

Resource: Re-Entry from Prison Programs

1. Journey Home

Madison Urban Ministry 2115 S. Park St. Madison, WI 53713

Phone: 608-256-0906

Website:

<http://emum.org/what-we-do/journeyhome/>

MUM's Resource Specialists provide one-to-one case management, Food Share eligibility screening and referral, program linkage and referral, employability and life skills training, job placement assistance, and ongoing support and monitoring to reduce recidivism. Resource Specialists also spend time building relationships with area employers and landlords to increase the opportunities for housing and employment for returning citizens. Our program staff conducts in-reach visits to area prisons to connect with individuals prior to their release and to build a more seamless return to the community.

Monthly Service Fairs through the Journey Home serve as a one-stop shop to provide access to multiple resources in one location. Each month the Service Fair has a theme built around Residency, Employment, Support and Treatment. Community based organizations and groups provide information about their services, including training, education, transportation, housing, treatment and support networks. Each Service Fair includes a welcome home, an inspirational speaker and, in keeping with the tradition across faiths to offer hospitality, a light meal.

A small micro-loan program is set up through private donations for active program participants to help them access assistance with security deposits, work clothes, school supplies, etc... A non-perishable emergency food pantry is also on site.

2. Circles of Support

Madison Urban Ministry 2115 S. Park St. Madison, WI 53713

Phone: 608-256-0906

Website:

<http://emum.org/what-we-do/circles-of-support/>

Social and Positive Community Support

Circles of Support is a reentry program that matches formerly incarcerated individuals (Core Team Member) with volunteers in the community (Circle Members) to provide the social support and positive community the Core Team Member may be lacking. Many people return from prison to the same environment that encouraged the crimes they committed. The allure of the old life can be too much to withstand without support. Circles provide a safe place where the Core Team Member can be heard, encouraged, and respected while they discuss the challenges they may be experiencing as they transition back into the community. The volunteers are able to provide them with alternative solutions to problems and mentoring as they work through the challenges. The Circles of Support offer an environment that is positive, supportive and respectful but that also holds them accountable for achieving and succeeding in their weekly goals. In other words, the Circle offers the support individuals often need to be successful in their return to the community.

Help before you leave prison

MUM's Circle of Support Coordinator and Re-entry Volunteers also reach in to the prisons in Dane County, providing a re-entry orientation session and conducting intake interviews with men returning to Dane County from prison. These visits are held three Fridays per month and our staff is at Oakhill Correctional Institution, Oregon Correctional Center and Thompson Correctional Center.

Help with housing

In collaboration with the UW Law School, MUM trains Law School students to offer a housing curriculum, Rent Smart and Ready to Rent in the Dane County Jail. The focus of the class is to assist individuals who have had difficulty in obtaining or retaining housing. Law Students present the classes offering information on tenant rights, landlord rights, budgeting, understanding your credit history, responsibilities of a tenant, and how to effectively communicate with your landlord.

3. Just Bakery

Madison Urban Ministry 2115 S. Park St. Madison, WI 53713

Phone: 608-256-0906

Website:

<http://emum.org/what-we-do/justbakery/>

Learn a new Vocation

Just Bakery is a 16 week educational and vocational training program. The program works with individuals who are experiencing significant barriers to employment (homelessness, criminal conviction history, lack of education, and/or a lack of work history or skills) and who have an interest in baking or culinary arts as a career pathway.

Just Bakery utilizes a curriculum developed in collaboration with faculty from Madison College's Baking and Culinary Arts programs. Just Bakery offers Life Skills education, baking math and tutoring, food science, food safety and ServSafe Certification, and teaches commercial baking skills in a commercial grade kitchen with students actually helping to produce a line of bakery products for sale in the community. Students also gain sales and marketing experience by working side by side with program staff in a variety of sales venues, learning customer service skills and becoming comfortable answering questions about the product. All proceeds from Just Bakery sales are reinvested in the program and have allowed us to hire four of our own graduates to work in the program both on the instructional side and the production side of the program.

Program graduates can also take an exam to earn a Certificate of Training from the WI Baker's Association and through an agreement with Madison College, students can earn college credit. In addition to their coursework, students also receive case management and assistance with job placement and retention, and job coaching.

4. Mentoring Connections

Madison Urban Ministry 2115 S. Park St. Madison, WI 53713

Phone: 608-256-0906

e-mail: Shawna@emum.org

Website:

<http://emum.org/what-we-do/family-mentoring-reading/>

For Youth with an incarcerated parent

Mentoring Connections envisions a community in which every youth experiences a nurturing one-to-one relationship, which in turn allows each of them to develop their full potential to become responsible members of the community. Mentoring Connections matches youth impacted by parental incarceration with a caring, adult mentor. Mentor matches spend time with each other each week and develop a connection that can stick with both the youth and the volunteer for a lifetime.

5. Family Connections		
Madison Urban Ministry 2115 S. Park St. Madison, WI 53713		
Phone: 608-256-0906	e-mail: Shawna@emum.org	Website: http://emum.org/what-we-do/family-mentoring-reading/
Family Connections provides opportunities to maintain and strengthen relationships within families affected by incarceration. This program keeps critical parent-child connections strong by organizing regular monthly visits between imprisoned mothers and their children. Family Connections goes to Taycheedah Correctional Institution the second Saturday of each month		
6. Reading Connections		
Madison Urban Ministry 2115 S. Park St. Madison, WI 53713		
Phone: 608-256-0906	e-mail: Shawna@emum.org	Website: http://emum.org/what-we-do/family-mentoring-reading/
Reading Connections offers parents whose children reside too far away for regular visits, an opportunity to bond with their child and encourage their reading. Each month, volunteers go to Taycheedah Correctional Institution and Waupan Correctional Institution to collaborate with parents on this initiative. Parents are video recorded reading books to their children and the book, the recording, and a letter are mailed to the children and families		
7. Emergency Food Pantry		
Madison Urban Ministry 2115 S. Park St. Madison, WI 53713		
Phone: 608-256-0906	Website: http://emum.org/what-we-do/other-mum-initiatives/	
Participants in any of MUM's programs can also access our Non-Perishable Emergency Food Pantry, on site at MUM. Originally created to ensure that no one newly released from prison left our office hungry, families of incarcerated individuals who are involved with Mentoring or Family Connections may also access the pantry. Up to two days of food is provided for individuals and families, as well as a referral to the larger food pantry network in Dane County.		
8. Employment Program		
WorkSmart Network at Dane County Job Center 1819 Aberg Ave Madison WI 53704		
608-438-4202	Christopher Ehle - Cehle@worksmartnetwork.org	www.worksmartnetwork.org
It is a program that has federal dollars to spend on people with the sole purpose of getting them employed. We can pay for training, up to a 2 year associates degree. Or they can just work with an Employment Specialist 1 on 1 to help them.		
We have some staff that work solely with folks coming out of prison, and/or have background issues that can be a barrier. They are excellent at busting barriers and getting people employed.		