



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ruben Gaona

As we reflect on the extraordinary work accomplished by My Way Out in 2023 despite limited resources, the impact has been nothing short of incredible. Our Reaching In Helping Out programs have continued to make a significant difference in the lives of justice-involved individuals. We're proud to announce the graduation of 40 individuals from our Bridging the Tech Gap for Returning Citizens Workshop and the successful completion of our Building a Path to Success Workshop, where 10 justice-impacted individuals graduated within the Milw. Co. Community Reintegration Center. In addition, we provided vital housing and rental assistance to 11 individuals. Amidst these achievements, we are capturing compelling success stories that showcase the transformative impact of our ongoing efforts. Looking ahead to 2024, I am filled with anticipation for the continued growth and positive change we can inspire. My Way Out remains steadfast in its mission to demonstrate that 'mistakes do not define one's identity' but rather illuminate the potential for transformative actions and renewed purpose. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work towards a future where everyone has the opportunity to rebuild their lives and thrive!



MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Karen Coy-Romano

Through early and long-term interventions with justice-impacted adults led by staff with lived experience, we bring credibility and the competencies needed in collaboration with community stakeholders to prevent/eliminate recidivism, as well as document evidence-based practices that may shape opportunities for systemic change. MWO is a long-standing member and collaborator with the Milwaukee Community Justice Reentry Committee with 70 organizations. In 2024, we are honored to establish an Executive Advisory Council with 10 high profile community and business leaders with active interests in reentry practices and policies that support individuals and families, and create healthy and safe communities. We thank you for your partnership!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Building a Path to Success

With the collaboration of valued partners, Milwaukee County Community Reintegration Center formerly known as the House of Corrections, The Milky Way Tech Hub, UW-Extension, the Milwaukee Bucks, My Way Out has created a 6-week workshop to empower and equip justice-impacted individuals pre- and post-release with essential skills for successful reintegration into the community. Participants receive expert instruction in 'Rent Smart', Financial Literacy, Bridging the Tech Gap for Returning Citizens, Resume Writing & Interviewing Skills as well as exposure to AI—virtual learning for advanced manufacturing skill building. Candidates completing courses successfully receive a laptop.

National Workforce Readiness Council

(Career-Readiness Credentials): In partnership with NWRC, My Way Out will identify 75-100 individuals pre-and post-release who wish to enroll in self-paced academic job-readiness training and assessments in 4 credentialed areas recognized by the Dept. of Labor: Work-Ready Soft Skills; Work-Ready Math, Work-Ready Reading; and Work-Ready Data. Successful completion creates increased job opportunities.

The Way Out-Fair Chance Employment Platform

Provides individuals post-release with the opportunity to 'onboard' themselves to this platform to create a 'cloaked' profile including employment interests, skillsets, and experience for review by 'second-chance employers' seeking candidate interviews. Individuals can track ongoing meetings, interviews and other commitments.

Safe & Stable Homes: Ending Family Homelessness

My Way Out has partnered with the United Way GMWC as well as with the American Family Insurance Institute for Corporate & Social Impact to create housing equity and access for returning citizens. For the first time, justice-involved individuals with families have access to 3 months of rent assistance while seeking employment post-release to support comprehensive reentry opportunities and prevent recidivism.

Mission:

To empower and enrich the lives of justice-impacted individuals by bringing together community resources, supportive service providers and employers. By reducing recidivism, building strong communities, and keeping families together, we will help bring hope and prosperity to marginalized communities.

Vision:

A world where all justice-impacted individuals, families and communities can prosper and thrive due to lower incarceration rates, the strengthening of family bonds, and the education of our youth about the criminal justice system.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

2023 DONOR RECOGNITION

Accomplishments:

In less than 3 years, with support from our valued donors, My Way Out has exceeded expectations and delivered powerful and personalized support to over 350 justice-impacted individuals in 2023, and 654 year to date. MWO is a leader for both pre- and post-release reentry planning serving 26 correctional institutions, framing identified assets and pathways chosen by each person to address their goals for employment, housing, healthcare, family and community reintegration.

Client OnBoards

697



70% Self-identify as BIPOC

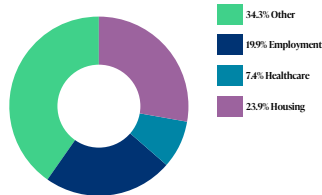
Clients Served



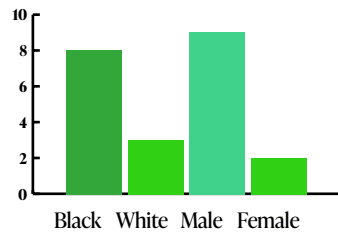
336
1198

Supportive Services

Supportive Services

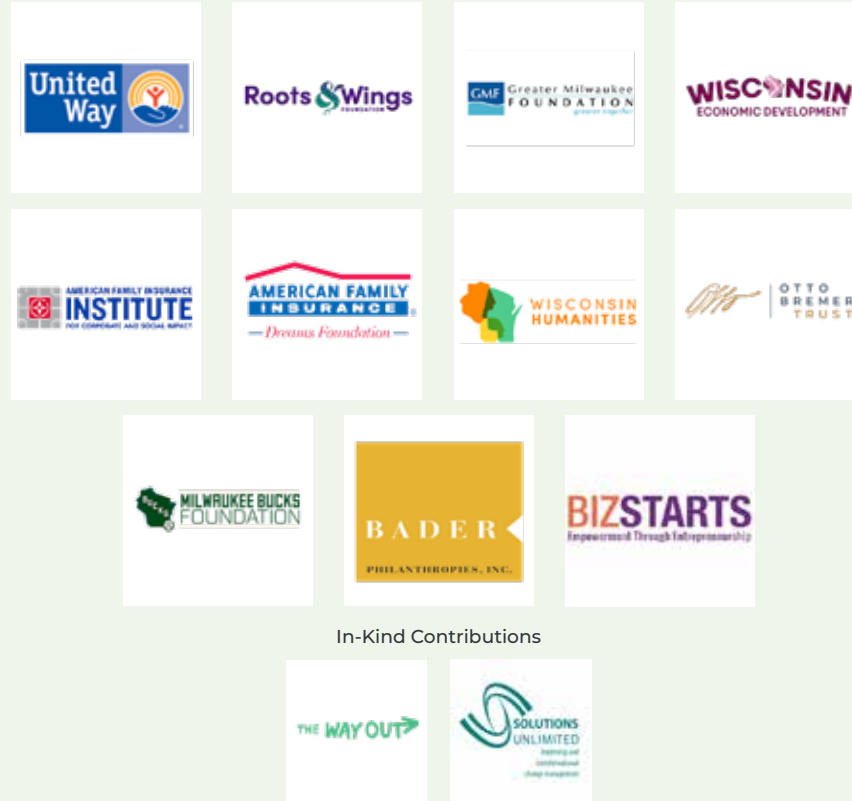


Safe & Stable Homes



MY WAY OUT →

- Social Impact
- Keeping Families Together
- Strengthening Communities
- Economic Development
- Community
- DEI



In-Kind Contributions

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Karen Coy-Romano
Board President | David Carlson
Director at Large | Patrick Snyder
Director at Large | Rodrick Cureton
Director at Large |
| Barbara Cerda
Secretary/Treasurer | Decorah Gordon
Director at Large | Sarwat Sharif
Director at Large | |

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Chief Judge Carl Ashley
Milwaukee Circuit Court | Dr. Melinda Brennan
Executive Director, ACLU of Wisconsin | Nyra Jordan
Director, American Family Insurance Institute for Corporate and Social Impact |
| Judge Derek Mosley
Dir. Marquette Univ. Law School, Luber Center for Public Policy Research & Civic Education | Rep. Dora Drake
WI State Representative | Francesca Mayca-Wegner
President/Chief Possibilities Officer HPGM |
| Dr. Victor Amaya
President/Executive Director of Data You Can Use | Arvind Gopalratnam
VP, of Corp. Social Responsibility, Milwaukee Bucks, Exec. Dir., Milwaukee Bucks Foundation | |
| Tammy Belton Davis
President/CEO, Athena Communications LLC | Nadiyah Johnson
Founder/CEO Milky Way Tech Hub | |

2023 ANNUAL REPORT