

## Journey Home Mobilization Plan to Action

### Why It Matters

- 500-700 ex-offenders return to Dane County every year. In 2003, 66% in Dane County returned to prison within two years of release (70% State of Wisconsin rate).
- Released ex-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 ex-offenders can't make it—find housing, reunify with their family, or become productive members of the community.
- Families suffer when the primary wage earner is not able to find employment. Children of ex-offenders are likely to become incarcerated, too.
- 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 of this initiative, we are contributing to the decrease of community crime.
- Successful reintegration and the reduction of crime will help to make our community safer.

### Goal

90% of the released ex- 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.

### 2018 Community Impact Investment \$ 191,584

- Increase in 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 Initiative.
- Continue to keep the return to prison rate for Journey Home participants below 10%.

### 2017 Progress

- In 2017, the Journey Home re-incarceration rate was 8.3% for the participants who are working with Madison area Urban Ministry.
- The community-level return to prison rate declined from 66% in 2003 to 19% in 2012.
- Since 2006, a total of 1,622 ex-offenders have worked one-on-one with Resource Specialists over a period of time for case-specific assistance. 2,809 ex-offenders have attended monthly Service Fairs. A total of 5,760 received one-time assistance from Resource Specialists.
- Since implementation, the Resource Specialists have worked one-on-one with 1,622 individuals with 170 of them returning to prison (10%).

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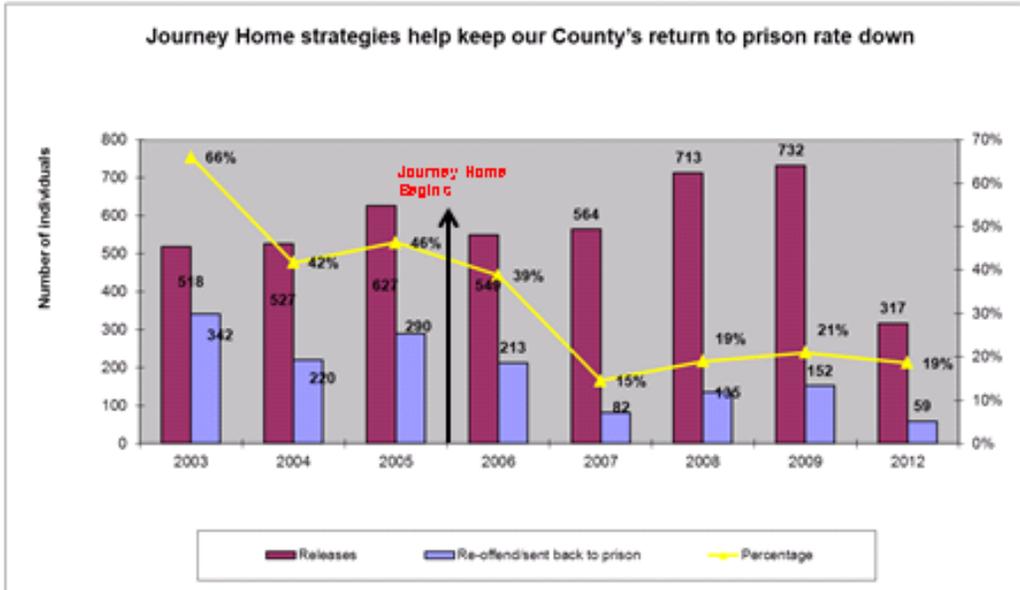
<sup>1</sup> Secretary Matthew Frank, "Cost of Incarceration in Wisconsin Prisons". Presentation to Sentencing Commission April 30, 2004.

Measures

**Rate of prison returns decreasing in Dane County**



Assistance with reintegration into the community helps ex-offenders



Data Source: Department of Corrections | 2013

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Since 2006, 7,382 formerly incarcerated individuals have participated in Journey Home; only 10% have returned to prison!

