



**Anti-Recidivism Coalition**



## OUR MISSION

The Anti-Recidivism Coalition 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 grassroots policy advocacy, we are dedicated to transforming the criminal justice system so that it is more just and equitable for all people.





## WE BELIEVE...

currently and formerly incarcerated people should be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness...

communities are stronger when individual people are safe, healthy, and whole...

people are redeemable, regardless of their crime, age, conviction status, or background...

in empowering our members to lead and hold positions of power...

those directly impacted by the justice system should be the ones to transform it...

in empowering formerly incarcerated people to realize their dreams for their lives...

in reforming the criminal and juvenile justice systems so that they are equitable for all people...

## OUR HISTORY

Founded in Los Angeles in 2013, ARC began as a peer support network for formerly incarcerated individuals, serving less than 25 members at our inception. Over seven years of operation, we have grown to encompass an array of programs and services. Today, we serve more than 1,600 formerly incarcerated people across California. The majority of our members live in LA County, where our headquarters is located. In September 2016, we opened a second office in Sacramento, where we serve 1,600 members with case management and counseling services. In addition, our Hope and Redemption Team operates in eight California state prisons, providing programming for more than 10,000 individuals. Our Peer Mentorship Program, which operates in three juvenile detention facilities in Los Angeles County, serves more than 250 youth each year. Our network also includes chapter members in San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, as well as the San Francisco Bay Area.



## SAM LEWIS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sam Lewis is the Executive Director of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. A former life prisoner himself, Sam understands the various obstacles, challenges, and difficulties the prison and reentry populations face. In 2017, Sam created the Hope & Redemption Team (HART), a first-of-its kind initiative he built from scratch. The Hope & Redemption Team is a group of nine former California life prisoners who go back into California state prisons to provide hope, demonstrate that redemption is achievable, and prepare participants for successful reentry into our communities. In 2018, Sam was the recipient of a Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Award and an Uncommon Law Uncommon Heroes award.

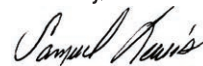
## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

As a formerly incarcerated person, I know what it feels like to think you will never have a chance to give back and demonstrate that you are not a bad person. The opportunity to have a second chance at life has allowed me to give back to my community everyday through mentorship and leadership. I am thankful for the opportunity to demonstrate that redemption is possible when there is compassion and accountability.

Thank you all for the important role you play in helping ARC end mass incarceration and providing our returning brothers and sisters with the love and support they need to thrive.

Sincerely,



Sam Lewis  
Executive Director

## STAFF LEADERSHIP

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# HOPE & REDEMPTION



## HART PROGRAM

Calipatria State Prison;  
Centinela State Prison; Corcoran  
State Prison; Ironwood State Prison;  
Kern State Prison; CSP, Los Angeles  
County; North Kern State Prison;  
Donovan Correctional Facility;  
Pelican Bay State Prison

## WHERE ARE OUR TEAMS?



## WOMEN'S PROGRAMS:

California  
Institution for Women,  
Central California  
Women's Facility





# REENTRY STARTS INSIDE

Our programs employ evidence-based reentry and intervention practices, including support groups based on cognitive behavioral principles, prosocial peer support, and credible messenger mentoring, which are all shown to improve outcomes for formerly incarcerated people and decrease recidivism. We prioritize peer support and also offer trauma-informed, wraparound supportive services including case management, mental health treatment, transitional housing, and mentorship opportunities to improve overall health and well-being of our members. We connect members to GED programs, education, vocational and apprenticeship training programs, and provide access to employment through our employer network. We provide mentoring, policy, and rehabilitative programming inside juvenile and adult correctional facilities across the state to begin preparing individuals for reentry before their release from incarceration.



# THE RIDE HOME PROGRAM

The Ride Home Program began as a partnership between ARC and the Three Strikes Project at Stanford Law School to provide immediate, intensive, and personalized reentry support to men and women released under reforms to California's sentencing laws.

Every day thousands of people are released from prison with nowhere to go and no one to help them navigate their new lives. Our team meets men and women released at the prison gates, guides them through their first hours and days of freedom, and transports them to a pre-approved transitional housing program.

The program, which is staffed by system-impacted people, counsels returning citizens on how to approach and overcome obstacles ahead. We share with them a first meal, buy fresh clothing and toiletries together, bring them to a safe home, and introduce them to a changing world.





## MEMBER SERVICES

Both our Los Angeles and Sacramento offices provide wraparound supportive services to improve the health and well-being of our members. We connect members to GED programs, higher education, and vocational training programs (including the Apprenticeship Readiness Program and residential Ventura Training Center) and provide access to meaningful employment through our employer network. Our two transitional housing programs have a capacity of 55 residents and combine safe, stable housing with on-site reentry services to promote self-sufficiency and successful community reintegration. We offer in-office and virtual mental health and legal services, in addition to weekly support groups on topics such as financial literacy, addiction support, healthy relationships, emotional wellness, women's and non-binary services, etc.

All of ARC's services have been co-designed by and for its formerly incarcerated members. 76% of our staff are system-impacted staff and/or are formerly incarcerated, many of whom are considered specialists in the field of criminal justice reform and reentry services, including 26% of our Board of Directors, 60% of our executive leadership team, our Executive Director, and 100% of Life Coaches.



## ARC CREATIVES



ARC Creatives is a collective of system-impacted individuals dedicated to making transformative art. Through various creative techniques, we focus on expressing feelings and reflections, embracing the power and joy of creativity, and connecting with others. Our first project was a series of written monologues and short films featuring system-impacted women. As writers, performers, and creative producers of ARC Creatives projects, participants shift our view of formerly incarcerated narratives by telling their own stories in their own voices. We hope that by sharing our work and members' voices and experiences, that we can empower others to share their stories. While we believe in the power of creative arts to inspire joy, we also hope that our work leads to change – both on an individual level and on a larger scale.

## WOMEN AND NON-BINARY SERVICES

In 2019, ARC formed our Women and Non-Binary Services department. Women and non-binary individuals face unique challenges in the criminal justice system and in reentry, from child custody issues to domestic violence – an issue which nearly 100 percent of incarcerated women have experienced. This department aims to provide better gender-responsive services for women, non-binary people, and families. Our Women and Non-Binary Services programs currently serve over 100 women and non-binary folks who meet once a month. We also facilitate the Women 4 Freedom group inside California's two largest women's prisons, the California Institution for Women and California Correctional Women's Facility.





# ARC HOUSING

**BROMONT**  
LOS ANGELES, CA

**MAGNOLIA**  
SYLMAR, CA

Men and women returning home from incarceration face barriers to safe, affordable housing, which can further prevent them from maintaining steady employment and accessing the critical services needed for successful reentry. Launched in September 2014, the Bromont Transitional Housing Program is our pilot housing program in Sylmar, CA with a capacity to serve up to 34 residents. In February 2017, we opened our second housing program in Koreatown, the Magnolia Transitional Housing Program, with capacity to serve an additional 21 residents. These two supportive housing programs provide on-site life skills programming, trauma counseling, education and employment guidance, and live-in mentors to promote independent living and overall wellness among our 55 residents.





# APPRENTICESHIP READINESS PROGRAM

## 252 GRADUATED

A 12 week job training program that places members directly into paid union apprenticeships, leading to secure, sustainable careers in building and construction trades.

## 77% OF GRADUATES PLACED IN APPRENTICESHIPS

in the following 12 unions:

Electricians, Laborers, Carpenters, Sheet Metal Workers, Ironworkers, Pipefitters/Plumbers, Operating Engineers, Cement Masons, Painters, Environmentalists, Plaster Tenders, and Sprinkler Fitters.







## VENTURA TRAINING CENTER

In partnership with CAL FIRE, California Conservation Corps, and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, ARC opened the Venture Training Center (VTC) in 2018, providing participants who are on parole training for careers as firefighters after program completion.

This innovative program is designed to provide individuals on parole returning home from fire camps or institutional firehouses the opportunity to gain useful skills and provide much-needed community service when they reenter society. VTC is dedicated to providing advanced firefighter training, certifications, and job readiness support to create a pathway for former offenders to compete for entry-level firefighting jobs with state, federal and local agencies. We graduated four classes of firefighter cadets for a total of 95 participants between October 2018 and April 2020. In June of this year 22 participants were accepted into the VTC program.

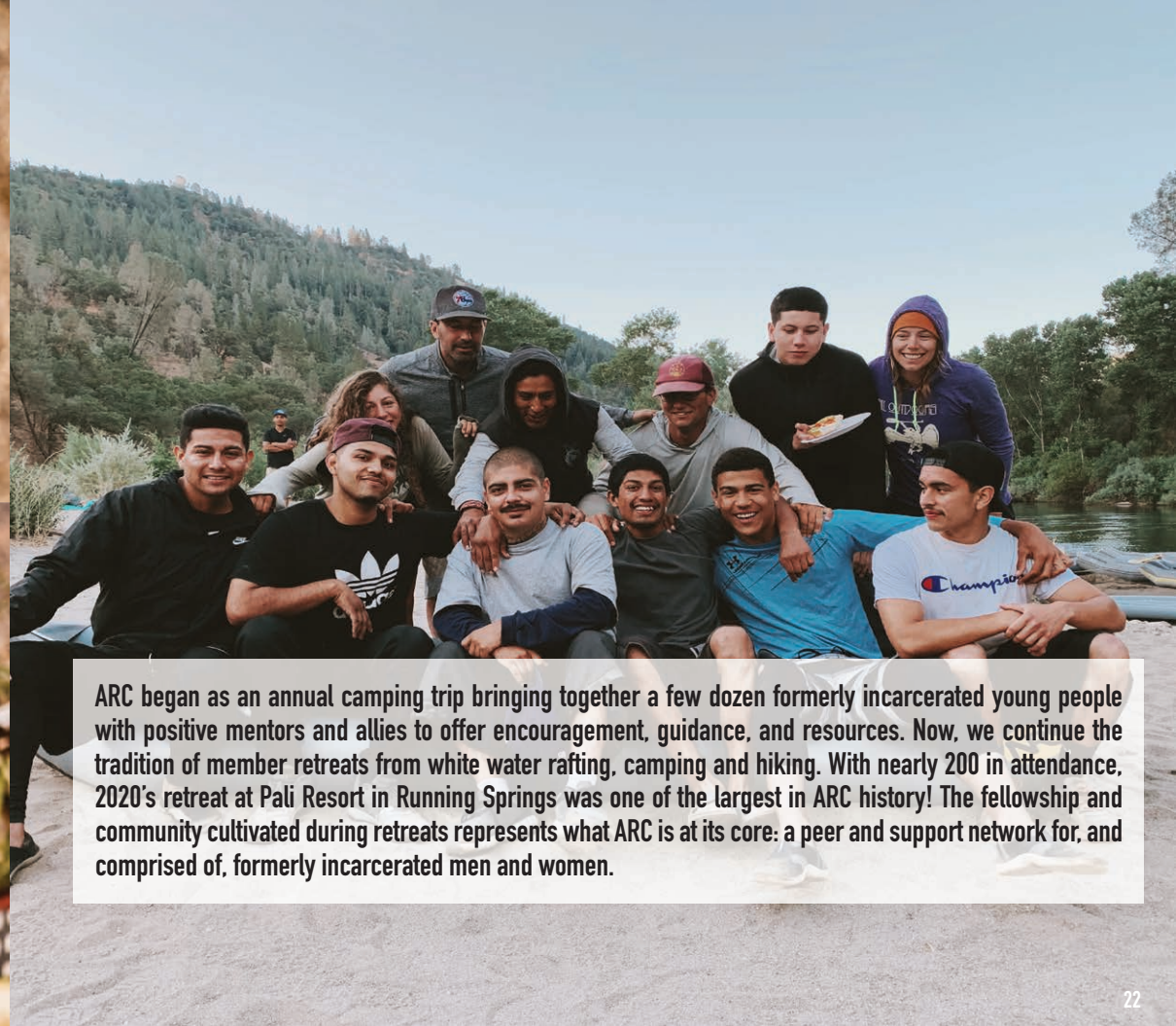






# ARC COMMUNITY RETREATS

From the American River to Catalina Island to Wolf Connection, ARC members, staff, and allies gather to support one another and celebrate our community.



ARC began as an annual camping trip bringing together a few dozen formerly incarcerated young people with positive mentors and allies to offer encouragement, guidance, and resources. Now, we continue the tradition of member retreats from white water rafting, camping and hiking. With nearly 200 in attendance, 2020's retreat at Pali Resort in Running Springs was one of the largest in ARC history! The fellowship and community cultivated during retreats represents what ARC is at its core: a peer and support network for, and comprised of, formerly incarcerated men and women.





## SACRAMENTO OFFICE

Our Sacramento Office serves 300 plus members, with our team of MSW student interns, and youth interns, and 11 full-time staff, providing holistic re-entry services which also includes mental health services. The Sacramento team liaises directly with local employers and educational institutions to improve access to employment opportunities and post-secondary degree and certificate programs for our formerly incarcerated members. We also conduct inside programming with two juvenile halls in Sacramento and Yolo County, as well as programs at the Sacramento Main Jail, two Division of Juvenile Justice facilities (OH Close and NA Chaderjian), and an outreach program to women at CCWF. Additionally, with the office located near downtown Sacramento, just over a mile from the California State Capitol building, Sacramento members have plenty of opportunities to advocate for a more fair and just criminal justice system at both the county and state levels.

## POLICY & ADVOCACY

In addition to providing direct services, we advance policies that reduce contact with the justice system and improve reentry outcomes for individuals returning home from incarceration. Since 2013, through the passage of 26 new pieces of legislation, our advocacy efforts have led to numerous reforms to California's justice system that have impacted more than 56,000 individuals including bills that focus on extreme sentencing and the treatment of young people in the justice system.





# POLICY VICTORIES

## California State Public Policy and Advocacy Victories, 2012–2020

**2012** **SB 9 (2012):** Offers people sentenced to life without parole as juveniles an opportunity for a new sentence with the possibility of parole.

**SB 260 (2013):** Allows people who were tried as adults for offenses they committed under the age of 18 to be eligible for a Youth Offender Parole Board hearing.

**AB 1276 (2014):** Ensures that young people under the age of 22 at the time they enter prison are less likely to be placed on the most dangerous prison yards and more likely to have access to rehabilitative programs and services.

**2015** **SB 261 (2015):** Expands age eligibility for Youth Offender Parole Board hearings under SB 260 to those under the age of 23.

**Proposition 57 (2016):** Approved with over 65% of the vote, this proposition strengthens California's justice system and increases public safety by expanding rehabilitative programming in prisons and limiting the ways that youth may be transferred to adult criminal court.

**2017** **SB 394 (2017):** Ends life without the possibility of parole for people under the age of 18 at the time of their crime and reduces their sentence to 25 years to life, after which time they will be eligible for a Youth Offender Parole Board hearing

**SB 190 (2017):** Ends the harmful, unlawful, and costly assessment and collection of administrative fees against families with youth in the juvenile system

**SB 312 (2017):** Restores a youth's ability to seal his/her juvenile court record, and therefore

increase their chances of finding and maintaining stable employment and other opportunities.

**SB 395 (2017):** Requires that a youth 15 years of age or younger consult with counsel prior to a custodial interrogation and before waiving any of their Miranda rights.

**AB 1308 (2017):** Expands eligibility for Youth Offender Parole Board hearings under SB 260/ SB 261 to those under the age of 26.

**2018** **AB 2550 (2018):** Improves the treatment of women who are incarcerated and reduces potential for trauma by implementing policies that enforce gender specific practices.

**SB 1437 (2018):** Creates more fair and equitable sentencing practices by limiting the application of the Felony Rule Doctrine.

**SB 1391 (2018):** Prohibits youth who were under the age of 16 at the time of their crime from being transferred to adult criminal court, instead keeping them in the juvenile system where they can get the help they need.

**SB 10 (2018):** Ensures that people are not held in dangerous, overcrowded jails after an arrest simply because they cannot afford to post bail.

**AB 2138 (2018):** prohibits a person from being denied an occupational license solely on the basis that he or she has been convicted of a nonviolent crime.

**SB 439 (2018):** This measure would establish a minimum age for prosecution in juvenile court in California, protecting children under 12 years old from the harms and adverse consequences of justice system involvement and encouraging more effective alternatives to court involvement.

**SB 866 (2018):** Established the Pre-Release Construction Trades Certificate Program in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in order to increase employment opportunities by providing students the option of earning industry recognized education credits that, upon release, lead to union jobs in the construction trades.



**AB 1810 (2018):** This bill allows for the diversion those with mental health issues into a diversion court that specifically addresses mental health disabilities for those who are involved in low level crimes.

**SB 394 (2019):** Keeps families together by authorizing the superior court to establish a pretrial diversion program for primary caregivers of minor children.

**SB 36 (2019):** Requires any county that uses a risk assessment tool in a pretrial setting to collect data regarding the tool's input and outcomes and expresses the Legislature's intent to minimize disparate results and bias based on race, gender, economic circumstances, or disability status.

**AB 965 (2019):** Allows an incarcerated person eligible for a youth offender parole date to earn credits under Proposition 57

**SB 203 (2020):** Expands the provisions under SB 395 requiring youth 15 years of age or younger consult with legal counsel before waiving their Miranda rights to youth 17 years of age or younger and indefinitely extends their operation.

**ACA 6 / Proposition 17 (2020):** Creates a constitutional amendment restoring the right to vote to over 50,000 Californians on parole.

**Alternative Trailer Bill on DJJ Closure Inclusive of Oversight, Accountability and Safeguards (2020):** Creates an Office of Youth Justice (OYJ) within Health and Human Services to provide leadership, oversight, and accountability for Youth Justice.

**AB 1869 (2020):** Eliminates 23 administrative criminal justice related fees, such as probation supervision fees, and provides relief to counties to cover the cost of revenue lost as a result of the repeal.

**AB 2147 (2020):** Grants the courts judicial discretion to give an opportunity to formerly incarcerated people that have successfully participated in fire camp programs and deemed qualified to "cut line", to apply for expungement upon release.

## GRATITUDE fills the ARC space and guides all of the innovative work we do. We are deeply thankful for our generous supporters.

*Giving listed cumulatively since 2013 and as of November 2020*

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We are deeply grateful for support at any level, which has a tangible and meaningful impact:

**\$25** purchases a month of public transportation for an ARC member.

**\$50** funds one Computer Skills class.

**\$75** supports one trauma-informed yoga class.

**\$100** covers the costs of a member's one-on-one session with a clinical social worker.

**\$250** funds one Women's Support Group, welcoming new women into the ARC community and connecting them to a supportive peer network to guide them through the challenges of reentry.

**\$500** sends one ARC member to the State Capitol to share his or her story and to advocate for fairer criminal justice laws across California.

**\$1,000** supports a transformative mentoring relationship between an incarcerated young person in LA County and a formerly incarcerated ARC member.

**\$2,500** supports the housing of ARC staff members working inside maximum security prisons for one month.

**\$5,000** funds one month of the work of an ARC life coach, who has personally experienced incarceration and has been trained to help others rebuild their lives.

**\$7,500** covers the cost of one ARC member's participation in our 12-week Apprenticeship Readiness Program.

**\$10,000** funds one month of our Ride Home program, which transports a newly released formerly incarcerated individual from prison back home or to transitional housing.

**\$25,000** provides a paid, 12-week internship for eight formerly incarcerated members at ARC's office, giving them the necessary professional skills and experience to so that they can find high-quality employment.

**\$50,000** funds the salary and benefits of an ARC Job Developer.

**\$100,000** covers the salaries of a Hope and Redemption team: two life coaches who work inside prisons to ensure that those who are released have successful reentries into society.

**\$250,000** funds an entire 12-week Second Chance Apprenticeship cohort.

**\$500,000** fully funds ARC's member services for one year.

**\$1,000,000** funds an entire year of ARC housing—55 beds over two sites.



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