



INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

WINTER 2018 NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

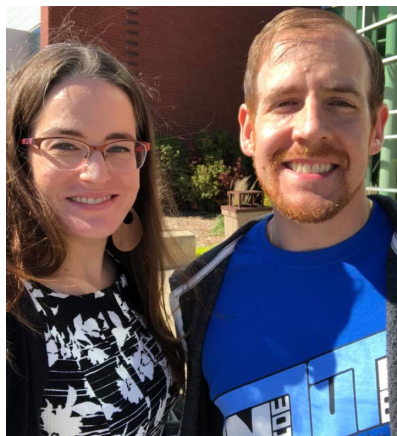
2018 has been a year of growth for Inside Out and it is due to the support from our donors. Through increased funding, we were able to hire our first full time employee, expand our resource center hours, and increase our case management services reaching more returning citizens in our community. We now hold weekly community meetings and have up to 25 individuals attend each week. Our community is stronger than ever with individuals providing peer support, and the formation of a community council to help inform organizational decisions.

We also sponsored special events to raise awareness and engage the broader community in the challenges and struggles returning citizens face. We held film screenings of Milwaukee 53206, Healing Justice, and Knife Skills. We also held two parole simulations, one at the University of Iowa and the second at IMCC.

Giving Tuesday was a great success with donations totaling \$4,000. Help us reach our goal of \$5,000 by the end of the year. A donation of \$50 covers a meal at a community meeting, five 10-ride bus tickets, or 200 emails to our incarcerated community members. We are excited about what we will accomplish in 2019.

Special thanks to all of our incredible volunteers and donors for making this year amazing!

Michelle Heinz
Executive Director



Michelle and returning citizen Michael Stannard after presenting at the Iowa Justice and Disparities Conference in Ankeny this October.

PAROLE SIMULATION AT IMCC

On November 2nd, Inside Out hosted a parole simulation at Iowa Medical Classification Center (IMCC). The event allowed participants to experience first-hand the barriers and struggles that citizens returning from incarceration face when re-entering life on the outside. Participants included not only prison staff but some incarcerated individuals as well.

We look forward to developing a version of the simulation specifically to help incarcerated people prepare for life on the outside and learn about the resources available to them.

INSIDE OUT IS HERE TO STAY

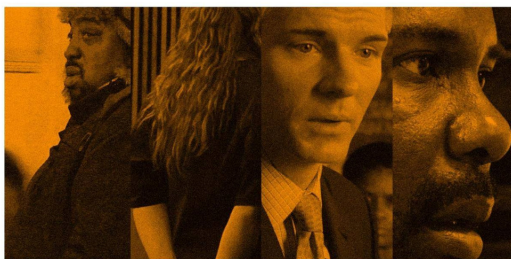
A local church has signed a purchase agreement for the building and has generously offered Inside Out continued free rent for the next three years! More details coming soon. We are very grateful for the continued support of the Spirit of Christ Church, and the faith community.

VOTING RIGHTS ISSUE GAINING MOMENTUM

This November, voters in Florida passed an amendment to restore the right to vote to 1.4 million formerly incarcerated people. Iowa is now one of only two states that doesn't automatically restore voting rights. The issue is gaining traction in advocacy groups and local news sources. The Women's League of Voters now has voting rights as a top priority, and an editorial in the Gazette called on Governor Reynolds to sign an executive order to restore the right to vote. If you would like to help advocate for this issue, you can write letters to the editors of your local newspapers and contact your legislators. Inside Out is also developing a t-shirt for community members to wear to raise awareness!



KNIFE SKILLS FILM SCREENING



ON THE MENU: A SECOND CHANCE

Knife SKILLS

On November 18, Inside Out hosted a screening of Knife Skills, a documentary that follows the launch of a world-class French restaurant whose employees are returning citizens. It provides an intimate look at three individuals trying to find their way after release and learn new skills. We would love to offer this kind of supported employment in the future.

Employment is a major barrier upon release. Inside Out is always seeking employers that hire returning citizens. If you know of businesses that hire returning citizens please let us know.

COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LETISHA MOLINA

Inside Out would like to recognize and thank Letisha Molina, a long-time Inside Out community member, as she returns to her home state of Arizona to reunite with her family. Letisha first became involved with Inside Out in late 2015, and remained active with the community for several years.



While Letisha received support from Inside Out that enabled her to make positive changes in her life, such as securing an apartment and employment, she strived to give back to the community. After receiving her driver's license, Letisha often gave rides to other community members in need of transportation, welcomed new members, and helped out with child care. Letisha volunteered at Inside Out Parole Simulations, spoke at numerous community events, and frequently cooked and prepared dishes for community meetings and special events.

Thank you, Letisha, for your commitment to Inside Out Reentry Community. We congratulate you on your successes and wish you the very best.