

THRIVE for Life Prison Project presents

A Project to Aid the Formerly Incarcerated in the Process of Re-entry

Ignacio House



Thrive for Life Prison Project will address the challenges of re-entry through the establishment of Ignacio House, where residents will live in supportive housing, obtain an education, and successfully establish a career upon completion of the program.

1



The System



According to the most recent comprehensive estimate of the individuals currently incarcerated in the United States, an estimated 89% of State prison inmates, 76% of Federal inmates, and 86% of jail inmates "did not attend some college or other postsecondary institution" compared to 52% of the general population (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003). At the same time, the decline of funding for college programs to aid those who are or have been incarcerated has left a meager "3 to 6 percent of inmates" being enrolled "in college and vocational classes combined" (Freemark, 2016).

Additionally, due to employers' biases against the formerly incarcerated, even training formerly incarcerated individuals for work cannot prevent the unemployment or underemployment of 67% of inmates five years after release (DeVuono-Powell, 2015).

Top this all off with the fact that "homelessness is far more common among [adult state and federal prison inmates] than the general population," in particular for unemployed and low-income individuals, and it's no wonder that, 76.6% of inmates are re-arrested within 5 years of release (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014).

2



New York City



In New York City, the current average daily inmate population is approximately 11,400 individuals. We need to address this growing problem now more than ever, so that formerly incarcerated community members thrive for life.

3



Education



Thrive for Life Prison Project will partner with local colleges and universities, in order to offer college degree programs to its residents.

4



Employment



Thrive for Life Prison Project will partner with community corporations to offer valuable and ... work experience, which will not only provide job training to Ignacio House's residents, but also build up their resumes and break down the stigma surrounding hiring formerly incarcerated individuals.

5



Housing



Ignacio House will offer safe, stable, and supportive housing to formerly incarcerated individuals.

6



Conclusion



Ignacio House empirically ensures a better future for our community by giving formerly incarcerated individuals the tools they need to obtain supportive and safe housing, quality education, and substantive career establishment. Through this new initiative, Thrive for Life Prison Project will break down the stereotypes of formerly incarcerated individuals that plague our society and hinder them from thriving for life.