



PO Box 2862
Rocky Mount, NC 27802
252-220-9516
www.ourjourney2gether.org
www.ourjourney2gether.com



The OurJourney First Aid Reentry Kit Program

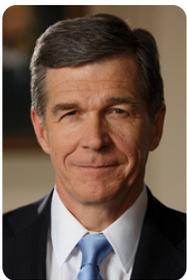
September 6, 2022

Prepared for:



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“Many former offenders can make positive contributions to their communities. We need to help them find and stay on that path.”

– Governor Roy Cooper





Dear Director Cobb and Ms. Sullivan,

OurJourney is a nonprofit organization founded by the formerly incarcerated with the mission of helping those who rejoin us in freedom to get their best chance at their best lives.

We know from our lived experiences both the challenges that await our returning citizens and how to overcome those challenges. We know, in effect, what we wish we'd known, and desire to share that knowledge with our brothers and sisters.

We have created the OurJourney First Aid Reentry Kit program to provide immediate and critical assistance to our returning citizens during their first 30 to 90 days of freedom, to help them navigate what we know can be a difficult time, with the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism.

The reentry kit, however, is so much more than just a box. It is a complete program, one that provides support to prison case managers, connects our returning citizens with their home communities even before their release and offers ongoing mentorship after they return home.

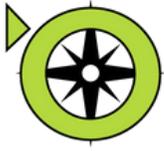
We look forward to exploring more about the First Aid Reentry Kit program with you throughout this presentation.

Sincerely,

Brian Scott
Founder and Executive Director

P.S. This presentation is also available in digital form at www.ourjourney2gether.com/dps-presentation.





About Our Journey

Our Journey officially launched on February 26, 2022 with nothing but a website. We had no money or even a bank account. What we did have was an intense desire to give back.

Within two months we had seated our first Board of Directors, nine men and women (including three formerly incarcerated men) who believe in the power of second chances and the overwhelming benefits to reducing recidivism, not just for the returning citizen but for the entire community. Around the time of our first board meeting we received our 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS.

In June 2022, in consultation with Nash Correctional Institution in Nash County, we developed our First Aid Reentry Kit program, officially launching it at NCI on July 1, 2022. Most recently we have enrolled an additional prison, Franklin Correctional Center, and will begin providing reentry kits to their returning citizens in September.

Our desire is to expand this program to every prison in the state, to provide critical assistance to every man and woman who returns to freedom from a North Carolina prison.

Our Journey has been a grassroots organization from its inception. We have raised support from individuals, corporations, churches, civic groups and even other reentry nonprofit organizations who believe in our mission and are excited about the uniqueness of our business model.



Organization

(FI = Formerly Incarcerated)

Executive Director

Brian Scott (FI)

Chief Operating Officer

Justin Moore (FI)

Special Events Coordinator

Stephen Shipman (FI)

Board of Directors

Heidi Coleman

Caleb Badajos

Joshua Gibson (FI)

Willie Gupton (FI)

Michele Houmis

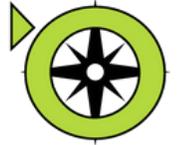
Timothy Sauls

Joshua Stancil (FI)

Benjamin Votipka

Louise Winstead

Our Business Model



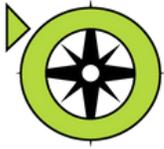
The success of the OurJourney First Aid Reentry Kit program depends on a close partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, prison facilities throughout this state and reentry warriors that provide assistance in all 100 North Carolina counties.

To our knowledge we are the only nonprofit organization in North Carolina that has developed a tool and program to unite every concerned agency, reentry organization and prison facility in the effort to reduce recidivism by addressing the immediate needs of our returning citizens.

Here's how this synergy works:

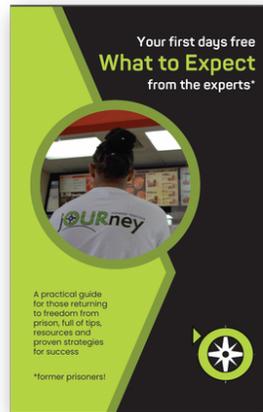
- OurJourney enrolls a new prison in the First Aid Reentry Kit program.
- Within 21 to 30 days before a returning citizen's release date, the case manager (or other designated staff) enters an order for a reentry kit on a password-secured page on our website. (See Addendum A.)
- Within 72 hours after receiving this order, OurJourney reaches out to reentry specialists in the returning citizen's home community, shares some key information about the returning citizen, and encourages the reentry specialists to contact the returning citizen even before his or her release.
- If the returning citizen will have any emergency needs upon his or her release, such as housing, OurJourney offers to work with the prison case manager to find community assistance for those needs before the returning citizen's release date.
- OurJourney creates a custom First Aid Reentry Kit for the returning citizen and ships it to the facility to be given to the returning citizen on the day of release.
- That same day, OurJourney sends a personalized card to the returning citizen through TextBehind explaining a little about the reentry kit and that we have already reached out to their home community on their behalf. We also encourage the returning citizen to contact us upon release. (See Addendum B.)
- Within one week after the returning citizen's release date, OurJourney contacts the community reentry specialists to check on the status of the returning citizen.
- OurJourney provides ongoing mentorship and support to those returning citizens who request it.





What's in the Kit?

The OurJourney First Aid Reentry Kit contains five main items:



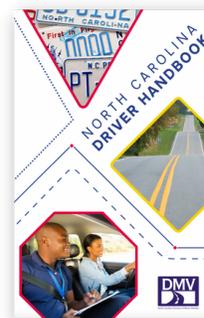
1 "What to Expect: Your First Days Free"

OurJourney conducted multiple video conferences with over two dozen formerly incarcerated individuals to get a cross-reference of lived experiences. This 48-page booklet is the product of those meetings.

It provides an overview of nearly everything a returning citizen can expect to feel and encounter within his first 30 to 90 days, offering encouragement, general resources and proven strategies for success. On the inside back cover we provide the first names and phone numbers of men in this state who have successfully reintegrated back into society after their imprisonment. The returning citizens who receive our reentry kit can reach out to anybody on this list for encouragement and general advice.



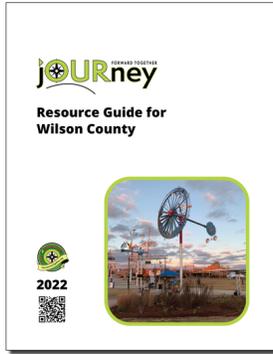
2 OurJourney t-shirt in the appropriate size



3 NC DMV Driver Handbook



4 \$25 gift card to a local restaurant (restaurant may vary)



5 Reentry Resource Guide

We've saved the best for last.

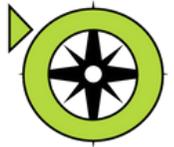
The Reentry Resource Guide that we include with each First Aid Reentry Kit is full of contact information for agencies, organizations, ministries and businesses in the home community of each returning citizen.

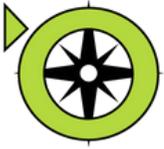
Each Reentry Resource Guide lists service providers in eight categories: One Stop Resource Centers (agencies or organizations that provide assistance in several categories), Food Resources, Clothing Resources, Medical/Dental Resources, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Resources, Job Training/Placement Resources and Transportation Resources.

OurJourney thoroughly vets every entry to ensure that all the information is current, accurate and useful. Here is our process for preparing a Reentry Resource Guide for a new North Carolina county:

1. We reach out to any formerly incarcerated individuals in our network who returned from prison to that county, asking them what service providers gave them the best assistance.
2. We contact the county's Reentry Council Coordinators, if any, and ask them about the resources in their county.
3. We conduct online searches to discover resources.
4. Regardless of how we get information about a possible place of assistance we personally call and verify all key information, including hours of operation, services provided, any required fees and, when possible, a direct contact name.
5. In some cases, especially for those we list as One Stop Resource Centers, we arrange a time for us to personally visit to tour their operation and talk with their staff.
6. Our lived experiences taught us that too much information is almost as discouraging as no information, so we limit each category to only the top three to five service providers. Only the best of the best make our list.

Something else our lived experiences taught is that there's nothing more frustrating than having contact information for service providers that is outdated. With that in mind, OurJourney's policy is to completely re-vet every Reentry Resource Guide every six months.





Expansion Strategy

OurJourney understands that for the First Aid Reentry Kit program to have the most effect and biggest impact, we must partner with every North Carolina prison to provide our reentry kits, and the support system that comes with it, to all our returning citizen.

We have created a three-stage strategy to accomplish this goal.

Stage One

- Enroll facilities that reach out to OurJourney with interest, regardless of custody level
- Enroll one-half of all Minimum Custody Facilities based on total population and region (16 facilities)
- Enroll one-third of all Medium Custody Facilities based on region (7)

Stage Two

- Continue to enroll facilities that reach out to OurJourney with interest, regardless of custody level
- Enroll all remaining Minimum Custody Facilities (16)
- Enroll an additional one-third of Medium Custody Facilities based on total population (8)
- Enroll all Woman's Facilities (3)

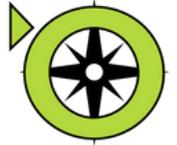
Stage Three

- Enroll all remaining Medium Custody Facilities (8)
- Enroll all Close Custody Facilities (11)

One of the advantages of the First Aid Reentry Kit program is how easily scalable it is. Enrolling a new facility is a simple process that begins with a meeting between OurJourney and the facility administration or designated staff. OurJourney then provides the facility with posters to display in areas that are visible to the inmate population and grants access for case managers to begin entering orders. Training is minimal.



Cost Estimates*



*All estimates are based on 17,000 prison exits per year, the approximate number from the previous 12 months according to data supplied by the NCDPS website, from 69 total facilities. (Some facilities have more than one custody level prison.)

First Aid Reentry Kit Costs

Each First Aid Reentry Kit costs OurJourney approximately **\$50.00** to create. This includes the cost of all materials.

The cost is approximately **\$75.00** per reentry kit when including administrative and distribution expenses.

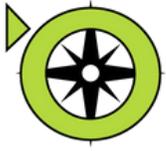
Facility Enrollment

OurJourney's cost for enrolling North Carolina facilities will vary by facility, but the average is approximately **\$12,319.00** per year per facility, or approximately **\$18,478.00** per year per facility including administrative and distribution expenses..

Summary Grid

	Per Kit	Per Facility	Total Annual Program Cost
Materials Only	\$50.00	\$12,319.00	\$850,011.00
All Costs	\$75.00	\$18,478.00	\$1,274,982.00





Testimonials



I'm appreciative of OurJourney and their reentry kit program. It's giving our returning citizens hope.

- Brent Bailey, Reentry Council Coordinator,
Buncombe County



OurJourney has a very giving heart and I'm grateful for everything they did for me.

- Clint Graves, returning citizen



The OurJourney model is powerful. It gives us access to a returning citizen before his release so we can assess his needs.

- Philip Cooper, Executive Director,
Operation Gateway



I want to say thank you to OurJourney. Now at least someone sees you. You aren't invisible anymore.

- Clarence Moore, returning citizen



By partnering with the state prisons to connect our returning citizens with us before they're even released, OurJourney is doing what we don't have the time or resources to do.

- Kenny Robinson, Executive Director,
Freedom Fighting Missionaries



Addendum A

OurJourney has created an easy-to-use online order form that it makes available to the facility program staff at the prisons enrolled in the First Aid Reentry kit program. In addition, OurJourney provides a printable form (see below) that can be used in place of the online form, then scanned and emailed to us for processing. The information required is the same on both forms.



First Aid Reentry Kit Order Information

Facility Program Coordinator:
Scan this form once completed and email to firstaidreentrykit@ourjourney2gether.org

Facility Information
(To be filled out by First Aid Reentry Kit program coordinator or authorized facility personnel)

Facility: _____

Facility Phone No.: _____

Facility Staff Information

Name Title (circle one): Mr. Ms. Mrs. DPS Title: _____

Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Inmate Information
(To be filled out by the inmate. Please write clearly.)

Full Name: _____

OPUS #: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Do you have an active North Carolina Driver's License? (Circle one): Yes No Not Sure

What is your shirt size? (Circle one): Medium Large X Large 2X Large 3X Large

Release Date: _____

Home Plan County: _____

Home Plan City/Town: _____

OPTIONAL: Do you have any special needs or challenges facing you when you get out?

OPTIONAL: Phone Number (if you already have one to share): _____

Please sign your name below and write today's date. Your signature authorizes this correctional facility to provide all of the information on this form to OurJourney for the purpose of preparing for you a free First Aid Reentry Kit to be given to you on the day of your release. OurJourney may also share this information with reentry specialists in your community.

Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____

Addendum B

OurJourney uses TextBehind to send a brief, personalized "Freedom" card to each returning citizen a few days before his release from prison. We also attach a graphic we created that provides a brief description of what's in the reentry kit.

Dear Charles,

My name is Brian Scott. I'm the Executive Director of OurJourney, a nonprofit organization that has partnered with Nash Correctional Institution and reentry specialists in your home community to help make your transition from prison to freedom as smooth and successful as possible.

You're receiving this letter because you are going home soon from NCI. So first of all, congratulations! Many of us on the OurJourney team, including me, were also once incarcerated, counting down the days to our release, so we understand how you're feeling right now.

You will receive your First Aid Reentry Kit on the day of your release. It's full of items you can use right away. Included in this kit will be a self-addressed, stamped postcard that we encourage you to fill out and drop in the mail so that we can continue our relationship with you during your release.

Handed out to some of the reentry specialists in New Hanover, they know you're on your way, so you may also hear from them about our release. Now try to get some sleep!



Additional Presentation Resources

This presentation is also available in digital form at

www.ourjourney2gether.com/dps-presentation.

In addition, there are links there to several informative videos and other documents, including those listed below.

OurJourney Documents

- Mission Statement
- IRS 501(c)(3) Tax ID Letter
- Info Packet for Wardens and Assistant Wardens
- First Aid Reentry Kit 11" x 17" Poster (to display in visible areas of prisons enrolled in the reentry kit program)

OurJourney Media Videos



OurJourney Introduction

Executive Director Brian Scott shares the vision and mission of OurJourney, including an overview of the First Aid Reentry Kit program. (Duration: 00:05:26)



Magic Little Green Box

Join us for an animated adventure to a world where getting out of prison isn't a singular event but a community collaboration. (00:05:24)



"At Least Someone Sees You"

Newly released citizen Clarence Moore speaks about the struggles of reentry and why, thanks to OurJourney and the reentry specialists in his community, he's optimistic. (00:04:08)



"We Are Part Of Their Journey"

Caleb Badajos shares why he joined the OurJourney Board of Directors. (00:01:13)



The Best is Yet to Come

This inspirational video follows the life of Clint "CJ" Graves for the first two weeks of his life after his release from a North Carolina prison in 2022. (00:05:20)

Photograph Information

Cover (side): Amya Dickens, NCWU student and OurJourney supporter.

TOC (bottom): Governor Roy Cooper. (Photograph obtained from the official Facebook page of Roy Cooper.)

Page 3 (top): Marlon Miller, the first recipient of an OurJourney First Aid Reentry Kit, along with OurJourney Executive Director Brian Scott, NCDPS Central Regions Program Manager Anita Eason, and NCI Warden Drew Stanley. (Photograph provided by Anita Eason.)

Page 3 (side): Clint Graves, a returning citizen that OurJourney assisted before the First Aid Reentry Kit program began.

Page 4: OurJourney banner outside the Nashville, NC Zaxby's during a fundraiser.

Page 5: Franklin Correctional Center, the most recent enrollee in the First Aid Reentry Kit program. (Photograph obtained from the NCDPS website.)

Page 10 (side): Officer Mayfield of the Rocky Mount Police Department at "Rock The Mount" on the campus of NCWU.

Page 12 (bottom left): Freedom card image provided by TextBehind.

All other pictures and images were created by OurJourney or provided by Shutterstock.



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