual Spring Concert! We are so lucky to collaborate with other people in our community who support those reentering Johnson County after incarceration. During our event, we celebrated meeting our fundraising goal by raising \$11,678! Thank you to everyone who donated, participated in our concessions, and bid on our raffle prizes! Thank you also to our event sponsors: Know More, Sanctuary Community Church, Principal Foundation, ImOn, Veridian Credit Union, Tim Conroy of Blank and McCune, ACT, Vondra Law Office, Malott Law, Dorothy and John Whiston, Dave Martin, Hills Bank, Dale and Diana Helling, Acceptance Recovery Counseling, Elora LaCroix, Linder Tire Service, Faith United Church of Christ, Relion Insurance Solutions, Rockne Cole of the Cole Law Firm.





#### **Help With Out Upcoming Volunteer Needs:**



We are seeking individuals with lived experience in substance use recovery to volunteer for our weekly Coffee and Connections group Tuesday evenings. Volunteers help provide transportation and are a listening ear to others' experiences. Interested? Contact tracy@insideoutreentry.com.

Save the Date: Two Upcoming Events in August!



1. Wednesday, August 6: Dine out at the Black Angel Restaurant to support those returning to the community after incarceration. 10% of sales all day will be donated to Inside Out!



2. Friday, August 15: Ear Hustle at the Englert Theater! Ear Hustle is the first podcast created and produced in prison, and the podcast will be coming to Iowa City at the Englert! Don't miss this engaging live event to listen to stories from inside and outside prison, accompanied by beloved musicians from the acclaimed podcast.

**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.