



## **Mission Statement & Beliefs**

### **Mission Statement**

OurJourney seeks to end the cycle of sorrow known as recidivism by helping the formerly incarcerated bridge the gap from prison to freedom, from their past life to their Best Life. We believe that reducing recidivism makes our communities stronger and safer, while saving millions in taxes.

### **Beliefs**

Everyone, regardless of distinction, differences or life experiences, has inherent value.

Freedom is the innate longing of every soul, put inside each of us by our Creator. As such, we believe that OurJourney's highest calling is to help our returning citizens as they embrace their new lives, while never forgetting those behind the razor wire.

It is in society's best interest for the returning citizen to integrate fully back into society. Men and women who succeed after their release from prison save communities thousand of dollars every year, not to mention heartache and pain, and become difference makers in their communities.

The most critical time for a returning citizen is the first 12 to 36 months. Statistics show us that if a person stays out of prison for three years, his/her chances of recidivism plummet. Furthermore, the first 30 to 90 days are even more critical, as this is when the returning citizen faces the most uncertainty and challenge.

Despite the best efforts by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety to help men and women as they reenter society, too many returning citizens fall in the gaps.

There are many wonderful organizations, ministries, agencies and businesses that are already part of the solution. OurJourney sees it as its mission to support these service providers and make it even more possible that a returning citizen will reach out to them for assistance.

Today's technology presents OurJourney with tremendous opportunities to help newly released prisoners in practical ways immediately after their release from prison.

OurJourney will fail in its efforts to help some returning citizens. We must not allow those failures to deter us or harden our hearts.

Those who join us by donating their resources, whether time or money, are cherished partners, and we will act wisely and responsibly with their contributions.