



Thrive for Life volunteers

ABOUT US

CONTEMPLATION

Thrive for Life's leadership, staff and trained volunteers have stepped in to fill a void of pastoral care services within federal, state and New York City corrections departments. As such, Thrive for Life Prison Project offers the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, retreats, and restorative justice opportunities for more than 1,000 individual women and men in six federal (BOP), state (NYSDOCCS) and municipal (NYCDOC) correction facilities in the New York City region. The Spiritual Exercise retreats are facilitated by staff and 25+ volunteers trained in Ignatian Spirituality to accompany seekers in prayer, meditation and discernment.

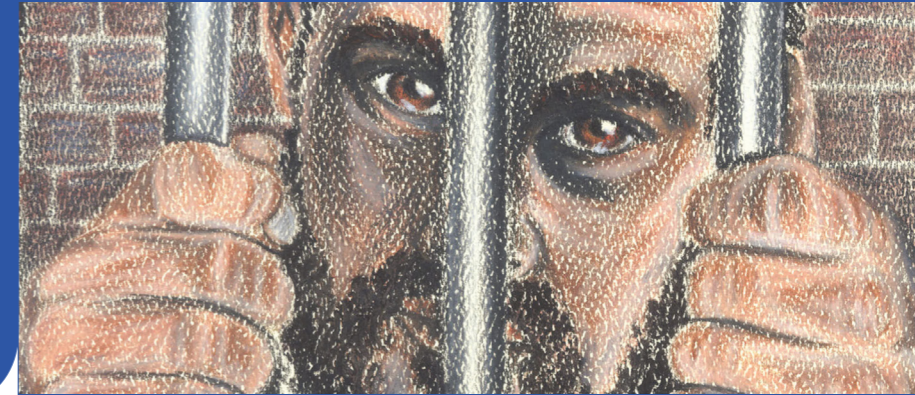
ACTION

Thrive for Life established partnerships with New York University (NYU), City University of New York (CUNY), Fordham University, America Media, and the New York City Public Library to establish libraries within six correction facilities. The first library was established within the Manhattan Detention Center (NYCDOC) as Thrive for Life secured the first 500 donated books and made them available to inmates.

VISION Thrive for Life Prison Project envisions a world where spiritual and educational services empower incarcerated individuals to thrive for life.

MISSION Create opportunities for spiritual development and provide educational resources for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals while partnering with local universities and employers.

AMBITION By 2020, offer 1,000 incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals spiritual exercises; support 10 libraries in correctional facilities with educational and spiritual materials; found and support 2 houses of studies for 10-15 formerly incarcerated individuals who will receive supportive housing and scholarships to local universities for studies, and workforce experience and training with local employers.



Thrive for Life Prison Project's founder & Executive Director, *Zachariah Presutti, SJ, LMSW*, is the primary coordinator for Ignacio House. Presutti graduated from Canisius College with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and philosophy, then entered the Jesuits in August 2012. At Saint Louis University, he earned a Master's degree in social work, with a focus on individuals in the criminal justice system. Presutti is a psychotherapist for formerly incarcerated women and men.



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Thrive for Life Prison Project Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations to Thrive for Life Prison Project are deductible for federal income, gift, and estate tax purposes to the fullest extent of the law. Front page: Artwork by Robert Riviera, an inmate sentenced to life in prison.



Thrive For Life
Prison Project

FACTS


124,000 people from New York State are released each year from jail and prison to New York City.

Special Committee on Re-Entry - New York State Bar Association, January 2016

POLICY MAKERS & RESEARCHERS ASK:
ARE THE INDIVIDUALS LEAVING PRISON READY?

 **20%** of people released from city jails each year are homeless or their housing arrangements are unstable.

Preventing Homelessness Among People Leaving Prison - Vera Institute of Justice, December 2003

 **96%** of the New York prison population is without access to college education.

Special Committee on Re-Entry - New York State Bar Association, January 2016

 **81%** of individuals reentering New York City are unable to secure employment.

Special Committee on Re-Entry - New York State Bar Association, January 2016

THE PRICE OF INCARCERATION

53% of parolees who are returning to New York City from state prisons are re-arrested within 3 years.

Recidivism among Parolees in New York City - Center for Court Innovation, November 2001

\$60,000 is spent per year, per inmate in the New York State Dept. of Corrections.

The Price of Prisons - Vera Institute of Justice, May 2017

IGNACIO HOUSE OF STUDIES

Thrive for Life with Housing, Education and Employment

Ignacio House will provide three interdependent services: supportive housing, scholarships to local universities, and employment in partnership with local employers.



HOUSING

10-15 individuals will receive supportive living services, life skills workshops, support groups, and mentoring.



EDUCATION

Residents will receive scholarships to local universities and colleges to ensure quality educational opportunities.



EMPLOYMENT

Local employers will provide workforce training and job opportunities to residents of Ignacio House.

“Research shows that safe, stable, and affordable housing plays a crucial role in successful re-entry. But unfortunately, far too many people remain locked out.”

The Sargent Shriver National Center, June 2017

“A 2013 meta-analysis by the RAND Corporation, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice, found that incarcerated people who participated in correctional education programs have 43 percent lower odds of recidivating than those who did not. Furthermore, those who participated in such programs were 13 percent more likely to land post-release employment than those who had not...”

Smith, Clint. "The Lifelong Learning of Lifelong Inmates." The Atlantic, June 2017

MARTIN'S STORY

Martin was sentenced to seven years in prison, but good behavior got him released in five. While incarcerated, Martin vowed never to return to confinement, so he earned his GED and even took college classes toward a degree in Mathematics, his first love. Upon release, Martin immediately faced three poor housing options: friends' couches in his old neighborhood

of temptations, the City's huge shelter system, or the street. Furthermore, Martin found that potential employers were not happy to learn he had served time, and many even refused to accept his applications. Without safe housing or employment, continuing his education was far out of reach. Martin could not help but feel that he had been set up for failure.

