

SVdP District Council of Attleboro Immersion Reentry Program Activity Report - October through December 2024

Eight Immersion Components

What we've done from October through December 2024

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| 1 | INTAKE INTERVIEWS FOR 72 HOUR AND TRANSITIONAL PLANNING | The Reentry Program continues to serve returning citizens, almost all of whom are in recovery. In the last three months, we completed 21 intakes with new returning citizens and assisted 27 continuing program participants. As needed, we provided clothing, toiletries, bus passes, grocery cards and emergency shelter. We also provided financial assistance for state identification cards and outstanding RMV fees. |
| 2 | MENTORING | Volunteers continue to provide encouragement and guidance with applications for housing and apartment searches. Volunteers worked with local agencies to help some of our justice-involved individuals obtain Christmas gifts for their children. |
| 3 | EDUCATING RETURNING CITIZENS & FAMILIES | Volunteers helped returning citizens to understand what additional support would be beneficial beyond the short term assistance offered by the Reentry Program. To that end, we introduced several returning citizens to the concept of a navigator, assisted with the application for navigator services, submitted the completed application on behalf of the returning citizen, and followed-up with the pertinent agency to ensure that a navigator had been assigned. Meanwhile, we continue to refer our women neighbors to Pave Your Path, a safe place where women with low incomes are empowered to become economically and emotionally self-sufficient. |
| 4 | EMPLOYMENT | Volunteers spent time with neighbors brainstorming potential employers and familiarizing neighbors with the MassHire HOT JOBS link on the SVdP Attleboro website (www.svdpattleboro.org). Job searches are more challenging for those with complex criminal backgrounds; those recovering from temporary injuries; and those with more permanent mental, cognitive and physical challenges. At times, we have recognized that a referral to an outpatient treatment program (OTP) is more pertinent than gainful employment. In these instances, we have offered rental assistance while the returning citizen participates in the OTP. |
| 5 | HOUSING | The Reentry Program paid for transitional housing for 26 returning citizens as well as rent for the family of a current inmate. Remittances represented both full and partial month's assistance. |
| 6 | COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS | A Reentry volunteer now represents the Attleboro area on the Racial Equity Committee for the Bristol County Continuum of Care for Homelessness. As the cold weather approached, a Reentry volunteer coordinated a meeting of the agencies, that operate the warming shelters in Bristol County, to discuss overflow management. We were very happy to attend the ribbon cutting for the new emergency shelter in Attleboro which is targeted to open in February. We recently met with Sheriff Paul Heroux to discuss how his office and the Reentry Program might further collaborate. In addition, the Reentry Program continues to participate in the Attleboro Area Self-Sufficiency Coalition meetings as well as the meetings of the South Coast Reentry Collaborative. |
| 7 | ADVOCACY | A Reentry volunteer supported the planning for the first Bristol County Housing Summit which brought together speakers and attendees to address the multiple facets of the housing and homelessness challenges in Bristol County. The Reentry Program was represented at the first reentry conference organized by the Massachusetts Department of Corrections' Reentry Services, which offered a wonderful opportunity to network with a broader group of support service agencies. |
| 8 | EDUCATING VINCENTIANS & VOLUNTEERS | Members of the Reentry team recently served as facilitators at a regional SVdP Ozanam training for Vincentians. The Reentry Team has been meeting with the new President of the Attleboro SVdP District to more fully acquaint her with the Reentry Program. Two Reentry volunteers completed the training for certification as facilitators of the <i>Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World</i> curriculum. |
| | Attleboro SDVP Immersion Reentry Program, 95 Pine Street Attleboro, Massachusetts 02703 | For more information, go to svdpattleboro.org and see Reentry. Our Reentry Help Line and business phone number is 508-445-2054. Select voicemail option #1 and leave a clear, detailed voice message. Someone will get back to you. We are open most Wednesdays at 95 Pine Street for previously scheduled appointments, which are highly recommended. For guidance on remitting donations to the Reentry Program, we can be reached via email at reentry@svdpattleboro.org . For more information about reentry and other programs of the National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, go to svdpusa.org and select "Assistance & Services" and "Programs/Ways We Help". Look for "Immersion." |