

STAR is a new reentry program for youth. This program received a three year grant in 2020 to assist youth as they return to our community from a period of incarceration or group home. STAR case navigators meet with the youth and family prior to a youth's release and completes a needs assessment

Once a youth is released, STAR navigators assist youth in obtaining identification, employment, enrolling in school and health care. STAR's funding began in the middle of the pandemic and some of the basic needs the youth and their families would require was not anticipated. Food insecurity is currently a number one concern.

Also, transportation costs for youth to get to counseling, school and other resources is an area not anticipated by the grant. Prophets of Hope has offered to provide grocery gift cards and/or bus passes to the STAR program. The youth's case navigators will distribute them as needed.

POH hopes in the future to be able to provide a welcome back gift basket (school supplies, t-shirts, socks, and personal care items) for a newly released youth. And, when appropriate health-wise, POH may have volunteers working with STAR youth.

We know that providing youth with resources and services increase their chances for a successful reintegration into the community; however, if they cannot get to the resources and/or are hungry their success will be elusive.

If you would like to assist POH's support of STAR please send donations to Peace UCC (memo: Jail Ministry) to 900 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 -or- through the DONATE link on our website, www.peaceunited.org using the drop down menu to select "Jail Ministry Fund".

POH will purchase the grocery gift cards and/or bus passes.

Thank you for supporting the youth of our community. If you have any questions, please contact revbevbrook@gmail.com