



**2023**

# **IMPACT REPORT**



## FROM THE FOUNDER

I am pleased to present the 2023 Impact Report for Maryland Reentry Resource Center. As I reflect on the past year, it is with a profound sense of gratitude and accomplishment that we share our progress with you. Our commitment to Reduce Recidivism in Maryland remains unwavering. Throughout the year, we have strived to provide our program participants with support, assist them in removing barriers to reentry and empowering them to move from surviving to thriving with sustainable employment, stable housing, and support for their mental health needs.

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the dedicated efforts of our team, partners, collaborators, volunteers, and supporters. In 2023, we added a new team member, Brian Githehu, our Social Media and Communications Manager. We formed an Advisory Board. Our current members are Charlene Haykel, Ben Taylor, and Diane Butler. We launched our Reentry Workbook Campaign. We strengthened our partnerships with the Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council and the Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy to pilot our Chesapeake Restoration Workforce Initiative. We continued our partnership with the Annapolis Police Department to serve the community with needed services.





## FROM THE FOUNDER

We collaborated with several organizations to host our first Reentry Resource Fair, and we partnered with the RIDE program at Morgan State University to present “From Conviction to Redemption Impact Conference.

We purchased a van to assist program participants with transportation, and we opened a brick-and-mortar location in downtown Annapolis. The synergy of our collective efforts has been a driving force in our accomplishments and impact for 2023.

We understand the importance of fiscal management. I am pleased to report that through prudent fiscal practices, we have increased our budget from \$15,000 in 2019 to \$370,000 in 2023. We look forward to continuous growth in 2024, as we reach our five-year anniversary milestone.

While celebrating our successes, we acknowledge the challenges we faced in 2023. These obstacles have not deterred us but have fueled our determination to adapt and grow. In addressing these challenges, we have identified strategic opportunities for growth and improvement moving forward.



## FROM THE FOUNDER : SUCCESS STORIES

1

"You really made a significant impact on my life if you didn't know you're one of the main reasons I'll never be a recidivist. And I'm going to pay it forward. Thanks again Ms. Vanessa."

2

"Ms V, I just wanted you to know that I appreciate EVERYTHING that you have done for me, I wouldn't have done it without you thank you! ."

3

"Vanessa Bright has been an invaluable guiding light on my path toward making a meaningful impact. Her instrumental support and mentorship played a pivotal role in building my nonprofit organization. Vanessa's belief in my abilities empowered me to channel my talents effectively within the Maryland Reentry Resource Center."

4

"Her encouragement wasn't just about professional development; Vanessa motivated me to embrace personal growth, urging me to become the best version of myself. Through her guidance, I discovered latent talents that I had long overlooked or undervalued."

5

"Vanessa's unwavering support and guidance have been transformative. Her dedication to nurturing talents and fostering growth is truly commendable. I am deeply grateful for her mentorship and the profound impact she has had on my journey."





## FROM THE FOUNDER

As we embark on the upcoming year, we are enthusiastic about the potential for continued growth and positive change. Our strategic initiatives for 2024 include strengthening our Chesapeake Restoration Workforce Initiative with new employer partners and more storm water projects, and enhancing the level of services that we provide our program participants.

With your continued support, we are confident in our ability to make an even greater impact.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you, our dedicated team, generous supporters, committed volunteers and partners. Together we are building a brighter future for program participants and their families.

Vanessa Bright, Founder & Executive Director

# MEET OUR TEAM



**VANESSA F. BRIGHT**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**KENDRA KEITH**  
ADMINISTRATIVE OUTREACH  
MANAGER



**DELICIA ENNIS**  
CLIENT SUPPORT MANAGER



**BRIAN GITHEHU**  
SOCIAL MEDIA AND  
COMMUNICATIONS  
MANAGER



# BOARD OF ADVISORS



We are thrilled to introduce the esteemed members of our Advisory Board. These individuals bring a wealth of experience, diverse perspectives, and a shared commitment to advancing MDRRC's mission. We want to add two members to this dynamic group.

**CHARLENE HAYKEL**



**BEN TAYLOR**



**DIANE BUTLER.**





## IMPACT AT A GLANCE



- \$18,000 Provided client assistance which includes food, clothing, transportation, driver's education, IDs, housing and other miscellaneous support.
- \$31,000 Stipends provided for transitional employment.
- 500 children received toys for Christmas.
- 100 received school supplies.
- 34 Individuals per month, received individualized client support/case management.
- 9 graduated from our Chesapeake Restoration Workforce Initiative and received industry certifications, CBLP-A and Crews.
- 3 graduated with HVAC certificates from Anne Arundel Community College
- 400 workbooks purchased for incarcerated individuals.





# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER



## DURING THE **FIRST** QUARTER OF 2023:

Welcoming Brian Githehu as our new Social Media and Communications Manager is a significant milestone for the Maryland Reentry Resource Center. Hailing from Nairobi, Kenya, Brian's unique perspective and talent have allowed him to seamlessly integrate into his role. Despite the geographical distance, he excels in crafting compelling narratives and managing our social media presence. Brian's strategic communication approach has tangibly impacted our community, enhancing engagement and awareness of MDRRC's vital work. His ability to transcend borders underscores the global reach of our mission, demonstrating how a remote team member can contribute to our organization's success. We eagerly anticipate the ongoing positive influence Brian will bring to our communications efforts and the broader Maryland Reentry community.

We launched the "Create Your Life Plan Now: Your Blueprint to Reentry" Workbook campaign. The workbook when followed will help change the trajectory of an incarcerated individual's life. The workbook focuses on soft skills, also referred to as life skills, which one can take wherever they go in life, no matter what they do. Soft skills characterize how a person interacts in relationships with others, including communication time management, problem solving and conflict resolution. Almost every employer that we have talked to says that they can train an individual to do the job, but it is the soft skills that are missing, and which are very important. Reentry should begin the day after an individual begins serving their sentence, but too often the process starts too late to be beneficial. The workbook serves as a guide to provide individuals with strategies and resources to prepare for their return home so that they can 'hit the ground running'.

Additionally, a portion of the money for the book which costs, \$35.00, goes back into Maryland Reentry Resource Center so that we can continue to provide services to individuals when they return home.



# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER



## DURING THE **SECOND** QUARTER OF 2023:

We moved into our brick-and-mortar location at 77 West Street, Suite 110, Annapolis Maryland.

While virtual services have proven valuable in serving returning citizens, establishing a physical space adds a crucial dimension to our mission. A physical location provides a tangible and accessible hub where returning citizens can receive personalized support, fostering a sense of community and connection.

Face-to-face interactions allow for deeper engagement, enabling us to better understand and address individual needs. A physical space also facilitates in-person workshops, counseling sessions, and skill-building activities, enhancing the quality and impact of our programs. Additionally, having a central hub fosters a supportive environment, encouraging returning citizens to build relationships with peers and mentors, creating a network that extends beyond virtual interactions. Ultimately, physical space complements our virtual efforts, offering a comprehensive and holistic approach to reentry support, ensuring that returning citizens receive the multifaceted assistance necessary for a successful reintegration into society.





# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER



## DURING THE **SECOND** QUARTER OF 2023:

We launched our Chesapeake Restoration Workforce Initiative.

Participants participated in 8 weeks of both life skills and technical skills training. This initiative provides an ongoing source of personnel, in effect, a sustained, ready cadre of trained individuals, able to provide on the ground, last mile services to government, for profit, and non-profit organizations engaged in critical Chesapeake Bay restoration work. Life skills training includes financial literacy, communication skills, career readiness, goal setting, character development and entrepreneurship. Individuals are trained in green infrastructure maintenance, tree planting, and invasive plant species management because these are all areas where specialized skills are required to fill the unmet needs of the restoration community. Upon successful completion of the training, participants received a CBLP-A and Crews certification and are recognized as certified landscape associates.



# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER



## DURING THE **SECOND** QUARTER OF 2023:

We hosted our first Reentry Resource Fair at Pip Moyer Community Center. A reentry resource fair is an event designed to provide individuals who are returning to the community after incarceration with access to a wide range of support services, resources, and information in one place.

Our event brought together organizations, agencies, and service providers that helped in areas such as employment, housing, healthcare, education, legal support, mental health, substance abuse treatment, and more. Agencies included the Kaiser Mobile Health Unit, Anne Arundel Workforce Development, the Motor Vehicle Administration, Maryland Legal Aid, Anne Arundel Health Department, Anne Arundel Literacy Council, BGE, Connected Communities Behavioral Wellness, Employers---Express Pros and Clark Construction, and our wonderful sponsors Kaiser Foundation and Wellpoint. Attendees had the opportunity to interact directly with representatives from these organizations, gather information about available services, and explore potential pathways to successful reintegration. Reentry resource fairs aim to empower individuals with the tools and resources they need to overcome challenges often faced during the reentry process, promoting a smoother transition, and reducing the likelihood of recidivism.





# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER



## DURING THE **THIRD** QUARTER OF 2023:

We purchased a van with a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. A van plays a crucial role in reentry programs by addressing transportation challenges faced by individuals transitioning from incarceration. It ensures participants can access the program by providing transportation to and from the center.

Additionally, the van facilitates coordination of essential services, including job interviews, counseling sessions, and medical appointments, eliminating transportation barriers. Moreover, the van becomes a valuable asset for community engagement, enabling outreach events, workshops, and educational programs that extend the program's impact and connection with a broader audience.

In summary, having a van enhances the reentry program's capacity to overcome transportation obstacles, support participants in accessing vital services, and contribute to their successful reintroduction into society.

We also held a back-to-school distribution where we served over 100 children with backpacks and school supplies so that they could begin the year with the tools they needed to be successful.

In partnership with the Annapolis Police Department we served over 500 children with toys for Christmas so that they could experience the magic and joy of the holiday.



# WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER



## DURING THE **FOURTH** QUARTER OF 2023:

We closed out the year with our Open House.

The Open House was an opportunity for us to engage with the community. We were able to highlight the impact of the organization's programs and services on the lives of individuals reintegrating into society after incarceration. The open house allowed community members, stakeholders, and potential partners to witness firsthand the positive outcomes and success stories resulting from the organization's efforts. It fostered transparency, building trust and credibility with the community. Additionally, the event created a space for networking and collaboration, encouraging the formation of partnerships that can further support the reentry mission. The open house was a powerful tool for raising awareness, garnering support, and solidifying the organization's place as a valuable resource in the community.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**BREAKING FREE - HEALING CIRCLES FOR BLACK MEN**  
**FEBRUARY 17TH - THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH**



**EMBRACE YOU : A JOURNEY TO SELF LOVE & SELF**  
**EMPOWERMENT - HEALING CIRCLES FOR BLACK WOMEN**  
**FEBRUARY 14TH**



**2ND ANNUAL MDRRC LANDSCAPING COHORT**  
**MARCH 4TH**



**2ND ANNUAL MDRRC RESOURCE FAIR**  
**APRIL 26TH**



# CONNECT WITH US



## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN CONNECT WITH US!

At MDRRC, we believe in the power of connection and collaboration. Your engagement and feedback play a crucial role in shaping our impact and drive positive change. We invite you to connect with us, share your thoughts, and be part of our journey towards making a difference.

Whether you have questions, suggestions, or simply want to learn more about our initiatives, we're here for you. Reach out to us through the following channels:



[MDRRC.org](http://MDRRC.org)



[LinkedIn: MD\\_Reentry](#)



[IG: md\\_reentry](#)



[FB: mdreentry](#)



[WT: mdreentryresourcecen2620](#)







## PARTNER WITH US



### HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US.

We believe in the transformative power of partnerships to amplify our impact. Together, we can achieve more and create lasting change. We invite you to explore collaboration opportunities and join us in our mission to make a meaningful difference.

 [admin@mdrrc.org](mailto:admin@mdrrc.org)

 410-429-0107

 [Get Involved](#)