the Reentry Initiative

2020 ANNUAL REPORT
The COVID-19 pandemic made it more challenging for everyone to navigate the world in 2020, and people returning from incarceration had these challenges added to those they already face as they reenter our community. We at The Reentry Initiative continued to address those challenges and found new ways to support our members amid the pandemic. We are humbled and honored by the help you provide us in easing that transition and supporting second chances.

With the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, TRI swiftly restructured to provide services virtually. The Welcome Back Center in Longmont continued serving members with case management, educational and employment-based training, financial support, and access to community resources. As planned, TRI opened The Wellness Center in August 2020 to serve members with treatment for mental health and substance abuse disorders. This wraparound model of care reduces members’ barriers to service and allows them to have all their needs met in one location.

Because the pandemic halted TRI’s ability to enter the Denver Women’s Correctional Facility, our TRIumph Pre-Release program was suspended. Instead, we adapted our transition planning services to utilize tele-health and phone calls to connect with members inside and provide them with post-release support services.

Our Board and staff began a strategic planning process in the summer of 2020, which culminated with the plan’s adoption and launch in January 2021. The plan sets TRI’s strategic direction for the next three years and is built on four key elements:

- Restoring Dignity to Reentry
- Organizational Stability
- Outreach & Partnership
- Equity & Inclusion

Engaging in the planning process and refocusing our organization’s mission has injected new energy into how we grow our value for members: To provide comprehensive services inside and outside prison walls that empower adults to achieve fulfilling and crime-free lives in their communities.

As this report shows, we’ve seen great need for our expanded services during 2020. We also have received an incredible outpouring of support from the community - our donors, partner agencies, collaborators, volunteers, and mentors, who help make the work of our staff and Board possible. Thanks so very much to you who have supported our work since the beginning, as well as those who have joined us more recently.

Very truly yours,

Wayne Simmons
Board Chair

Emily Kleeman, LCSW
Executive Director
The Welcome Back Center is a one-stop shop that provides members with case management, training, and basic necessities after release. Members are connected with supportive services including transportation, employment preparation, acquiring identification documents such as birth certificates, clothing for employment, and medical assistance. The Center was funded for a second year in 2020 by the WAGEES Program (Work and Gain Education & Employment Skills) and delivered services to members virtually throughout the pandemic. As a result of early prison releases, TRI also saw an increased number of people seeking assistance from the Center.

Despite being released under historic circumstances, including a global recession with soaring unemployment, an unstable job market, and limited physical and social contact, our members made great strides toward successfully navigating their reentry transitions, earning education credentials, attaining and maintaining employment, and not committing new crimes.

**YEARLY STATS**

**GOAL**

- 100% of members enroll in WAGEES
- 60% of members find jobs and 50% of those maintain their jobs for at least 90 days
- 50% of members enroll in an educational program and 50% of those complete their courses
- <20% recidivism rate (being charged with a crime)

**ACTUAL**

- 120% of members enrolled in WAGEES
- 46.3% of members found jobs and 33.5% of those maintained their jobs for at least 90 days
- 46.3% of members enrolled in an educational program and 20% of those completed their courses
- 5.6% recidivism rate

Reported figures are based on the WAGEES grant year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.
The WAGEES Program is fully funded by HV14-1365, SB18-1176 and HB 18-1176 through the Colorado Department of Corrections in the amount of $211,600.
TRI opened the Wellness Center in August 2020 to provide members with mental health and substance abuse disorder treatment. The Wellness Center supports our members’ mental health needs using a number of evidence-based and trauma-informed practices. Through individual and group sessions, we address trauma recovery and skill building to support members holistically, addressing their hypervigilance and overactive nervous systems, while giving them tools to de-escalate and make healthier decisions.

We respect the innate intelligence of the coping skills and defenses our members have come up with to survive, which have become maladaptive over the years. Before trying to make any behavioral changes, our goal is to reestablish safety, a sense of respect and dignity, and to better understand our members and their coping skills. We acknowledge and respect our members’ resilience and support them in moving from surviving to thriving when they are ready.

With the onset of the pandemic, TRI made the decision to close the TRI House in 2020. TRI House was a 3-bedroom apartment that safely housed 3 women returning to Longmont from incarceration. The program’s funding was redistributed to support the increased number of members seeking wraparound support services.

I’m so blessed. I went and got all my stuff yesterday and did a lot of laundry, just settled in, zoomed with my daughter A LOT! You will be so proud of how I am adjusting. I love all the girls here! I haven’t felt this blessed in a while!

- TRIumph Graduate
TRIUMPH PROGRAM

TRI staff began the first of two scheduled TRIumph Pre-Release Program classes with 13 women from Denver Women’s Correctional Facility shortly before the Department of Corrections (DOC) closed its doors to all volunteer and contracted programs in March 2020. Under normal operations, the TRIumph program selects one dozen women twice a year to receive twice-weekly Cognitive Behavioral Interventions based on The University of Cincinnati Research Institute (UCRI) curriculum.

After the TRIumph program was halted, TRI adapted our transition planning services, utilizing telehealth and phone calls to connect with our members inside. Following an executive order by the Governor granting the DOC authority to release people within 180 days of their parole eligibility date, some members of the TRIumph class were released early and needed more support than ever before. TRI continued working closely with these members after release, providing post-release wraparound support services and linking them to necessary community programs.

Volunteers play critical roles providing services to our members. In 2020, however, volunteer support was reduced and limited to select roles due to the pandemic. TRI hosted bachelor- and master-level interns who provided case management and transition planning services to TRI members. Community volunteers also helped set up and launch the TRI Shop, a boutique-style clothing closet where TRI members can shop when they are released from prison and when clothes are needed for employment and daily life.

2,010 Student Intern Hours + 168 TRI Shop Volunteer Hours = 2,178 Total Volunteer Service Hours

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INTERNS

INTERNS

WAGEES 62.8%

Medicaid/ATP 3.6%

Individual 21.7%

Government 2.0%

Corporate 3.2%

Foundations 4.4%

Faith & Service 1.6%

Other 0.8%

2020 FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

Payroll & Benefits 61.3%

Client Assistance 13.9%

Operating 24.8%

2020 FINANCIALS

Sources of Revenue

www.reentryinitiative.org
A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

2021-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

From Surviving to Thriving

Learn more about our Strategic Plan at www.reentryinitiative.org/strategic-plan
402 Kimbark Street
Longmont, CO 80501

From Surviving to Thriving

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