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A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SAM LEWIS

Greetings to all of our community members that are currently incarcerated. I know that the past five months have been uncertain, difficult, and scary. Each night I include all of you in my prayers, and each day ARC and many other organizations and people fight for your liberation, safety, and reunification with your families.

To the families of those that have passed away, we send our deepest condolences. Our hearts are heavy, and we are working to try and ensure that more lives are not lost.

ARC has taken action to help our people inside in various ways. We have donated 126,000 bars of soap and 7,000 masks to three different facilities that had outbreaks of COVID-19. ARC has been directly involved advocating for the continued release of people in custody in order to create more space for social distancing. We continue to provide transportation from all institutions throughout the state of California.

I want each of you to know that we are with you every step of the way. We are advocating and doing everything possible to keep a light on everything that's happening behind the walls. You are not alone in this journey. Please continue to write about what's happening inside, as we amplify your voices through our social media, and by sharing your words with our elected officials. You matter and your voices matter. #WeMatterToo.

Sincerely,

SAM LEWIS IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ANTI-RECIDIVISM COALITION (ARC). A FORMER LIFE PRISONER, SAM UNDERSTANDS THE VARIOUS OBSTACLES THE PRISON AND REENTRY POPULATIONS FACE. IN 2017, SAM CREATED THE HOPE AND REDEMPTION TEAM (HART), A GROUP OF NINE FORMER CALIFORNIA LIFE PRISONERS WHO GO BACK INTO CALIFORNIA STATE PRISONS TO PROVIDE HOPE, DEMONSTRATE THAT REDEMPTION IS ACHIEVABLE, AND TO PREPARE PARTICIPANTS FOR SUCCESSFUL REENTRY INTO OUR COMMUNITIES.



POLICY UPDATE 2020

During this time, ARC is working with partners to advocate for more people to be released as well as your health and safety, including oversight. We are continuing to push many reforms forward in an uncertain time. Due to COVID 19, the California legislature will prioritize certain bills and delay others. Now, as always, it is important that we work together to advocate for change. Learn about our important policy updates below.

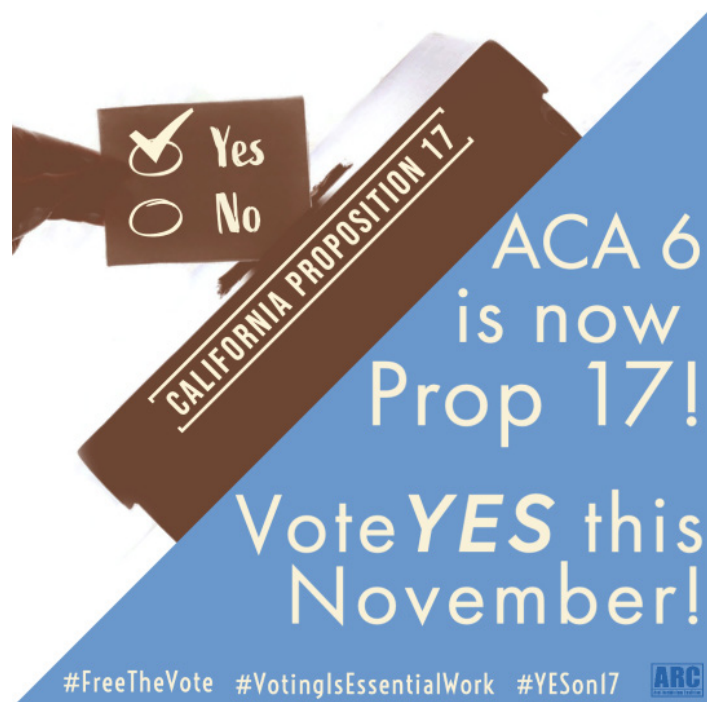
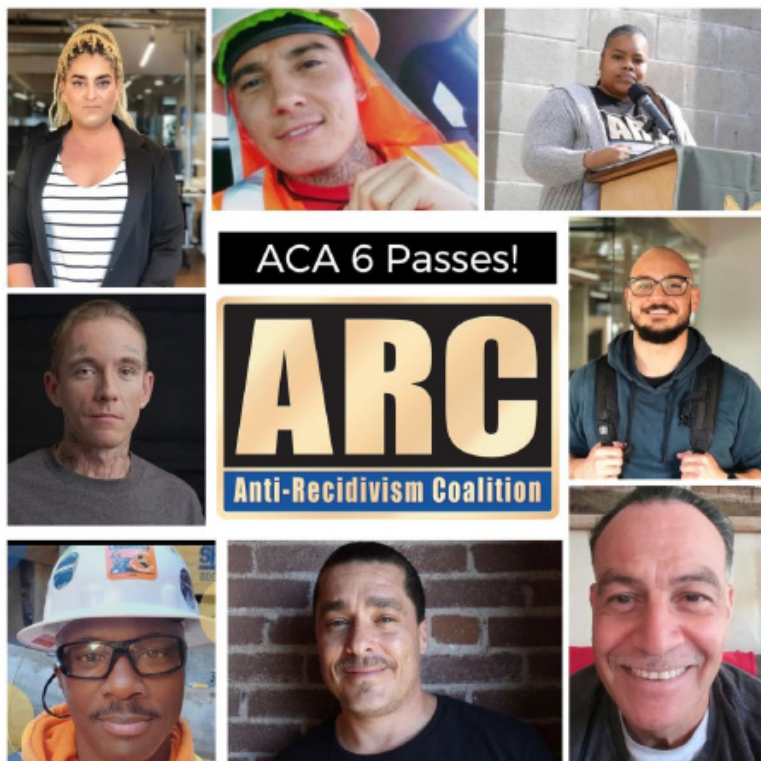
CA BALLOT INITIATIVES

Proposition 17: The Free The Vote Ballot Measure (YES): ACA 6 passed the CA Senate, turning it into Proposition 17. This ballot measure will restore the right to vote to over 50,000 people on parole. If passed by California voters this November 3, Californians on parole --our friends, family members, neighbors-- will have their voting rights restored. #YesOn17

Proposition 25: Money Bail (YES): This initiative seeks to uphold Senate Bill 10, which was passed in the California legislature last year and would discontinue the practice of bail and instead rely on risk assessment tools to determine if someone should be released from custody pre-trial. We support this measure. #YesOn25

Proposition 20: Keep California Safe Initiative (NO): The Keep California Safe Act would roll back Propositions 47 and 57, which are two of our past successes. Propositions 47 and 57 have made it possible for many ARC members to obtain early release and return home with degrees, certificates, and life skills to help them thrive as leaders in their communities. Despite the success of these reforms, this 2020 ballot measure is threatening to roll them back. We strongly oppose this measure. #NoOn20

You can help by telling your family and friends about the upcoming ballot measures in November 2020. Passing these crucial ballot measures will get us closer to ending felony disenfranchisement for everyone in California, removing cash bail, and preventing opponents of rehabilitation from rolling back Props 57 and 47.



2020 LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

SB 203: SB 203 would require youth under the age of 18 to consult with legal counsel before they waive their constitutional rights

Status: SB 203 passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee and will next be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee

AB 2342: ARC is continuing our efforts to reform parole with AB 2342. This year will introduce a bill about Community Reintegration Credits, which will allow people on parole to earn credits, similar to Proposition 57. By incentivizing people on parole to continue their rehabilitation through education, self-help programs, volunteering, and staying disciplinary-free, we are promoting public safety through their success.

Status: AB 2342 passed Senate Public Safety Committee and will next be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 1111: SB 1111 seeks to protect transition-aged youth who have a case originating in juvenile court. By housing most 18 to 21-year-olds in youth facilities, not adult jails, SB 1111 will ensure a young person's continued education and treatment pending the outcome of a case. In addition, SB 1111 will protect transition-aged youth from the harms associated with holding young people in adult jails.

Status: SB 1111 passed Assembly Public Safety Committee and will next be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

If you have any questions or policy ideas, please continue to call and write to us. Your insight and feedback is crucial to reforming our criminal justice system in California. You may send mail to the LA or Sacramento offices, make sure to write: **C/O ARC Policy**. Please be patient as it takes longer for mail to reach us as we are rarely in the office. Stay safe and healthy-- we are thinking of you.

Sincerely

ARC Policy Team

SILVER LINING

By Myles Flournoy

ARC Member and Grant Writer Myles Flournoy ponders on how the COVID-19 pandemic needs to change how society views prisons

The COVID-19 pandemic hit our country and almost immediately fears surrounding the safety of our incarcerated community members began to grow. When living in such close proximity, confined to a densely populated area, feelings of fear become magnified. The fear of what could potentially transpire becomes evident, and those currently serving sentences suddenly see their stint as a potential life sentence.

As of August 11, 2020, there have been 8,816 incarcerated people who have tested positive for COVID-19, and 53 COVID-19 related deaths. Yet, however dim this moment, there is hope at the end of this tunnel. In an effort to slow the spread of the virus inside facilities, CDCR has begun releasing some individuals earlier than expected. Are people who have been deemed a threat to society being let out of prison? The question of "real threat" has to be asked. Did these people ever pose a real threat to society, and would we let them free if they did?

These are the questions this pandemic will force our society to grapple with. What about our justice system and the state of our incarcerated community members is just? The simple answer is that if we did not arrest and incarcerate so many people, then we would not have to release these same individuals when a pandemic hits. Our society has routinely given the least attention to the group who need it most. Recently, the people in power have begun to reconsider some of the harsh, excessive laws that plague our justice system. Leaders are coming together with lawmakers and beginning to understand that the overcrowded state of our prisons has been an ongoing issue for

decades. We shouldn't need a global pandemic for us to realize that our system is flawed and in need of change.

Is there a silver lining in this situation? Can we use this pandemic as a stepping stone toward better tomorrows? There is only so much CDCR can do to slow the spread of COVID-19. The only viable solution to this problem would be to release more people from prison as expeditiously as possible. The safety of our incarcerated brothers and sisters is our concern, and we urge CDCR to take the necessary action.

Know that you are not forgotten. Incarcerated people are often seen as being apart from society, tucked away out of sight and having no community. We at ARC want you to know that incarcerated community members are our people. They are our community, and we will not stop our work until our people are released from prison safely and reunited with their loved ones.



FAMILY SEPARATED DURING COVID

By Xoxhtli Quintero

Xoxhtli Quintero shares her thoughts on what it is like to have her husband incarcerated during the time of COVID-19.

I have known my husband since we were both teenagers. We have been married for over ten years and he's my best friend. I am proud to announce that my husband and I are expecting our first child, and my due date happens to fall on his birthday. This should be the happiest moment in our marriage, but it's not. My husband is currently serving a life sentence, and in addition to being apart from him, COVID-19 has been one of the most difficult challenges we've had to face in our marriage. I worry for not only him, but for all the men and women behind bars.

We are unable to use the only method of social interaction permitted within the prison system, due to family visits and regular weekend visits being canceled. I am so worried about my husband's health while he's inside prison walls. In the "free" world, we can adjust to the protocol of "social distancing" from others, but my husband and people incarcerated are not afforded that liberty. These men are forced to be close to one another in cells/dorms, restrooms, eating facilities, and outdoor areas. Due to the dense population and close proximity, COVID-19 can spread rapidly throughout the prison.

In addition to the fear of COVID-19 spreading, correctional officers, mental health providers, and medical staff consistently come in and out of prison, presenting a higher risk of infection for my husband and also those incarcerated with him. I fear for my husband's life, safety, and wellbeing on a daily basis. At times, I feel helpless because I can't hug him and assure him that everything is going to be okay. The prison's healthcare is not the most modern or reliable. They do not respond quickly, and I am ultimately concerned that if my husband or any one in the same prison are diagnosed with COVID-19, they will not receive the medical treatment needed to fight, recover, or stop the spread of this deadly virus within the prison. The stress and fear come from not knowing if you will see your loved one ever again.

I am involved with the Ten Toes In organization. This group helps me deal with the challenges of being married to an incarcerated man. I am thankful for the ongoing support I receive. The group offers a safe place to feel comfortable sharing my fears, and the most joyful life moments this journey continues to offer me. Being surrounded by other women who understand what I endure daily creates an environment of "Sisterhood." My husband deserves to be healthy. We deserve the chance to spend quality time with our child, and look forward to a future together as a family. I hope everyone inside will get to see their loved ones again.

THE RIGHT RIDE HOME

By Marcelino Garcia

Marcelino Garcia reflects what it's like to be picked up from prison through ARC's Ride Program, the challenges of coming home, and why he decided to return to prison to pick people up.

At the beginning of 2018, I moved yards in Chuckawalla Valley State Prison to begin my process to reintegrate back into society. Two months later, I'm brought into the program office to begin my parole plans and they start asking me questions, "Where are you going? Who will you be staying with? Where will you be working?"

I was set to parole to Fresno. I knew one thing, I'm not going back home to Fresno because I had dissociated myself from that life and therefore was in danger because of my past crimes. I committed violent acts against other gang members who might still be involved. How am I going to get home? Am I going to catch a ride? Is my family going to come to pick me up? Where was I going to work? Where was I going to live? I started writing to different transitional homes but I had not received any letters saying we will come to pick you up, or you can parole to this county.

In despair, I called the person that I trust the most, my mentor and friend, Ruben. Ruben was in prison with me, he was sentenced to LWOP as a juvenile, but he got out after 27 years. After a series of phone calls, I get in touch with ARC. I had heard of ARC remotely. I didn't really know what services or resources they had. It was as simple as making a phone call. Within three hours, I was back at the program office signing new parole plans to Los Angeles County. I now had a letter from Amity Housing saying I had a bed secure for the next six months upon my release. I still didn't know how I was going to get home. Was I going to take the only \$200 they were going to give me and pay \$170 to get on a bus and get here? If that's the case, how would I buy clothes? How would I get food?

I write a letter to Carlos Cervantes, who runs the Ride Home Program at ARC. I beg for a ride home. Carlos responded not only by getting that ride for me but by making it a seared memory in my mind. Ruben was sentenced to LWOP, meaning he would die in prison as an old man. Carlos made it possible for that very mentor to be waiting at the gate. If I was getting out and not going back to Fresno, I knew I had to hold up my end. I was going to Los Angeles, not Fresno. My release day finally came.

I passed the gate and to the booth, and sure enough, Ruben, was there. He should have never gotten out, and he is standing there in front of me. The first thing I say to him is, "Let's go." We hop into his car and take off. I turn on the music and play "Highway to Hell" by AC/DC. The first ten minutes of me being on the open road with Ruben, I thought I would look in the rearview mirror and see ten cop cars, saying we made a mistake. But that didn't happen, reality set in. The first thing I did was call my son. We stopped and pulled over to eat. I couldn't even finish my whole plate. I had not tasted real food for the last five years. I couldn't even finish a steak. But I was free.

This simple ride home from a mentor to mentee meant the world to me. In that two hour ride home from prison to housing, something went off in my mind that said you cannot move on without paying this forward. You cannot continue and accomplish what you want to, without giving back.

A year later, I ran into problems with child support, family matters, deaths, and everything that life consists of out here in the real world.

The memory of the ride home is something I'd had to draw up over and over again. I have run into trouble, not only with somewhere to live, not only with a job but things that other young men run into. Carlos contacted me to see if I wanted to pick people up for ARC's Ride Home program. I said yes immediately. I went to pick up my first guy. He was able to relive what I went through and me knowing that fact enabled me to help him.

Catching the right ride home is so crucial. It's easy to catch the wrong ride home. If someone from your past picks you up or the wrong family member does, you don't have control or they could give you some news that might send you over the edge. The Ride Home Program was fundamental for me getting out of prison with my mind in the right place.

One of the last times I did the Ride Home Program, I picked up a man from Calipatria. Like me, he had been writing letters to transitional homes. He didn't want to return where he was from. As we headed down the road, I turned on "Highway to Hell." He could have taken a two-hour bus ride that ended with a wrong decision because of fear and doubt. Or maybe because the wrong person picked you up and gave you bad advice. There are a million things that could go wrong once you set foot out of prison until you meet your parole officer. All these thoughts of doubt, stress, and uncertainty. A ride home could make you or break you. I know going back to prison is not an option, regression is not an option. Start writing down what you won't tolerate in your life, start writing down what you will. Start writing down how you make sure you will never end up back in prison. Start looking for resources and reach out to those organizations that can help you. You want to make your goals achievable. Start writing down how you're going to come home.





I PROTEST, I PROTEST:

LETTER TO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS ON SUPERVISION

Mark Taylor is a former lifer who now works with ARC's Hope and Redemption Team facilitating character development classes in California's Pelican Bay State Prison.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

African Americans in the United States are born into the bondage of a racist system that has systematically devalued, oppressed, and inflicted horrendous acts of sustained violence upon us. I have felt the weight of this brutal system my entire life. The virtual chains that keep me in a perpetual state of bondage today are just as binding as the real ones that imprisoned me in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for twenty-one and a half years. Although I was released from prison on September 12, 2018, I am not even close to free.

The peaceful protests that are taking place across America are a source of deep inspiration and are an essential part of our never-ending quest for justice. Instinctively, I want to take to the streets and join these protests. But I am on active parole, which means any contact with law enforcement, even if I have not committed a crime, can lead to the reinstatement of my life sentence. Simply stated, I can be sent back to prison for the rest of my life for participating in street protests, especially if the proper permits have not been issued.

I am strictly prohibited from traveling more than 50 miles from my residence without a signed travel pass from both my parole officer and his supervisor. If I am stopped outside this 50-mile radius, I can, and probably will be, sent back to prison. I commend all of the brave people who are taking to the streets to engage in their civic duty. But I am locked out of this process just like I am locked out of the electoral process.

But my conscience still compels me to protest in ways that affirm the humanity of incarcerated people, and counteract our society's decision that their lives do not matter. I protest by supporting ARC's policy team that has helped pass 17 laws that have impacted over 41,000 people in California's criminal justice system. I protest by showing everyone empathy, respect, and compassion. I protest by transferring my parole from Los Angeles to Crescent City so I can help the men confined in Pelican Bay State Prison get home to their families. I protest by amplifying the voices of those who are trapped in our criminal justice system. And I protest by staying out of prison so I can continue to fight for those who are still incarcerated. Our protests, our advocacy, and our never-ending desire to serve and protect our community will win in the end.

In solidarity,

Mark



INSIDE VOICES

We are featuring work from people who are currently incarcerated. We are proud to lift up the minds of people who are currently incarcerated. To submit, please see the guidelines on the back page.

"RELEASE"

By Frank Garcia F.34828
C.S.P.L.A.C.

Another day in prison, a day closer to my future
Through my tiny window, I envision being free
At the park in the shade of a maple tree
Kids playing on swings
But the rattling of the chains
Take me back to a bus heading to the pen
Not knowing what to expect
I can smell the tension on the yard
Years go by
Hope will never die
I flash forward to the day of my release
First foot out the gate
First breath of free air hits my lungs bittersweet
Tears brim in my eyes but are not shed
Overwhelming joy
Haven't felt this since I was a boy

POSITIVE CHANGE

By Rafael Bravo

Positive change is an amazing experience to witness. It is through our struggles, trials and tribulations that builds our character. Change is a process that requires courage, willpower and the desire to be the best version of oneself. Nothing is more inspiring to me than, to witness someone be courageous enough to become vulnerable. I heard a person share his story for the first time, the tears in his eyes represented a load of emotions that came pouring out. Healing was taking place. Truth is, vulnerability is the essence of change. In prison it is hard to imagine that prisoners are the ones that help create a safe place. A group setting, a place to be honest, vulnerable, weak but only to become stronger and gain our humanity once again. As one community, we must come together and honor vulnerability together. My dream is to become a therapist that focuses on trauma. I will live and lead a purposeful and intentional life. I will do this by helping people change the way they perceive the world. Today, hope is all around us and we can all help to create hope.

"A CAGED MIND"

By Stephan Reed
T.50067 SVSP C2-128L
PO Box 1050 Soledad, CA 93960

Each interaction with myself is my opportunity to love, listen, and explore; Again, four concrete walls is hard to ignore. See, smoke can't rise to the top if a fire is contained. Freedom lies at my fingertips, just have to close my eyes and tap into my brain. And as long as my heart beats within me, my mind will never surrender to a man made lock and key.

ARC LAUNCHES WOMEN'S PEN-PAL PROGRAM

By Myles Flournoy

ARC is dedicated to helping members of our community achieve their goals throughout incarceration and reentry. The "Pen-Pal Program" will partner currently incarcerated women with formerly incarcerated women, providing them with the opportunity to seek guidance from a trusted companion who has walked a similar path.

Spearheading the operation is the ARC's Manager for Women and Non-Binary Services, Norma Cumpian. The idea was first conceptualized after realizing a need for more community within the women's department. The idea is for the inside to meet the outside and have someone embedded in ARC to help them stay connected. Our pen-pal program is specifically for our "Women for Freedom" group, which Norma has helped facilitate alongside ARC Program Director, Blair James, and ARC Mental Health Therapist, Chloe Cheney-Rice.

The group is offered inside California Institution for Women (CIW) on the last Thursday of each month. There is an immense value in staying accountable to the women inside who experience a minimal amount of outside interaction, especially in the time of COVID-19. Prison can be an inherently dark place, and the mentors these women will be partnered with will serve as a beacon of light. The program will begin in the California Institution for Women (CIW), with plans of expanding to several women's facilities across the state.

The program aims to give incarcerated women the best possible chance of cultivating unity among one another and fostering connectedness and community. The purpose of this correspondence is to assist the women inside by providing them with mentors who have been where they are and have viable solutions to the challenges they may encounter. Adversity is sure to arise once released from prison, and it is important for each woman to be set up with a mentor who has already navigated the reentry process.

This mentorship will provide currently incarcerated women an opportunity to map out their futures. Having a support system in place is vital to anyone being released from prison. A mentorship that focuses on women empowering women is vital to the rehabilitation of our incarcerated sisters. We are glad to share in such an incredible experience and we look forward to the mentorship program spreading throughout every women's facility, and once released, we will be here to guide you.

A GARDEN TO GROW

By Aaron Gonzalez

ARC member Aaron Gonzalez tells us what it is like to work on a sustainable farm, through a partnership with Alma Backyard Farms located in Compton, which provides opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals to learn urban gardening.

When I signed up to volunteer, I thought I was helping to give out food, so I dressed in nice clothes. I didn't realize I was going to help grow food. Alma Farms has a program where formerly incarcerated people can learn urban farming and how to grow sustainable food. Most of us wouldn't get this chance due to our record. Alma Farms gives us a unique opportunity to learn the ins and outs of gardening.

I have always felt connected to the earth. I was already on this path. I do sun gazing every morning. I have thought about what we put in our bodies. You need good soil that isn't sprayed with pesticides. You can feel healthy, if you eat right. If you get your intake from good soil, your body feels much better. Now when I shop, I support local farmers, so Alma Farms was a good fit for me. I keep going back to Alma Farms, and I brought my son here to visit.

At Alma Farms, they teach you all about how to garden and how to do it strategically. The layout and design of a garden are important to make everything grow correctly. I get to see the process of how you plant around the crops so that insects and birds can help pollinate them. Most days, I help out with compost. It's good and therapeutic to be in the soil. I enjoy putting my hands in the soil. Like a kid, you are supposed to play in the dirt. The sand, the earth, the soil, is good for you. It's where it all starts. Once the food is grown, we cook it. The food I help to harvest is made into creative foods like quiches, fruits, and jams. The food goes to a Farmer's Market for the community. It's a "by-donation" market, so you pay what you can. Because of COVID-19, they are having more grocery giveaways and serving the community fresh food.

When I was incarcerated, there weren't resources or programs in place to help us. We were discarded. When we were released, people still viewed us negatively. When we worked in the garden, people could see us in a different light. We weren't convicts, we were contributing to a good cause and putting in hard work. Trash is often discarded, but there is value in it. They do the same thing with people, we make mistakes and are incarcerated. Compost is about perception too. The foods that we don't eat or cardboard are used to compost. It's the beginning of growth. It's part of the life cycle.

This model is a great model for reentry, it's a win, win. We are learning skills and giving back. We get to see the whole cycle from planting a mere seed and up to the stage when you finally eat the food you have tended to and cultivated. You get to watch people grow, from someone who maybe had a sense of hopelessness, who never had these chances. We have felonies on our resume, so out here we don't always get these types of chances to be part of something. Now we are a part of this process and give back to the community. That's what real growth looks like.





APPRENTICESHIP READINESS PROGRAM: RESILIENCE DURING THE PANDEMIC

ARC Directors and Life Coaches developed an online training guide to continue the construction cohort during the pandemic. 35 cohort members participated on Zoom, a modern video communication platform. ARC members were provided laptops and instructors are providing online training. Cohort members graduated in the first week of May. ARC member Charrina Scott details being a member of Cohort 9 during COVID-19.

I recently served 19 months in federal prison and, after four months of a halfway house, I was released in February 2019. I wish I would've known about the ARC pre-apprenticeship program at that time. I will be almost done with my first-year apprenticeship in the Carpenters Union. I learned about ARC from my probation officer, and I was so excited I jumped right to it and applied to the program. I have experience doing construction, I enjoy doing it, and I always wanted to be able to be part of the union.

When I attended the orientation, I was blown away and actually brought to tears. The life coaches Roberto and Carlos told us about how they help and support all the ARC members. Their mission is to reduce the rate of recidivism with life skills and training to not only get a good career but to keep it.

Even with this lockdown due to COVID-19, we switched to online classes. We have two amazing, very knowledgeable, and resourceful teachers who put together an online curriculum and joined us on Zoom, Monday through Friday. The cohort is resilient during these times of uncertainties in the world.

Before, I was able to find jobs, but not a job that would result in a career. This is a great opportunity, and it will result in me having the kind of career that I always wanted. With all the support, encouragement, and resources, it feels really good to be a part of this cohort. Between being in class, the hikes, and the workouts it's like my second family. My fellow members of the cohort have been motivating, encouraging, and supporting me along the way. We all want to see each other complete the program and be successful in being productive and positive citizens in our communities.

If you like a challenge, this program will be good for you. You might find yourself achieving some things that you never thought you could. Some of the challenges I faced these past few weeks was waking up at four or five in the morning to prepare for our group hikes. I love taking hikes, but I never wake up so early to take a hike. After a few hikes, I realized the group hikes are my favorite part of the program. Being out there with the cohort, everyone pushing each other, helping each other, the beautiful views, and the feeling of accomplishment has been wonderful for me. Even my family and friends are happy for me.

I would highly recommend the ARC pre-apprenticeship program to anyone who wants to make a change for the better. To get your life on track and stay on track. If you like to work hard for great pay and be a part of the union with many great benefits, this program is great for you. Being in this cohort helped me to stay sober, stay learning, stay busy, and give me reasons not to turn back to any criminal activity.

Anti-Recidivism Coalition
1320 E. 7th Street
Suite 260
Los Angeles, CA 90021



Founded in 2013, the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) works to end mass incarceration in California. To ensure our communities are safe, healthy, and whole, ARC empowers formerly and currently incarcerated people to thrive by providing a support network, comprehensive reentry services, and opportunities to advocate for policy change. Through our grassroots policy advocacy, we are dedicated to transforming the criminal justice system so that it is more just and equitable for all people.

Our supportive services – which include case management, trauma-informed counseling, housing, education, employment training, and mentorship – ensure that those returning home are given the best chance to be healthy, whole members of their communities. Our programs, correspondence, and legislative work on behalf of currently incarcerated people create hope and a pathway to freedom for many who never thought freedom possible.

Masthead

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Deputy Director: Bikila Ochoa

Inside Newsletter

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Write to the Anti-Recidivism Coalition

Los Angeles: Anti-Recidivism Coalition, 1320 E. 7th Street Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90021
Sacramento: Anti-Recidivism Coalition, 1414 K Street, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95814

During this pandemic, we want to hear from you, and know what life is like, so we can help amplify your voices and the current state of life inside prison. Please write to us and tell us what needs to be done to keep you healthy and safe.

Please write to us at **ATTN: #COVID-19 Submission**, 1320 E. 7th Street, Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90021

If you write ARC a letter, please include some general information that will assist us in determining how to best serve you, and that will aid ARC with their advocacy efforts. Please answer the following questions:

- Are you serving a determinate sentence, serving a life sentence, or a life without the possibility of parole sentence?
- Are you returning home due to SB 394, SB260, SB261, AB 1308, SB 1391, SB 1437, AB 965 or Prop. 57?
- Have you had a suitability hearing? If so, how many have you had?

Also please keep ARC updated if you happen to transfer out of your current institution. This will ensure you continue to receive the ARC quarterly newsletter.

Submit to our Newsletter!

We want you to contribute to our next newsletter and submissions are now open! Tell us what inspires you, what your goals are, what gives you hope, or anything you would like to share with our community! Feel free to also write your commentary on public life or what's happening in the world at large.

Please write to us at **ATTN: Newsletter Submission**, 1320 E. 7th Street, Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90021. Write the name you would like to be published under. Submissions may also be posted on the ARC website. Please note that your submission is not guaranteed publication. We look forward to reading your work!

Learn How You and Your Family Can Get Involved

The bills that ARC and other community-based groups throughout California are supporting this year are significant in that they help provide many of you with chances to return to your families, remove barriers to your employment once you return home, and ensure that young people never enter the juvenile / criminal justice systems. California legislators need to know that these bills are extremely important to their constituents. One of the ways that you can help these bills become reality is to encourage your families to contact their representatives and voice their support. They can find out who their representatives are by using the following website:

findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov.

Once they find out who their representatives are, they simply have to contact them and voice their support. Your family members, loved ones and friends can contact their representatives through phone calls and social media, as well. Please encourage your friends and loved ones today!