Mission
To provide comprehensive services inside and outside of prison walls that empower adults to achieve fulfilling and crime-free lives in their community.

www.reentryinitiative.org

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Website: www.reentryinitiative.org
Dear Friends,

Wow! Another year at TRI has flown by! In 2022, we were busy reflecting, expanding, and planning programming while forging new relationships within our community.

With six years of operations, we started to see a positive impact on members’ recidivism and the significance that has on the community. We focused on the interventions that are most beneficial to build the next phase of TRI’s growth.

We believe in second chances, and in 2022, we successfully sought grant funding to add a Peer Mentor to our team. Peers are individuals with “lived experience” having successfully navigated reentry from the criminal justice system to become productive members of the community. This has proven to be beneficial to members in multiple ways. After adding a Peer, our recidivism rate dropped significantly. It has opened our eyes to the significance of the relationships and how we should be striving for unique and genuine connections.

We are excited to expand our mental health therapy and build a more holistic approach for our members in 2023. This coupled with our existing programs will further build success with TRI members in the community.

Thanks for being a part!

Wayne Simmons
BOARD CHAIR

Emily Kleeman, LCSW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TRI’s abbreviated history...

The Reentry Initiative was founded in 2016 by Longmont local, Deborah Simmons. Deborah noticed a lack of services in northern Boulder County and surrounding rural areas for services that helped women heal while inside and then reintegrate successfully back into the community after incarceration.

On a shoestring budget with dedicated volunteers, Deborah began to implement pre-release programming and planning with women inside Denver Women’s Correctional Facility. As the pioneering TRI program, TRIumph trained and supported 7 women in the first cohort. In that first cohort was a woman named Dominique. She had lived a life of notoriety in Boulder County.

TRIumph

Dominique battled with substance use as a coping method for unresolved trauma. She ended up going in and out of prison for years as she battled addiction and mental health issues. When the timing was right, she opened her eyes and applied to the TRIumph program in Denver Women’s Correctional Facility.

Dominique is the first person to tell you she has messed up. Often. And a lot. Finally, she was ready to move on and participated fully in the programming. She excelled at the life-skills classes. She worked hard gaining employable skills. She built a release plan and identified support systems. She even role-played alternatives to risky social scenarios she had failed in before. Dominique was ready. And she was released on parole!

The TRIumph program focuses on healing from trauma and learning new coping skills with intense supports early and often as people reenter to a very changed world. There is a plan for the first 3’s: 3 hours, 3 days, 3 weeks, and 3 months. Upon her release, Deborah and her team picked Dominique up at the gate, took her out for a meal, and drove her to housing that was previously secured. Individual pre-release work is crucial to set our members, and our communities up for success.

TRIumph has been on hold since the prison closed its doors to curb the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the last members of the final cohort were released. TRI has continued to support these members as they navigate life on the outside. In May of 2023, TRI has secured funding to return to programing on the inside.
From Surviving to Thriving

... through the story of two women.

On parole, Dominique walked a straight line. She appreciated the support of Deborah and the TRI team and worked hard to keep her new path.

Then she was sent back to prison on a technical violation. Deborah continued to support Dominique through the ordeal - writing letters, visiting, sending books, staying in touch.

Dominique was released again, and then hired by TRI as a Peer Mentor in 2022.

Peer Mentor

A Peer Mentor is someone with lived experience who supports others. In the case of TRI, our Peer Mentors have experienced incarceration and recovery. This lived experience has proven effective. Our members see Dominique as a mentor. All of the times Dominique messed up going in and out of prison have become her strength. She understands the nuances of staying sober while making new friends and building healthy support systems. She is a healthy support system. It’s magical to see how quickly she can build rapport with our members.

Because of Dominique's history in our local community, she is often known by others with their own level of notoriety in Boulder County. In 2022, a member came through knowing exactly who Dominique was along with her history. This member was impressed by how she had straightened out her life and said: "IF YOU CAN DO IT, I CAN DO IT"

Dominique deserves plenty of credit for being a positive role model. She is also quick to thank Deborah for giving her a chance and for sticking with her through thick and thin. It’s this attitude that Dominique brings to TRI, everyone deserves a second chance, and we are going to stick with you no matter what.

Many of our members are seeking Peer Mentor certification to utilize their lived experience to make a difference in the lives of others, just like Dominique.
The Welcome Back Center is our one-stop shop providing members with case management, training, and basic necessities after release. Members are connected with supportive services including transportation; educational credentialing; employment preparation; identification acquisition such as birth certificates or social security cards; housing assistance; clothing for employment; and medical assistance. The Welcome Back Center was funded for a fourth year in 2022 by the WAGEES* Program. On average, our members are enrolled between three and nine months as they get their feet back on the ground.

**2022 By the Numbers**

- **Education Fee Assistance**: $1,562.41
- **Rent or Housing Assistance**: $14,265.40
- **Transportation Assistance**: $483.29
- **Utility Assistance**: $25.84
- **Medical Emergency Prescription**: $600.42
- **Employment Tools and Clothing**: $393.41
- **Document Acquisition**: $76.45
- **Childcare**: $50.00
- **Incentives**: $2,220.00

**Supports versus Incentives**

Sometimes we support our members. This is the crux of how people successfully reenter the community - housing, education, and employment. Sometimes we incentivize our members. We co-create individual support plans with goals. Every time a goal is reached, the member gets a monetary reward as an incentive.

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*WAGEES - Work And Gain Education and Employment Skills is a program fully funded by HB14-1355, SB18-1176 and HB 18-1176 through the Colorado Department of Corrections in the amount of $227,071.60. Our friends at the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership oversee the grant.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Enrollment</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>60% find a job and 50% maintained 90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Enrollment</td>
<td>50% enroll in an educational program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recidivism</td>
<td>Less than 20% charged with a new crime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reported figures are based on the WAGEES grant year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

We would like to thank Jyoti Sharma for running the Welcome Back Center since its inception in 2019.

Supplying reentry needs is as individual as the reentry process itself. Clothing was, by far, the most requested item from the shop - pants, jeans and shirts.

In smaller numbers, we gave out household items like bed sheets and towels, a soup bowl, a yoga mat, and a trash can. These basic necessities help people return to a level of normalcy as they rebuild their lives on the outside.

**IN kind DONATIONS RECEIVED valued at $2,998.59**
Housed in our Longmont offices, the Wellness Center is where members can get their mental and behavioral health needs met in addition to the services provided in the Welcome Back Center.

In 2022 TRI focused on continuing the Wellness Center’s key principles of providing trauma-informed and gender-responsive treatment methods to address the individual health needs of our members. We did this through the recruiting and retaining of appropriate clinical staff; establishing an environment rooted in safety, respect, and dignity; developing prosocial policies and practices promoting healthy connections between members, their loved ones, and the community; and developing services that are comprehensive and culturally relevant.

Our staff recognize that humans are nuanced, and unfortunately there is no singular ‘workbook’. Every member must be met where they are to rebuild their lives in the community. We continued to offer appointments in person or remotely, and we noticed that the flexibility of appointments actually encouraged longer term engagement.

**Individuals served in 2022:** 52  
**Individuals served since 2020:** 177  
94% had 3 or more appointments  
**Group therapies provided**  
- 4 Men’s Resiliency  
- 1 Men’s Recovery  
- 1 Women’s Yoga  
**Intern Hours in 2022:** 850
TRI trained two clinical staff in Parenting Inside Out, a curriculum developed specifically for our population that helps parents rebuild their relationships with their children. The curriculum uses role playing, various modalities of arts and crafts, individual and group reflections and discussions to enhance parent’s abilities to help their children grow into healthy adults. It is running for the first time at the start of 2023.

In our Wellness Center, 2022 was spent preparing and building holistic well-being programming to ensure our members not only survive, they thrive.

Since our members generally represent the lowest income bracket, access to healthy, prosocial activities is often out of reach. In 2022, TRI was able to secure funding for 2023 to enable members to have access to gym memberships, music therapy, dance and movement classes, and nutrition classes. We look forward to reporting on our health equitable programs in 2023!

From Surviving to Thriving
A note from the Executive Director

I want to take a moment to thank our individual donors. From the beginning your donations planted seeds, allowing TRI programs to expand and evolve.

While we have diversified our funding streams, we can not do it without your continued support. Individual donations create stability for our members who may not be eligible by particular grant funding requirements. This is essential to creatively meet ALL our members where they are, and support them during reentry.

Your individual support strengthens the community, thank you!

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Our 990’s and previous annual reports can be found at www.reentryinitiative.org/annualreport/
Government Partners
Boulder County
Boulder County Parole
Colorado Community Health Alliance
Colorado Department of Corrections
City of Longmont
Denver Women’s Correctional Facility
Latino Coalition for Community Leadership
Mental Health Partners of Boulder County

Foundation/Funds
Longmont Community Foundation
- Live and Give Grant
- Simmons Family Fund
- Do Justice, Love Kindness Fund
Community Foundation of Boulder County
- Community Trust Grant
- Bamboo Fund
- Rollie and Josie Heath Family Fund
- Making Amends Fund
- The CLASS Fund
- Phyllis Sharp Charitable Fund
- NJAT Fund

Other Funds
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Browne-Klymkowski Family Charitable Fund
- Carney Family Fund
- Charities Aid Foundation America
- Colorado Gives Foundation
- Community Shares of Colorado
- Douglas and Erika Cramer Foundation
- Fidelity Charitable
- Indigo Oak Fund
- Labor of Love Foundation
- Ray Lanyon Fund
- Xerxes Giving Fund

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Renaissance Solutions Inc.
VXVY Mental Health
Wana Brands Foundation
I’ve dealt with re-entries before, trust me, and you guys just seem to be more closer and a tighter unit. Just more friendly, more inviting. I just wanted to let you guys know that I see that and I really do appreciate it. You guys really do have good hearts and really do care. Thank you guys a lot.