



# INSIDE OUT REENTRY COMMUNITY

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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## THE PAGE STREET REENTRY HOUSE IS NOW OPEN!

We have officially launched our 6-bedroom Reentry House for men leaving incarceration. After an incredible effort by staff and volunteers to prepare the house to welcome our new residents, we have opened our doors. Thanks to donations of furniture and home goods, every room has been thoughtfully designed to make residents feel comfortable and at home. Each single-unit bedroom is fully furnished and move-in ready. Several common spaces will allow for socializing, group activities, and supportive programming focused on the issues important to those returning to the community.



Each resident will be greeted with a Welcome Kit full of essentials. Inside Out Staff will assist residents with getting IDs, social security cards and other immediate needs to make their arrival easier, and supportive services will continue for the duration of their stay. We are excited to welcome new residents to the Page Street Reentry House and to the Inside Out Reentry Community!

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## SUMMER HIKE AT HICKORY HILL PARK



On Sunday June 11th, we hosted our Summer Hike at Hickory Hill Park. Twelve of us enjoyed sights of the hills, a few friendly deer, and all of the natural greenery around us. We were also accompanied by our Reentry Coach Zach's dog Nipsey! We walked over a mile and ended our day under the pavilion, eating snacks and enjoying some refreshing freezer popsicles. It was a calm relaxing walk!

*"I Loved it!" - IO Member*

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!** - This newsletter we are taking a moment to highlight our very own Jefri Palermo! Throughout the process of preparing and opening the Reentry House, Jefri worked wonders coordinating donations of furniture, household items, decor, and all sorts of other things the house needed with care. Jefri is also a mentor in our volunteer mentoring program and helps out in our Resource Center every week. None of the work we do at Inside Out would be possible without our volunteers. Thank you Jefri!





We are excited to announce our **2023 Inside Out Trivia Night Fundraiser** with Chris's Bar Exam on Thursday, November 9, from 7:00–9:00 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Coralville (2355 Oakdale Rd, Coralville). The night will be unforgettable, where participants compete, have fun, and bid on silent auction items!

**Book in advance: \$20/individual, \$100/team of 6. Tickets at the door are \$25.**

Bring your family, friends, and coworkers to join together into teams of six - compete to answer questions and win points for prizes. Funds raised will further Inside Out's mission to support people involved in the criminal legal system in changing from the inside out.

**Not able to make it and would like to be a sponsor? Go to: <https://bit.ly/2023IOTrivia>**

Sponsorship levels:

- Einstein: \$1000
- Quizmaster: \$500
- Genius: \$250
- Brainiac: \$100
- Prodigy: \$50

**Thank you to Hills Bank, Elora LaCroix, and Linder Tire for being a Trivia Night sponsor!**

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## **COFFEE AND CONNECTIONS: POWERFUL RECOVERY SUPPORT**

Every Tuesday from 5:30-6:30 pm Zach leads Inside Out's peer recovery group Coffee and Connections. Attendance and engagement have increased since Zach began facilitating the group in May. Zach shared why he thinks this group is so powerful: **"The thing I most look forward to is helping members on their recovery. Our group allows members to have a safe space that isn't required or court mandated. This safe space encourages engagement and positive change from the inside-out."**

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

- **Sept 13: Short's Eastside** 15% of sales from 4-9pm
- **Oct 25: Hudson's** 15% of sales from 4-9pm
- **Nov 9: Trivia Night Fundraiser**
- **Nov 14: Wildwood Smokehouse** 10% of sales for the day

*If you would like to host an event or partnership, we would love to hear from you!*

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## FEELING AT HOME WITH WELCOME KITS



**“Home is not a place...it’s a feeling.”** While this idea represents the intangible components of home, Inside Out is providing the very tangible components of home to those now moving into our new Reentry House. Our welcome kit includes a laundry basket containing laundry detergent, sheets, towels/washcloths, and a pillow. We hope these kits help our residents settle in and feel at home. Thank you to the Wednesday night women’s group from First United Methodist Church of North Liberty and St Wenceslaus Catholic Church for their donations of welcome home kits! If you are a part of a group or church organization interested in supporting our residents by donating a welcome home kit, please reach out to [zaria@insideoutreentry.com](mailto:zaria@insideoutreentry.com) on how to donate. Collecting and packing these items is a great fun group activity!

## SUMMER GAME NIGHT FUN

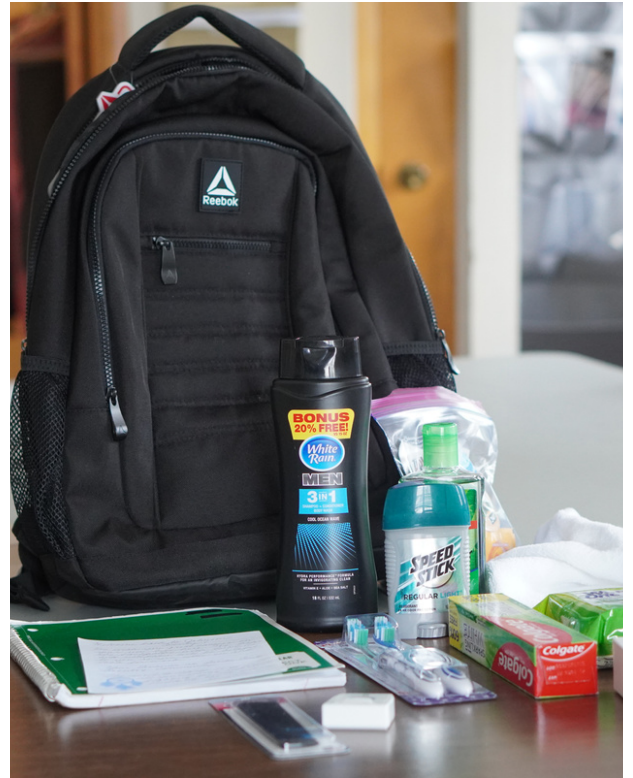
On Thursday June 29th, we hosted our quarterly game night. We took the festivities outdoors with First Mennonite Church providing the food and manning the grill. We also hosted our first ever bags tournament with over 8 teams entering. While First Mennonite was very competitive in the bags tournament, we all appreciated the camaraderie and community of the event. All told, we had over 50 community members, staff, and volunteers attend. This event would not have been possible without the support of First Mennonite Church! ***If your church or organization would like to serve a meal and join us for a game night let us know!***



## QUARTERLY BACKPACK DRIVE

An overlooked key need 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 - and we are on pace for distributing even more backpacks in 2023! We couldn't have met that need without donations from individuals and community groups! 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, contact us! 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 who have supported Inside Out in the past!



**"I was feeling kind of down about my parole situation, but when I got a birthday card from Inside Out it really brightened my day. I have it hung up on my wall now as a reminder. The little things mean so much while you are incarcerated."** - *incarcerated member*

## LOOKING FOR NEW OFFICE SPACE!

We need your help! Inside Out has grown and is looking for a new office space. If you have any leads, please contact Michelle at [michelle@insideoutreentry.com](mailto:michelle@insideoutreentry.com)!

- Close to transit
- 1000-2000 square ft.
- At least one private office and large meeting area
- Ample parking

## 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.*

## SUPPORTERS THANK YOU!

We are grateful to our supporters who are passionate about helping those impacted by incarceration. Thank you **Pat and Frans** for our recent business share the profit (and all those who participated)! Thank you also to our **2023 Spring Concert *Be an Instrument for Change* event sponsors** and attendees, the **churches and individuals who donated items for our Reentry House**, and **everyone who volunteered at the North Liberty Blues and BBQ** to help raise funds and awareness of Inside Out!

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