



**The Center for
Community Transitions**

building people, not prisons since 1974

2023
ANNUAL REPORT

BRIDGING FUTURES

Building Stronger Communities Together

2023 Reflections

In this reflective moment, as we stand at the threshold of yet another year's end, I am reminded of the profound words of Alice Walker: *"Look closely at the present you are constructing: it should look like the future you are dreaming."*

Here we are again at the end of another year, reflecting on the journey we've undertaken. This past year marked the first step in our return to a semblance of pre-pandemic normalcy. Streets bustled with activity, businesses thrived, and people reveled in the freedom to experience life outside their homes. Contrary to what many skeptics predicted, society was determined to reclaim the pre-pandemic way of life.

Yet, for us at CCT, our focus remained unwaveringly on strengthening our infrastructure. We recognized the importance of providing essential services in the reentry and second-chance space, especially now, as we witness a growing interest from various sectors, both for profit and for the promise of a second chance.

In our LifeWorks! supportive employment program, we continued to offer workforce development training to formerly incarcerated individuals and those who are justice-involved. This year, we served 250 individuals, with three-quarters of them successfully finding employment. While this represents about half of our pre-pandemic numbers, it reflects the changing landscape of our field as new players enter the space, both a blessing and an opportunity for innovation in our sector. We continue to promote The SHRM Foundation's [Getting Talent Back to Work](#) initiative to reduce barriers and strengthen pathways to employment for people with criminal records, leveraging the power of HR in building diverse and inclusive workplaces that deliver value to people and business.

Our Families Doing Time program saw significant growth and transformation as well. We welcomed a new Program Director who brings a public health perspective to the vital work of addressing the impact of incarceration on families as a public health issue. Thanks to our second round of ARPA funding, we expanded our team and introduced two new programs, Justice Involved Gals and Guys Youth group (JIGGY) and Reentry Adjacent Program (RAP). Additionally, our partnership with Newell Presbyterian Church, supported by Lowe's, allowed us to move into a beautiful new program space, where our young people and their families gather to learn, unwind, and lighten the burden of their shared experience navigating justice-involvement, including immigration.

At our Center for Women residential work release facility, we continued to provide reentry transition support to women preparing for release from prison. This journey includes navigating reentry in a community-based setting, yet still in the custody of NC Department of Adult Correction (NCDAC), a delicate, albeit transformative path to tread. In the past year, we introduced behavioral health services, now in its second year thanks to Phase I ARPA funding last year. We added peer support specialists to assist residents in their journeys, and we prepared to explore partnerships with organizations that can offer additional support, including substance use recovery services.

We are crafting our present to shape the future we envision, but transformation comes at a cost. Changing systems and structures to create a second-chance community requires the collective commitment of everyone involved. While we receive generous financial support from individuals, contracts, foundations, grants, the faith community, and more, we grapple with challenges such as non-competitive wages and employee retention. The '[nonprofit starvation cycle](#),' as described by the Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSIR), has affected us this year. Nevertheless, anchored by the voices of those who have experienced incarceration firsthand, we stand tall and move forward toward our goal to make Charlotte a true second chance city.

As we anticipate the celebration of our agency's 50th anniversary next year, I am both awed by the responsibility of upholding half a century of impact and excited by the prospect of guiding our organization toward new horizons. With our board now composed of 50% formerly incarcerated and directly impacted individuals, and a leadership team, each an unapologetic second chance advocate in her own right, we remain unwavering in our commitment to a distributed leadership model that helps us embody shared power at all times. At CCT, we will continue to strengthen our community through second chances, prioritizing building people over prisons.

I invite you to join us as we forge a bold new path into the future, crafting a better tomorrow for all.





Patrice L. Funderburg, MS
Executive Director



LifeWorks!

LW! provides people with criminal records the resources and tools necessary to reach their personal and professional goals through second chance employment trainings and opportunities.

		Graduated	Employed
250	Men & Women	91%	85%
142	Supportive Employment Participants	91%	85%
115	Working Smart Participants Soft Skills Training	71%	87%
105	Networking Participants		
95%	Did Not Recidivate		
37	Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program FIT connects those with chronic disease and mental health challenges to healthcare and re-entry services.		

LifeWorks! Participants

Edward McCallum, Damon Simpson, and Sheryl Yates

At Orientation I felt...

"Hope and the opportunity to receive assistance, no longer alone"

"Excited about the opportunity I knew taking this class would afford me."

"Extremely nervous to interview and talk about conviction"

Today I feel...

"Ambitious, well trained, capable, not bound by past mistakes"

"Like I've learned a lot more taking this class than I've learned in other classes I've taken"

"Confident to interview and land the job"

The thing I liked most about LifeWorks!...

"The staff involvement, the clear steps to change, the confidence building."

"The facilitators were awesome, they all took their job seriously in trying to give someone a second chance without judgment."

"Roleplaying everyday stressful situations in the workplace and life"



LifeWorks! Program Graduates

Second Chance Employer Spotlight



"Working with The Center For Community Transitions has been a delightful experience. Paul Torres has assisted AlSCO in our recruiting/hiring efforts by presenting us

with many qualified candidates who have sustained a career with us. On behalf of AlSCO, we are thankful for the ongoing professional relationship that has been established with The Center For Community Transitions. We look forward to further success!"

- Hannah Manu, AlSCO



Families Doing Time

FDT improves social-emotional learning and reading literacy of children affected by incarceration and deportation, and strengthens family resilience through caregiver support groups. Our commitment to these goals is reflected in the launch of the Justice Impacted Gals & Guys Youth (JIGGY) Group in March 2023 and the introduction of the Reentry Adjacent Program (RAP) Summer Youth Group in June 2023.

"I have witnessed the positive impact on my children. The support and resources provided by CCT have empowered us to overcome challenges and achieve personal growth. I am grateful for the opportunities and connections fostered by CCT, making a lasting difference in our journey."

~ Families Doing Time Participant

425 Third Tuesday Participants (Aug- May)

42 Average attendance per event

20 Students enrolled in EKWIP

10 Students enrolled in JIGGY

52 Students enrolled in RAP

10 School Partnerships (Bruns; Westerly Hills; Windsor Park; Ashley Park; James Martin Middle; Paw Creek Elem: Thomasboro Academy; Sugar Creek Charter; East Language Academy; MLK Middle)

2 Place Based Partnerships (McCrorey Family YMCA; Tuckaseegee Recreation Center)

15 Community Partnerships (40 Plus Double Dutch Club; No Grease Barber Shop; Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Community Engagement Team; Swing Phi Swing Social Organization; HERS by Weiner; Trinity Worship Center; Charlotte Mecklenburg Library; CCT Behavioral Health; Freedom Fighting Missionaries; UNC Charlotte- Women & Gender Studies Program; Covenant Presbyterian; Kingdom Builders Realty; Wesley Behavioral Health; Learning with a Purpose; NPC Quilting Group)

36 Home Visits

24 Wrap Around Service Referrals



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FDT Family Program Participants
Families Doing Time

[Click to watch participants talk about the FDT Program](#)



Center for Women

The Center for Women provides women, with 3 years or less left of their prison sentences, the supports and resources to successfully transition back into our community.

- 51** Women Served
- 28** Counties in North Carolina
- 37** African American
- 13** Caucasian
- 1** Multi Ethnic (American Indian)
- 46** Average Age with an age range of 28 to 61
- 44** Mothers of 110 children (39 younger than age 18)

"I really appreciate being able to talk to people who so clearly and genuinely care about my wellbeing and who are so dedicated to helping people in this situation reach our potential!"

Resident of the Center for Women who benefitted from Behavioral Health Services



Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health provides Center for Women residents personalized support through client-centered treatment grounded in compassion and personal accountability. Based on individual needs and concerns throughout a resident's stay at CCT, the program seeks to offer mental and emotional healing with a focus on preparing for a successful transition.

- 604** Individual therapy sessions
- 138** Peer Support sessions
- 48** Residents attended Individual therapy
- 98%** Percentage of residents received Behavior Health Services
- 40** Residents completed five or more sessions
- 62%** Reported meeting a minimum of one goal
- 107** Children indirectly benefited (includes adult children 18+)
- 39** Children indirectly benefited (includes children under age of 18)

"The Center for Women and therapy sessions have helped me build a life beyond my dreams"

Resident of the Center for Women who benefitted from Behavioral Health Services

Development & Fundraising

By fostering a culture of giving and building lasting relationships, Development and Fundraising embody CCT's dedication to creating a more just and supportive community for individuals transitioning from incarceration to a brighter future.



Black Philanthropy Month Campaign Success

CCT participated in Give 8/28, a day and movement devoted to championing financial support for Black-led and Black-benefiting nonprofit organizations, as hosted by NGAAP Charlotte and the Young, Black & Giving Back Institute. The outcome? A remarkable \$1,100 was raised within just 24 hours!



Giving Tuesday Campaign Success

This year, CCT participated in this global giving movement, inspiring communities worldwide to harness the spirit of goodwill by supporting their local nonprofit organizations. For our Families Doing Time program, we appealed for both monetary donations and the purchase of items from our Amazon wishlist.

The result? An astounding \$1,716 raised within a mere 24 hours! Furthermore, we are thrilled to share that our Amazon wishlist received generous contributions, including a TV, rolling TV stand, hula hoops, five seasonal tablecloths, a kickball, correction tape, and a football. This overwhelming response underscores the remarkable success of our Giving Tuesday campaign.

Art Auction for Second Chances

This year, for the first time, CCT showcased art from 4 different artists who were currently incarcerated in prisons across the South (NC, SC, VA). 60% of sales from each prison art piece was donated back to the artist to help reduce barriers they face getting the supplies and materials they need to continue creating art while incarcerated.



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Kenjuan Watkins
Families Doing Time Program Manager

*Click to watch Kenjuan thank donors
for their generous gifts on Giving Tuesday*

Thank You to the Artists & Sponsors!

Ryan Allen
Toni Evans
Liz Cisneros
Chantay Cooper
Mary Kameron
K. Liles
Brittany Burckhalter
Melvin Nix
Junior Gomez

Matthew Scott Honeycutt
Sam Schaber
Tinashe (Tina)
VincentElisha Cutter
Sheryl Brodie
Lauren McDowell
Tiffany Eby
Maura Bosbyshell
Wil Bosbyshell

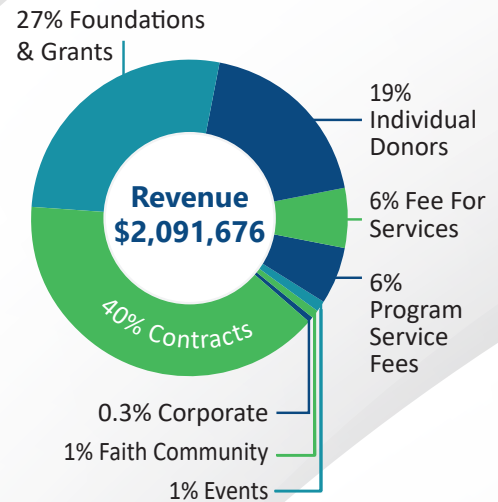
Angela Lolangi
April Lee
BraveWorks
Springclean (CT Anderson)
Evan Williams
Joseph Rackley
Julie Judge
Winford Galmon Jr.
Kim Gibbs

Barbara Ellis
Andrea Hazel
Alvin Jacobs Jr.
Glynn Cartledge
Selena McArthur
Elton McEachin
Mark Porter
Vance Wilson
Harmony Gardner



Fiscal Year 2023

(July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)



LifeWorks!

LifeWorks! provides people with criminal records the resources and tools necessary to reach their personal and professional goals through second chance employment trainings and opportunities.



Families Doing Time

Families Doing Time strengthens family resilience, improves social-emotional learning and reading literacy of children affected by incarceration and deportation.



Center for Women

Center for Women provides women, with 3 years or less left of their state prison sentences, the supports and resources to successfully transition back into the community.

Thank You to Our \$5,000+ Supporters

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www.centerforcommunitytransitions.org


LifeWorks! Program

The Goodwill Opportunity Campus
5301 Wilkinson Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28208
(704) 374-0762

Families Doing Time Program


Newell Presbyterian Church Education Building
1500 Rocky River Road, West, Charlotte, NC 28213
(704) 910-6387

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