

## Working with Currently and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

*These DC-based organizations were featured in the September 3 James Forman, Jr. webinar.*

### 1. DC MEDIATION CENTER

Reentry Mediation provides an opportunity for a Justice-involved individual and family members or other support people to meet, with the help of a non-judgmental mediator, before release, to have an open, honest, and often difficult dialogue to prepare for the transition back into the community. By rebuilding relationships between Justice-involved individuals and family or support people in the community, Reentry Mediation taps into the resources indigenous to the community, strengthens these connections, and allows for collaborative transition planning. To find out more, call 240-766-5311 or click the link below.



#### **FIND OUT MORE**

### 2. DC REENTRY TASK FORCE

The DC Reentry Task Force involves community-based organizations, service providers, public advocates, attorneys, concerned residents, policy advisors, religious leaders, and, most importantly, D.C. returning citizens in efforts to assist those who are returning to communities in the District after years of incarceration in local and federal facilities.

**CONTACT:** Isa Mirza - [isa.j.mirza@gmail.com](mailto:isa.j.mirza@gmail.com) or Louis Sawyer - [louis.sawyer.jr@gmail.com](mailto:louis.sawyer.jr@gmail.com)

### 3. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF RETURNING CITIZENS

The National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens is active in assisting returning citizens in the DC area. They host a weekly support group for returning citizens (now on zoom) and, before Covid, were using volunteers to work in halfway houses and the community. They will resume these activities for volunteers as soon as restrictions are lifted.



**CONTACT:** Eric Weaver - [naarcadc@gmail.com](mailto:naarcadc@gmail.com)

### 4. NATIONAL REENTRY NETWORK FOR RETURNING CITIZENS

The mission of the National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens is to build a strong, national network comprised of individuals returning from incarceration who support each other's successful reintegration. We use a client-centered approach to identify basic needs and to create a continuum of care that can address barriers to reentry, promote restorative practices, and reduce recidivism. For information on how to get involved visit their website.

#### **FIND OUT MORE**

### 5. RETURNING CITIZENS ASSISTANCE NETWORK (RCAN)

RCAN is a network of congregations that works with the DC Public Defender Service to assist their clients who are currently or formerly incarcerated. Members of RCAN congregations assist these individuals by helping with emergency needs for food and clothing, assisting efforts to find employment and housing, and serving as mentors to provide friendship and guidance. Congregations in the network get information each month about PDS clients who need assistance and determine on a case-by-case basis who they can help. Congregations of any faith are invited to join RCAN.

**CONTACT:** Theo Brown at [dialogdays@gmail.com](mailto:dialogdays@gmail.com)

## 6. FREE MINDS BOOK CLUB

Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop uses the literary arts, workforce development, and violence prevention to connect incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youths and adults to their voices, their purpose, and the wider community. Our vision is that every Free Minds member is able to access the necessary opportunities, inspiration, and support to write new chapters in their lives.



Every week, Free Minds volunteers engage in a variety of interactive activities and events. Even though Covid-19 has put a temporary end to most in-person events, Free Minds has risen to the challenge and created new virtual programming. There are many ways volunteers can get involved including: joining a letter writing circle, helping to type up poems for incarcerated members, engaging in interactive workshops with incarcerated individuals, and donating books and supplies to incarcerated members.

### FIND OUT MORE

## 7. CAMPAIGN FOR FAIR SENTENCING OF YOUTH (CFSY)

This national nonprofit leads efforts to ban life-without-parole and other extreme sentences for children. The CFSY also partners with advocacy organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to support survivors of youth violence, those incarcerated as children who are still serving or have been released, and their respective families and communities. For more information about our advocacy efforts and/or to help provide supports for those that are returning home after serving extreme sentences as children, visit our website.



### FIND OUT MORE

## 8. VOICES FOR A SECOND CHANCE

Voices for a Second Chance works with justice-involved DC residents during incarceration and after their release to create, maintain and strengthen family and community ties. They use volunteers in the office and particularly can use help around the Holidays to organize and process donations to their Adopt a Family Program.



### FIND OUT MORE

## 9. MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

The Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools create learning communities in lower income urban areas where students who have not succeeded in traditional schools can succeed academically and socially. They also operate the Maya Angelou Academy at the New Beginnings secure facility for incarcerated youth in Laurel, MD. They use volunteers to serve as tutors and/or mentors at all their locations.

**CONTACT:** Anne Schoolcraft at [aschoolcraft@seeforever.org](mailto:aschoolcraft@seeforever.org)



McCLENDON SCHOLAR PROGRAM



THE NEW YORK AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH