

THE WALK DOESN'T END AT THE GATE

GRACE

goes on.

Dear friend,

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter, our seasonal letter from inside the work. In it: where Christmas Miracle is headed, what the first 72 hours after release really ask of a person, and five ways to pray with us this fall.

Thank you for walking with us.

The Four-Seven team



IN THIS ISSUE

- **LEAD: CHRISTMAS MIRACLE GOES STATEWIDE** p. 1
- 1 **REENTRY STARTS 180 DAYS OUT** p. 2
- 2 **THE FIRST 72 HOURS** p. 2
- 3 **WHAT THE DATA SAYS** p. 3
- 4 **FIVE PROGRAMS, ONE PATH HOME** p. 3
- 5 **FIVE PRAYERS FOR THE FALL** p. 4
- 6 **DATES THIS SEASON** p. 4
- 7 **WALK WITH US** p. 4

LEAD STORY · FAMILY SUPPORT

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

goes statewide.

From 25 prison sites in 2024 to a goal of all 29 Ohio state prisons and more than 600 families. Planning for this Christmas is already underway.

25

PRISON SITES, 2024

29OHIO STATE PRISONS: THE
GOAL

Stand with families Give at thefourseven.org or scan the code on page 4.

HOW REENTRY REALLY WORKS

REENTRY DOESN'T START AT THE GATE.

IT STARTS

180 days out.

A coordinator builds the plan six months early. Then walks it with you.



- DOCUMENTS**
Birth certificate, state ID, the papers every next step asks for.
- HOUSING**
A bed for the first night, then a place to stay.
- WORK**
Applications, second-chance employers, job fairs.
- RIDES**
Reliable transportation to supervision, work and appointments.
- FAMILY**
Reconnecting with the people waiting at home.

2 TRY IT YOURSELF

THE FIRST 72 HOURS

THE FIRST 72 HOURS.

Can you make it?

Seven tasks. Three days of 12 waking hours. A two-hour bus ride between each stop.

TASK	TIME	NEEDS FIRST	DEADLINE
REPORT FOR SUPERVISION	2h + 2h bus	—	Due today
FIND A BED FOR TONIGHT	4h + 2h bus	—	By 6:00 pm
TRACK DOWN A BIRTH CERTIFICATE	6h + 2h bus	—	—
GET A STATE ID	3h + 2h bus	A birth certificate	—
GET A PHONE	1h + 2h bus	—	—
APPLY FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE	3h + 2h bus	A state ID	—
APPLY FOR WORK	5h + 2h bus	A state ID and a phone	—

38 hours

On your own: 24 hours of tasks plus 14 hours on buses, against 36 waking hours. It doesn't fit.

13 hours

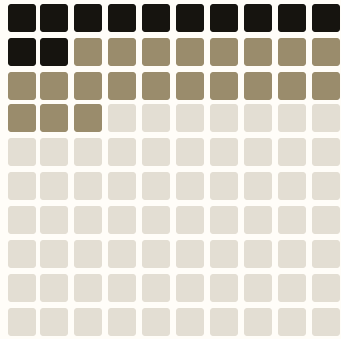
With a coordinator: the birth certificate, state ID and a bed are arranged before release, and rides take 30 minutes. What's left fits, with room to breathe.

An illustration, not a real case. Times and deadlines are simplified to show how the pieces depend on each other. Every person's situation and supervision terms are different. Try the interactive version at newsletter.thefourseven.org.

WHAT THE DATA SAYS *about coming home.*

OHIO · PEOPLE RELEASED IN 2016

OUT OF EVERY 100 PEOPLE WHO LEFT OHIO PRISONS



12 back in prison within year one

21 back in years two and three

67 did not return to prison

22,076 people released in 2016. 12.07% returned within one year, 32.69% within three. Rounded to whole people.¹

UNITED STATES · FINDING WORK

A JOB IS THE HARDEST DOOR TO OPEN

Unemployment, formerly incarcerated people **27.3%**

Unemployment, general public **5.8%**

Unemployed, within two years of release **>30%**

Data from 2008, the most recent national estimate of its kind. The Great Depression peaked at 24.9%.²

37%

More than a third of the people who went back to prison within three years went back in the first year. Our calculation from Ohio's 2016 figures: $12.07 \div 32.69$. That's why the first 90 days get the most attention.¹

MYTH OR FACT?

1 · MYTH

"Most people who leave prison end up back inside."

The fact: 2 in 3 released in Ohio in 2016 stayed out three years. (Ohio DRC)

2 · MYTH

"Rearrest and returning to prison are the same thing."

The fact: 62% were arrested within 3 years (34 states). Far fewer went back to prison. (BJS)

3 · MYTH

"Getting a job is the easy part."

The fact: 27.3% unemployed. Nearly five times everyone else. (Prison Policy Initiative)

4 · MYTH

"Nothing is really improving."

The fact: About 75% now stay out three or more years. Rates are falling. (CSG Justice Center)

4 OUR PROGRAMS

FIVE PROGRAMS. ONE PATH HOME.

1 REENTRY

FROM 180 DAYS BEFORE RELEASE

From plan to paycheck, and beyond.

Butler & Warren counties

2 INSIDE PRISON

PROGRAMS INSIDE OHIO INSTITUTIONS

Crossroads Anywhere, Building Success, QUEST, GO! Prison.

LeCI · DCI · WCI · CRC

3 FAMILY SUPPORT

FOR THE PEOPLE WAITING AT HOME

Families group and Christmas Miracle.

Across Ohio

4 DIGITAL REENTRY

THE FOUR-SEVEN APP

The plan, in your pocket.

Built by our own team

5 COMMUNITY

SUPPORT GROUPS & LOCAL PARTNERS

Breaking Chains, job fairs and partners.

Butler & Warren counties

FIVE PRAYERS FOR THE FALL

- ① For families getting ready for Christmas Miracle visits, and every child who walks in to see a parent.
- ② For the men and women 180 days from release, and the coordinators building their plans.
- ③ For the first 72 hours home: a bed, an ID, a ride, and someone who knows their name.
- ④ For the volunteers who go inside each week at LeCI, DCI, WCI and CRC.
- ⑤ For employers and landlords in Butler and Warren counties ready to open a second-chance door.

Monthly prayer gathering: first Tuesday, 7:30 AM, on Zoom. Led by Jessica Mount and Lauren Erickson.

DATES *this season*

TUE, OCT 6	Monthly prayer gathering, 7:30 AM Zoom
WED, OCT 7	Families group For families of people who are incarcerated
WED, OCT 14	Breaking Chains Men's support group, Crossroads Church
WED, OCT 28	Breaking Chains Men's support group, Crossroads Church
TUE, NOV 3	Monthly prayer gathering, 7:30 AM Zoom
WED, NOV 4	Families group For families of people who are incarcerated
WED, NOV 11	Breaking Chains Men's support group, Crossroads Church

- ◆ **Fall reentry simulations** · Inside partner institutions
- ◆ **Tuesday Talks with the ODRC** · Bimonthly
- ◆ **Inside Volunteer Training** · Required to serve inside
- ◆ **Second Chance job fairs** · Butler County

WALK WITH US. *Give, serve, partner.*

GIVE



Fund reentry coordinators, programs inside, and Christmas Miracle.

Scan, or give at thefourseven.org

SERVE



Six ways to serve, inside and out.

thefourseven.org/how-to-help

READ



The full interactive issue, Hope Letters and the email list.

newsletter.thefourseven.org

WHO LEADS THE WORK

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For all are deserving of grace.

1. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Recidivism Report (2016 release cohort).
2. Prison Policy Initiative, Out of Prison & Out of Work (2008 data).
3. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 34 States in 2012.
4. CSG Justice Center, 50 States, 1 Goal.