

DID YOU KNOW...

ANNUAL DISCHARGE POPULATION FROM PRISONS

Each year well over 100,000 inmates are discharged to the streets of New York City and surrounding suburbs. To re-enter civilian society, these men and women desperately need housing, jobs and various social services on a timely basis to restart their lives.

NEED FOR VOLUNTEER SUPPORT IN PRISONER RE-ENTRY

The various prisoner re-entry programs have very high success rates in serving men and women returning from prison. However, because of funding limitations, these programs are able to process only a small percentage of the discharge population.

Consequently, the majority of ex-offenders are predestined to get arrested all over again if they cannot find the needed services. To fill these needs, many faith-based and community-based institutions have stepped in to participate in prisoner re-entry programs on a voluntary basis.



PARTICIPANT PROFILE:

- Have a history of incarceration.
- Must be clean from drug or alcohol abuse for at least 3 months.
- Are committed to staying clean, and *if applicable* support programs such as AA, NA, etc.
- Are interested in learning and sharing about themselves.
- Are interested in connecting with a supportive group in a positive surrounding.



Funding for the first two years of this new program is coming from generous gifts made to the Imagine Initiative.

For more information about the Coming Home program please contact:
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COMING HOME

**At Rye Presbyterian
Church**

Beginning 2016



The **COMING HOME** program is an extension of our long-standing Prison Ministry at Rye Presbyterian Church. In collaboration with The Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, Coming Home seeks to empower those who are returning to the community from incarceration. Coming Home is an eighteen session program.

Based on the Life Skills Empowerment Program (LSEP) developed jointly by the Interfaith Assembly and New York Catholic Charities, Coming Home assists individuals in the process of recovery from the traumas associated with a major life crisis and rebuilding one's life through the strengthening of essential life skills, and the sharing of life stories in the context of a supportive community. Typically classes have between 8 and 12 participants. It is based on a well-established model with a track record of success and over a thousand graduates in the New York area.

Churches such as Riverside Church (NYC) and The Reformed Church of Bronxville have been involved in this program for many years and have found it to be transformative not only for the participants, but also for church members who serve in a variety of volunteer capacities within the program.

COMING HOME at Rye Presbyterian Church will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. beginning in January. Each session begins with a shared meal and a shared reflection on a passage from scripture or an inspirational reading. Following the meal and time of sharing, participants then move into their group learning sessions.

Key to Coming Home is learning life skills, setting goals, and sharing personal stories in a safe and supportive community.

The sessions are comprised of four distinct components:

1. **Life Skills:** Sessions with Guest Speakers who offer presentations on important topics including Self-Image, Goal Setting, Healthy Relationships and the World of Work.
2. **Goal Setting:** Each participant works one-on-one with a trained volunteer to set and achieve short and long term goals.
3. **Personal Stories:** Participants are guided in sharing their life experiences. At the end of the program they are asked to share their stories at graduation.
4. **Graduation:** where participants, volunteers, instructors, friends and family celebrate the successful completion of the program.

How you can get involved in this new and exciting outreach –

Coming Home offers various volunteer opportunities:

- **Mentors/Accompaniers** – volunteers who are paired with participants, supporting, encouraging and journeying with them through the program.
- **Guest Speakers** – presenters are needed to teach networking, job-searching, and other life skills.
- **Cooks and Hosts** – each evening begins with a meal prepared and served by RPC members, who share table fellowship before the program begins.

It is our hope and plan that different groups within the church will help to prepare, serve, and clean up after the community dinner each week. This might include one or two church families who come together to provide the meal. Each meal may include 25-30 people. There will be a volunteer meal coordinator who will assist groups and families in this process.