

Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Formerly Incarcerated Individuals Rehabilitation Service (FIIRS)

Mission:

The Purpose of the Formerly Incarcerated Individuals Rehabilitation Service (FIIRS) is to increase employment opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals (FII) by developing and providing a partnership between, government, business, service providers, community and The Rotary network.

Objectives:

The project will

- Create a list of Rotarians, who are business owners who commit to employing FII
- Classify businesses who participate based on profession and develop a skills requirements list
- Work collaboratively with other agencies to identify and train incarcerated individuals with these work skills before they are released
- Engage Rotary business with the FII during Pre-Release and Post-Release
- Provide a Rotary-facilitated coaching and mentoring environment for transition into the community

Status:

At present

- We are continuing in the process of meeting clubs and engaging them on the program. The response from the clubs has been great and great connections have been made as a result.
- We are connecting with organizations such as Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, US Attorney's Office, American Family Insurance, 2nd Chance Wisconsin, Wisconsin Community Service (WCS) and others
- The current process from incarceration to reintegration is functional, siloed and fragmented.

Current Situation

- The process from Incarceration to reentry and assimilation is functional and siloed. Currently the coordination of services and agencies is a very reactive process. The need to get a FII a job is processed and organized after an inmate has been released. Even so, the alignment of job and the capabilities of the FII happens as a matter of chance rather than a planned event
- The process is driven by different entities at each stage and there is no communication or collaboration between entities that is proactive. The process where a catalog of available jobs for FIIs that is mapped to a reentry schedule is currently ad hoc. A sustainable process to keep FIIs from returning into incarceration is in its infancy.

Opportunity for the Community

The community (partner organizations and members) can assist by

- Recognizing that all the state-run facilities are maintained and managed by inmates who learn critical skills that can be useful outside.
- Helping us in converting their experience into certifications that are aligned to the business needs
- Helping us in creating a database of skills available and a forecast of when they will be available
- Helping us in managing the services and training required from Pre-Release to when the FII becomes a Community Member

Rotary-Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) Collaboration

Rotary-MATC Collaboration: Rtn. Dr. Mark, from Oak Creek has been instrumental in engaging Rotary with MATC.

MATC Value Proposition

- MATC is promoting programs that helps incarcerated individuals earn GED certification and enroll into the U. S. Department of Justice Second Chance program. Second Chance is the only program in Wisconsin that is supported by a Pell Grant.
- MATC has a program in place to train incarcerated individuals in welding and manufacturing skills as part of continuing education.
- Ten individuals in the program have graduated and found employment – the program is currently in outcome assessment phase.
- MATC is providing an option for those preparing to reenter to enroll in the Second Chance program and also to incentivize them to continue to a 4 year degree.

Rotary Value Proposition

- Rotary's objective is to create a pool of jobs that can be offered to the Formerly Incarcerated Individual (FII) that helps the business and provides a means for the FII to reenter the community.
- Rotary will provide a list of Professions and Business Owners who have indicated their willingness to employ a FII.
- Collaboratively, Rotary, MATC and other organizations will develop a process to map the Rotary job pool to the Correctional System.
- The process will be tested and debugged with two individuals

Opportunity

- There exists an opportunity for Rotary to leverage MATC's network, processes and knowledge to integrate other services focused on those FIIs who would be employed by Rotary Businesses.
- There is an opportunity for Rotary to Provide scholarships for FIIs to continue to a 4-year degree.
- There is an opportunity for individual Rotary Clubs to sponsor one or more incarcerated individuals. Sponsoring clubs would work as mentors and guides to help the formerly incarcerated transition to society.

Rotary-Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) Collaboration

Rotary-WCS Collaboration: Met with Artis Landon, Chad Meinholdt and Heather Lynn-Mroch from WCS.

WCS Value Proposition

- WCS provides the services required for individuals who are being released from incarceration. Specifically, they are Workforce Development, Community Improvement & Job Training and Reentry Residential Services.
- Artis runs the program that manages the Reentry Residential Services. There are 2 residential facilities: Parsons House (Federal) and Joshua Glover (State).
- Both of these facilities prepare the ex-offender by providing mental health, drug, behavioral health, and other services.
- Federal ex-offenders are required to get employment within 21 days after release.
- State ex-offenders are required to get employment within a 60 to 90-day period.
- Artis has also received a national award for the Driver's License Recovery program he has developed in Milwaukee. This program is in collaboration with the City of Milwaukee, MATC, Legal Action Wisconsin.

- WCS is also working with Backline Studios, American Family Insurance, and Gener8tor on a program to get 16 to 23-year-old troubled youth into a music program.

Rotary Value Proposition

- Provide jobs for the residents of the Reentry Residential houses in conjunction with the services that are provided by WCS.
- Build a sustainable process that is focused on generating a demand for work, for FIIs.
- Test and debug the process with two individuals.

Opportunity

- There exists an opportunity for Rotary to leverage WCS's reentry program to:
 - Identify FII's who have the skills and personality required for the jobs that are available through Rotary.
 - Create a process by which candidates are identified and trained prior to release for jobs through Rotary.
- There is an opportunity for Rotary to collaborate with American Family Insurance and Gener8tor to positively impact troubled youth through music.

Milwaukee Reentry Council (MRC)

The Milwaukee Reentry Council is a community-facilitated, reentry committee created by the Milwaukee Community Justice Council in late 2016. The Reentry Council is comprised of multi-sector entities and reentry advocates working together to better serve populations reentering the community from periods of incarceration (both jail and prison).

MRC Value Proposition

- MRC provides a public forum for state, federal, community and service organizations to share, learn and create an environment that facilitates the reentry of FIIs.

Rotary Value Proposition

- Leveraging the forum to promote jobs that are available through Rotary
- To evolve a sustainable process that links up a Rotary sponsored job pool with other agencies and organization to increase assimilation of FIIs into society and reduce recidivism