

## Journey Home Mobilization Plan to Action

### Why It Matters

- 500-700 ex-offenders return to Dane County every year. In 2003, 66% returned to prison within two years of release, 70% was the State of Wisconsin rate.
- Released offenders who fail to successfully reintegrate with the community are likely to violate rules or commit new crimes. This threatens the peace and safety of our community.
- Without employment former prisoners can't make it—find housing, reunify family, become productive members of the community.
- Families suffer when the primary wage earner is not able to find employment and children of prisoners are likely to become incarcerated too.
- Nearly half of those released earn less than \$600 a month.
- When ex-offenders re-offend, tax payers pay not only the cost of re-incarceration (the average cost to the state is \$25,985 annually per inmate<sup>1</sup>), but also increased supports needed for families.
- With the success that we are having in this initiative, we are having an impact in decreasing community crime.
- Successful reintegration and the reduction of crime makes the community safer.

### Goal:

By 2015, 90% of the released offenders to Dane County will not return to prison within two years of their release.

### Promising/Best Practices and Research

- Reintegration – Research shows that by helping ex-offenders access at least three of these four critical areas: Residency, Employment, Treatment and Support (REST) we are laying the foundation for a successful reintegration into the community.

### 2014 Community Impact

#### Proposed Investment \$191,184

- Continue to increase capacity of Journey Home staff to provide better tracking of clients and analysis of client data to seek additional grant opportunities to increase the number of staff providing services to clients.
- Increase the number of employers that will hire ex-offenders and increase ex-offenders basic and life skills. Some of this work will come from our HIRE Education Employment Initiative.
- Continue to work with the Madison Police Department on their new Focused Deterrence Initiative aimed at our community's most violent offenders.

### 2013 Progress for Journey Home

- Our goal: 90% of the released offenders to Dane County will not return to prison within two years of their release
- Since the Journey Home initiative began, we have seen the return to prison rate for the Journey Home participants of 21% in 2006, 32% in 2007, 11% in 2008, 19% for 2009 and 7.6% for 2012.
- The community-level return to prison rate went from 66% in 2003 to 39% in 2006, 15% in 2007, 19% in 2008, 21% in 2009 and 19% in 2012.
- Since 2006, a total of 1,076 ex-offenders have worked one-on-one with the Resource Specialists over a period of time for case specific assistance. 1,746 ex-offenders have attended the monthly Service Fairs. A total of 3,287 received one-time assistance from the Resource Specialists.
- In the 72 months since implementation, the Resource Specialists have worked one-on-one with 1,076 individuals with 82 of them returning to prison (7.6%).

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Updated: November 2013



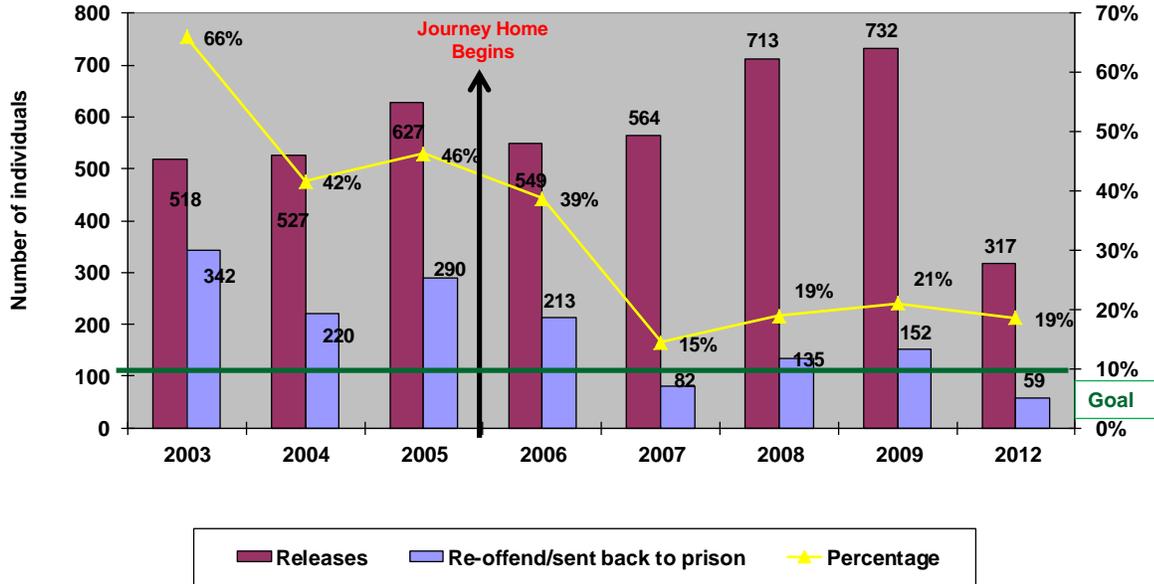
<sup>1</sup> Secretary Matthew Frank, "Cost of Incarceration in Wisconsin Prisons". Presentation to Sentencing Commission April 30, 2004.

Measures:

## Assistance with reintegration into the community helps ex-offenders



Journey Home strategies help keep our County's return to prison rate down



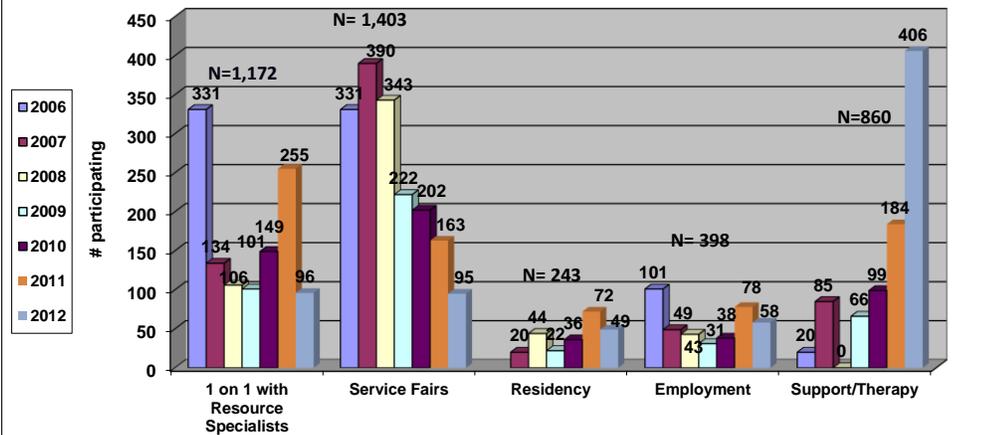
Data Source: Department of Corrections 2013

## Journey Home participants have a 7% return to prison rate, county is at 19% for 2012



Goal is 10% for Dane County

Since 2006 Journey Home as worked one-on-one with 1,172 individuals with 82 returning to prison



Data Source: Madison area Urban Ministry 2013

## HIRE Education Employment Initiative Agenda to Action

### Why It Matters

- 22.3% of the Dane County workforce over 25 years of age has only their high school diploma. 7.8% of the adults over age 25 do not even have a high school degree. Without a high school diploma, the annual earning power is \$19,169<sup>2</sup>.
- Without adequate education to get employment, residents are unable to provide for themselves and their families
- We model the importance of education to our children
- We help the community understand the importance of education and its role in finding and maintaining employment
- This work aligns perfectly as a continuum of services for drop-out recovery that is a part of our Achievement Connections work
- This work will complement the employment strategy for our Journey Home participants
- Increases diversity in the workforce for Dane County
- When individuals have jobs earning sufficient wages, they are less stressed, able to provide for themselves and their families and are less apt to engage in criminal activities that affect our community safety

### Goals:

- Increase the number of individual getting a high school diploma or equivalency
- Increase the number of individuals getting and maintaining employment for 6 months or more.

### Promising/Best Practices and Research

- Workers with a four-year college degree earn a median wage of \$22.91 an hour (\$47,600), however someone with just a high school degree earns only \$10.35 an hour or slightly over \$21,500 which is below the federal poverty level. People with an associate degree earn \$18 an hour<sup>3</sup> (37,386).
- A 4-year college degree is not required to get employment in 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. An associate degree and advanced certification and using career ladder training are becoming more of the trend in today's economy.
- Trauma is a recognized trigger to violence-both victims and perpetrators behaviors' need to be addressed to prevent violence and decrease behavioral health issues.
- People who work have less time and need to get involved with crime.

### 2014 Community Impact Investment \$615,951

- Support agencies as they continue to use the new shared software to track clients and outcomes for analysis
- Ensure appropriate balance between the education and employment sides of our model
- Continue ensure faithful implementation of model
- Continue to work with employers to encourage them to hire graduates of this initiative

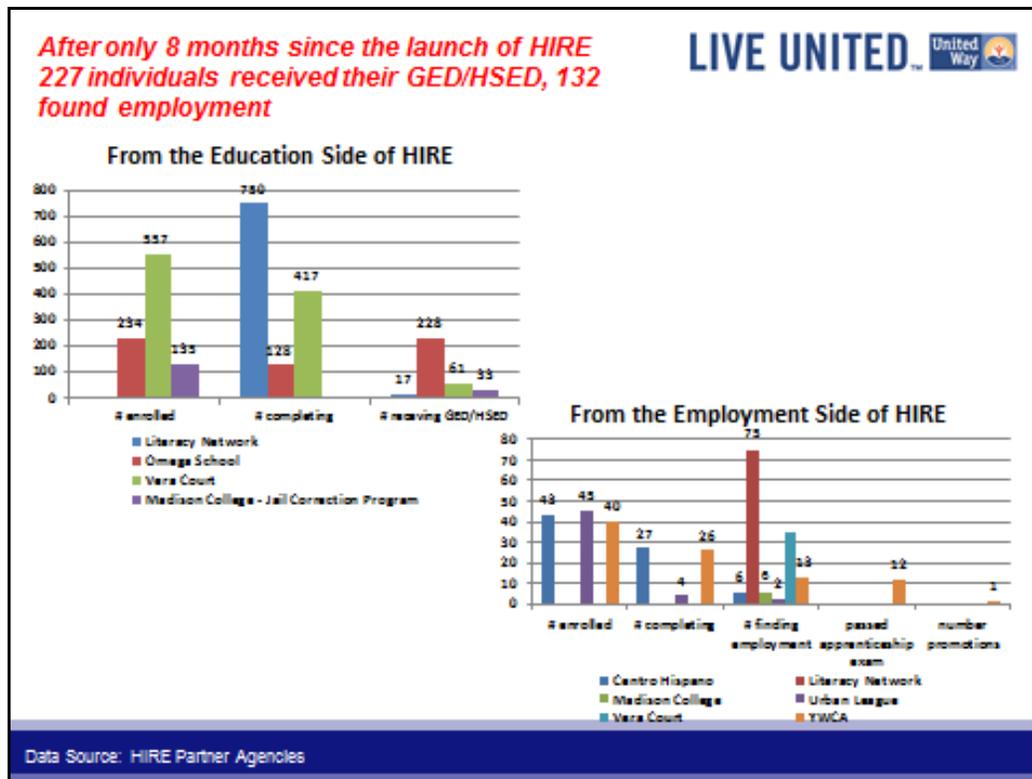
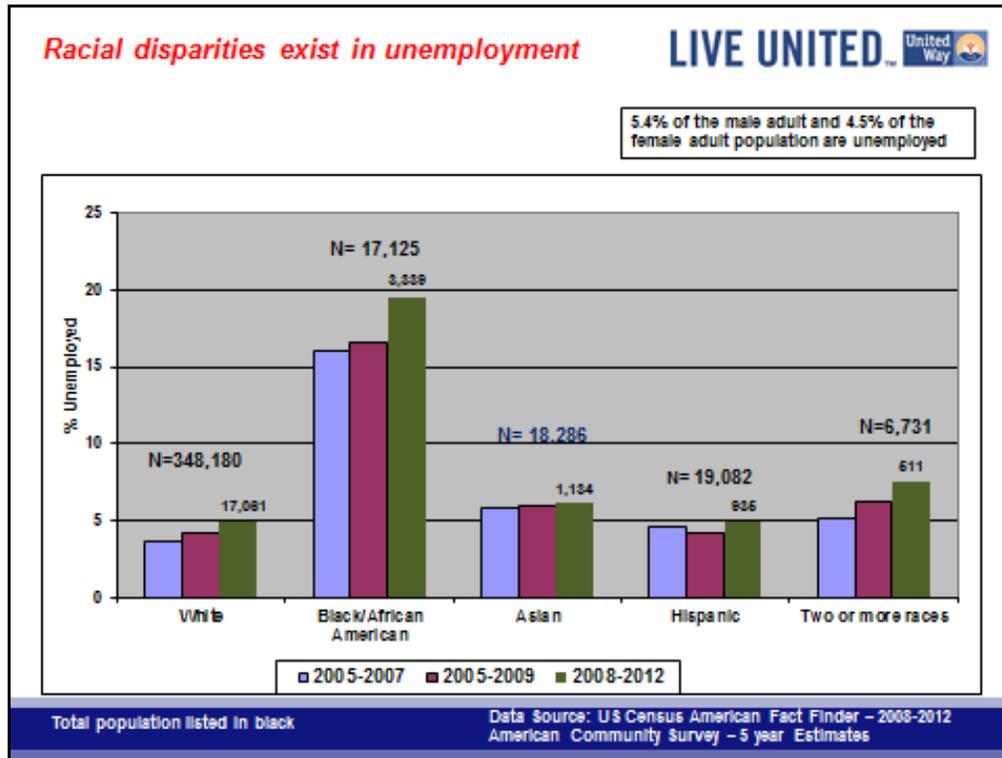
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<sup>2</sup> United States Census Bureau's 2005 Current Population Survey

Measures:

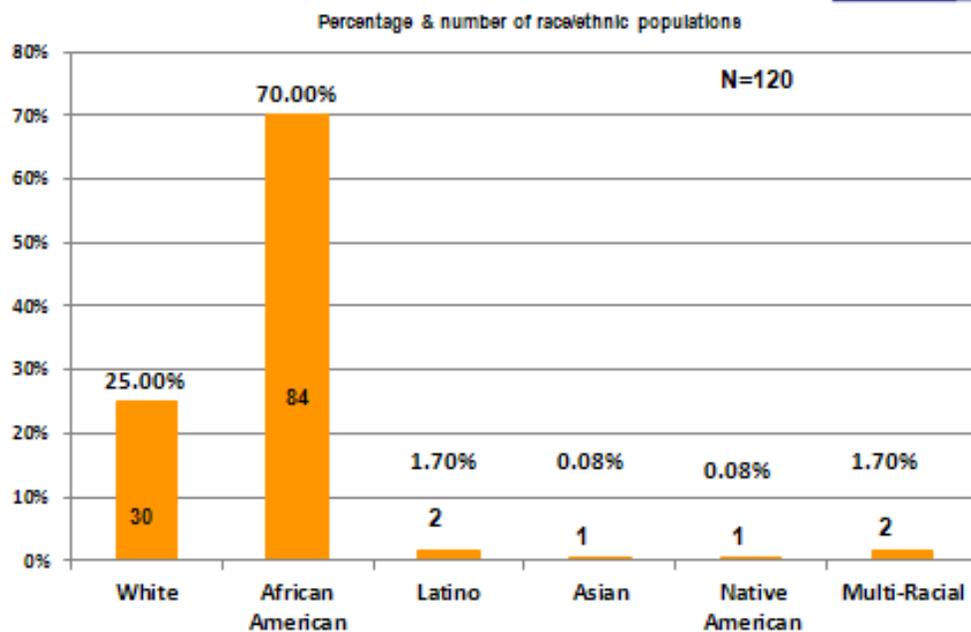


## Journey Home

### Results

The Journey Home Initiative has been very successful. Its participants had a 7% return to prison rate compared to Dane County's 2005 rate of 66% returning to prison. In addition 35% found residency and 59% found employment .

## Journey Home



Data Source: Agency year-end report 2012

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### Community engagement that shaped this initiative

- Community conversation with 80+ key stakeholders, service providers and ex-offenders regarding the issues surrounding ex-offenders returning home, re-integrating successfully back into the community and the strategies that can be implemented to help them be successful.
- Held a design lab with 30+ individuals regarding best practices to help ex-offenders re-integrate successfully back into the community.
- Engaged 60+ key stakeholders, services providers and ex-offenders to evaluate the first couple of years of Journey Home and the REST strategies.
- 60+ key stakeholders and service providers learned strategies on safety and best practices when working with sex-offenders.

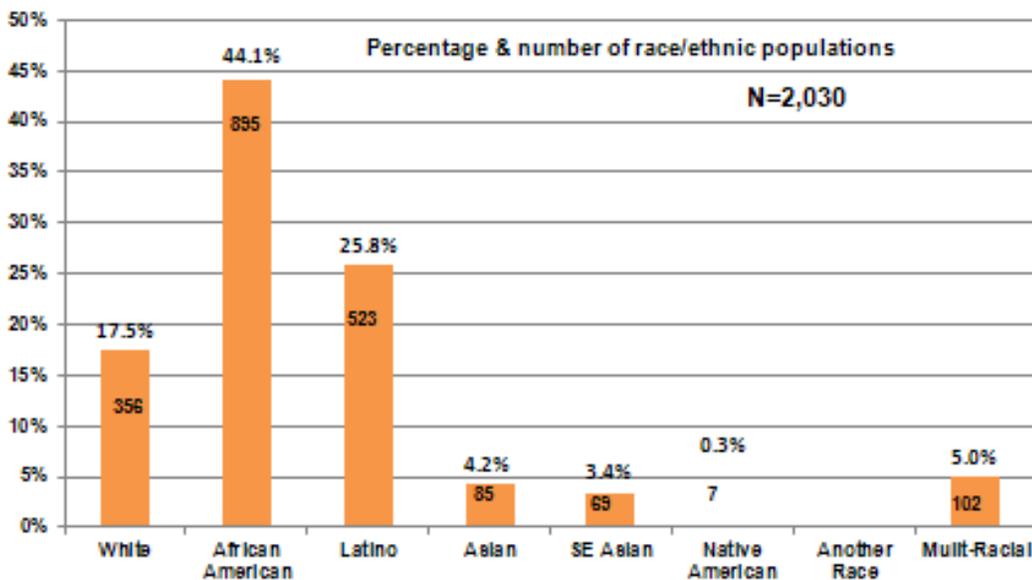
## HIRE Education/Employment

### Results

The HIRE Education Employment Initiative launched in April of 2013. Our 2013 goal was to have 10% or 200 of the 2,000 individuals in Dane County who had started taking their GED tests in 2002 actually complete their exams before the tests changed.

- 227 individuals received their GED/HSED
- 132 found employment
- 12 passed their apprenticeship test
- 1 person received a promotion

## HIRE Education Employment



Data Source: Agency year-end reports 2012

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### Community engagement that shaped this initiative

The Safe Communities Strong Neighborhood Team held discussions with staff from the Dane County Job Center, the Workforce Development Board and Dane County employers. Non-profit agencies involved in GED and employment work were also present for discussions with the team.

Public launch in April, 2013 at Madison College.



***Safe Communities Strong Neighborhoods Team***

Gretchen Lowe, Chair	Community Member
Susan Riesling, Vice-Chair	Chief, University of Wisconsin Police
Tawsif Anam	State Department of Health Services
Kenneth B. Axe	Boardman & Clark, LLP
Joe Balles	Captain, Madison Police Department
Matthew Braunginn	PEOPLE, UW-Madison
Casey Behrend	Executive Director, Youth Services of Southern WI
Jeff Blakley	Dane County Sheriff's Department
Jeff Burkhart	Executive Director, Literacy Network
David De Leon	Alliant Energy
Tyrone Glenn	Community Member
Joseph Harcarik	Community Member
Rachel Janke	State of Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Linda Ketcham	Director, Madison area Urban Ministry
Beth Lewis	School Administration, WI Department of Public Instruction
John Pinto	Community Member
Gloria Reyes	Special Investigations Unit, City of Madison Police Department
Pat Schramm	Executive Director, T.E.C. Center, Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin
Adam Stevenson	Clinical Assistant Professor, University of WI Law School
Jeff Westra	Career Development Director, Herzing University
Lance Wiersma	Regional Chief, Division of Community Corrections, Wisconsin Department of Corrections