

## **SVDP Attleboro IMMERSION Reentry Update: February 26, 2020**

**OVERVIEW:** The [Society of St. Vincent de Paul District Council of Attleboro Reentry Program](#) is successfully filling gaps and changing lives everyday for formerly incarcerated men and women in Southeastern Massachusetts who want to rebuild their lives and families. Staffed entirely by volunteers, we are helping these returning citizens with probation, transportation, clothing, food, education, jobs, licenses, rent and general encouragement and advice. *We need help with behind-the-scenes administrative tasks.*

**As a pilot program of the [SVDP National IMMERSION Reentry Program](#) we are committed to addressing all eight of the following program elements.**

- We **mentor** incarcerated men in a group setting prior to their release using the nationally validated Getting Ahead While Getting Out (GAWGO) model. GAWGO facilitators pair with graduated investigators upon release for one-on-one mentoring and coaching. Our longest mentoring relationships are going strong after 3 years!
- **Returning citizens and their families receive education** by participating in Getting Ahead programs and GED, testing and certificate programs at Bristol CC.
- **72-Hour Transitional Programming** begins during GAWGO sessions while inside the Bristol County House of Correction in N. Dartmouth, MA where inmates prepare a detailed 5-page plan based on the “future story” they envision for themselves.
- Upon release, the biggest role we play is paying for transitional **housing**. We maintain close working relationships with dozens of landlords and sober house managers and routinely pay between \$350 and \$850 for up to one month for each of the 15-20 returning citizens who ask us for help each and every month.
- We recruit and **educate Vincentians and community volunteers** to help us fill the very real gaps that exist for state and county inmates upon release.
- Returning citizens receive help finding **employment** from our community partners such as MassHire, the Chamber of Commerce, the MassDOC and a growing list of employers. Our own volunteers help them with job applications and resumes, ID’s, training and licensing programs, transportation and continual encouragement.
- We are quickly becoming the recognized leader in building **community partnerships** and networks for reentry in Southeastern Massachusetts as recognized by the Bristol County Sheriff and District Attorney, the Massachusetts Department of Correction and the state legislature which has funded our program.
- We **advocate** for those in poverty, those without adequate food and housing and specifically for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated with local police, municipal governments, county and state officials and through our congressional delegation on the national level. These initiatives are rooted in our Voice of the Poor Committee.

**In February, 2020** we have helped 16 new returning citizens, met with the Mayor, the DA, the DOC and our congressional delegation in Washington. We started our sixth GAWGO session, and submitted several new funding requests. Our caseload now totals over 375 individuals. We are collecting data to track cases and measure our outcomes. We are busy.

Please contact us to find out how you, or somebody you know, can find a rewarding role as a volunteer in the Attleboro IMMERSION Reentry Program. 508-951-0524 or [reentry@svdpattleboro.org](mailto:reentry@svdpattleboro.org)