



# Newsletter

Providing transitional housing and Bible-centered mentorship for women leaving incarceration.

## Plans for Success

At our annual meeting on October 20, 2018, Shiloh Village celebrated its fourth anniversary as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



We've been busy this year evaluating possible building sites and attending conferences, seminars, and learning labs to better equip us as we move forward.

We've finished the final draft of the *Shiloh Village Vision and Development Plan* and will revisit it to make adjustments as needed when we obtain a building site.

During our business meeting, Karen Adkins, Joanie Cushing, Debby Hicks, and Jens Kiel were unanimously re-elected to the board for a three-year term.

Commitment Pledge forms were distributed, reviewed and signed by all board members present.

Our board has worked to understand the needs of incarcerated women, who suffer through the various forms of hardships induced by imprisonment.

Homelessness, poverty, violence, child care, and employment are just a few of the challenges women face when they're released.

We want to offer more than just a warm bed during the re-entry process. To keep from slipping back into their old habits, they'll receive job and life skills training in a faith based, community environment.

To show our appreciation for our board members, we asked Christy Jo Berry of Brass Bell Pottery in St. Albans, to custom-design a vase for each board member in shades of purple and gold. Imprinted on the bottom was the Shiloh Village logo.



The Board of Directors recommendations for 2019:

- ◆ Community speaking engagements to promote Shiloh Village
- ◆ Website upgrades to enhance information delivery
- ◆ Greater board participation in conferences and outreach opportunities
- ◆ A return trip to Restoration House in Knoxville, TN, for program guidance
- ◆ Visit Project Hope (housing) in Huntington, WV
- ◆ Tour Greenville Senior Living and Community Center in Greenville, WV, a possible prototype for the Shiloh Village apartment complex
- ◆ Complete a volunteer and mentor handbook
- ◆ Partnerships with churches and organizations to support Shiloh Village

Lunch from Olive Garden and a cake, topped off our four-year anniversary celebration.

All roads lead to . . .



**Shiloh Village!**

## Snack Attack!



In 2009, Seth Sundberg was sentenced to five years for a fraudulent \$5 million tax refund. The former pro basketball player had

managed a California mortgage office and went from the comfortable life inside a real-estate bubble to a prison-kitchen job that paid \$5.25 a month. It was in that kitchen, Sundberg became the entrepreneur he is now.

He noticed a label on a box of frozen chicken that said "Not for Human Consumption." Sundberg not only swore off prison chicken forever, he began to hunt the prison commissary for nutritious, protein-rich bulk foods to supplement the subpar institutional meals.

He developed a recipe with another prisoner using trail mix, oatmeal, peanut butter and honey that merged to form a tasty, satisfying granola bar. Soon Sundberg and his partner were making about \$200 per month selling the bars to other prisoners.

Upon his release, Sundberg sought help from a non profit, Defy Ventures, that offered him mentorship,

## Who Cares?

It's the holiday season, but many incarcerated Americans won't get presents directly from home. To stop drugs and weapons from entering jails and prisons, many corrections agencies bar family members from mailing packages or bringing them during visits. Those who want to send food, clothing and other gifts to incarcerated relatives—at any time of year—often must go through private vendors.



Companies often offer their services at no charge to corrections agencies along with a share of the profits. In its bid for the **West Virginia** contract, Union Supply Group, which oversees Union Supply Direct, projected that the state stood to earn about \$95,000 in one year, based on a 17 percent commission of annual care package sales.

business training, and limited funding. A year later, Sundberg launched a company called Prison Bars. He improved on the recipe, and on July 6, 2018, he announced the launch and rebranding of the company's new **Inside-Out Bar**, a prebiotic and probiotic packed protein bar.

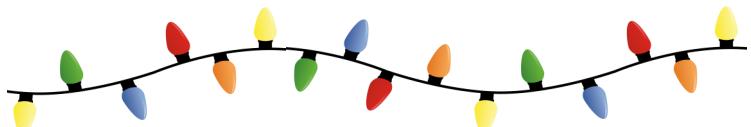
Sundberg uses organic, non-GMO and gluten-free ingredients in the "criminally delicious" snacks. The company markets and distributes the bars online and in the San Francisco area. It currently employs 25 people who were formerly incarcerated.

They plan to expand to other cities with former prisoners as representatives. "Our goal is to hire the best and the brightest into our workforce, regardless of their criminal record," he said.



Sundberg is committed to helping reduce the number of repeat offenders, while increasing awareness about a dysfunctional prison system that houses 2.4 million individuals. The company provides **second chances** for those with a criminal history to help them reclaim their lives after serving their time.

Source: [www.insideoutbar.com](http://www.insideoutbar.com) - 2018



## Prison Reform Opens Doors

President Trump threw his support behind a bipartisan bill to reform federal sentencing guidelines on November 14, 2018, which he said would "reduce crime while giving our fellow citizens a chance at redemption."

We're all better off when former inmates can receive and re-enter society as law-abiding, productive citizens," Trump said in brief remarks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. "And thanks to our booming economy, they now have a chance at more opportunities than they've ever had before."



The so-called First Step Act, the first major rewrite of the nation's criminal justice sentencing laws in a generation, will boost rehabilitation efforts for federal prisoners and give judges more discretion for drug offenses.

In particular, the bill lowers the mandatory minimum

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sentence for non-violent repeat drug offenders from 25 to 20 years, reduces mandatory minimums for other crimes from 20 to 15 years, and makes no distinction between powder cocaine and crack cocaine.

The House approved a prison reform bill in May 2018, but the Senate package makes additional changes and adds the sentencing component.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., called Trump's announcement "... an encouraging sign that we can achieve substantive reforms to our criminal justice system in this Congress.

**Redemption** is at the heart of the American Idea, and that's what this is about," he said.

The federal inmate population now stands at about 181,400, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Still, that's about triple the number of inmates in federal detention 30 years ago. Roughly 90 percent of prison inmates are held in state facilities and would not be affected by the legislation.

The House bill directs the Bureau of Prisons to conduct assessments for every offender once he or she is sentenced and to offer rehabilitation plans designed to lower the chance of recidivism. The plans would include vocational training, education, counseling and substance abuse treatment.

Sources: Fox News/Associated Press - 2018

## What You Pay For WV Prisons

In Fiscal Year 2015, the West Virginia Division of Corrections (WVDOC) had \$188 million in prison expenditures. The total cost of West Virginia's prisons, to incarcerate an average daily population of 6,882, costs each state resident **\$103 annually**.

Determining the total cost of state prisons requires accounting for expenditures in all areas of government that support the prison system—not just those within the corrections budget.

*The Price of Prisons: Examining State Spending Trends, 2010-2015 - Vera Institute of Justice*



## Sharing Ideas, Inspiring Action



Our executive director and secretary were awarded scholarships to attend the 2018 West Virginia Nonprofit Leadership Summit, held September 25-26 at the Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center in Davis, West Virginia.

The conference produced opportunities to network with like-minded nonprofits in our state, and to explore ways to share resources, collaborate, and exchange ideas with dozens of peers and experts who understand the unique needs of West Virginia nonprofits.

The Keynote Speaker was Beth Kanter, an authority in the nonprofit sector whose expertise is highly sought after. In 2016, she published her third book, *"The Happy, Healthy Nonprofit: Strategies for Impact without Burnout."* She also authors Beth's Blog, one of the longest running and most popular nonprofit blogs.



The Self-Care Plan Ms. Kanter presented, spells out daily activities that reduce stress and revitalize the spirit.

The conference room's floor to ceiling windows drew the outdoors in, and the deer who roamed outside in the grassy areas, captivated participants. The wildlife and scenery produced stress-reduction

and calming effects and seemed to give weight to a key aspect of the plan: *Stop what you're doing at least once a day to go outside.*

Becky Mathis-Stump, Esquire, the Chief Operating Officer of Ethos Leadership Group, emphasized how donors and volunteers can be powerful ambassadors for our organizations, but many are reluctant to tell our nonprofit stories.

In her workshop, *Shout It Out Loud: Equipping Donors and Volunteers to Tell Your Story*, she identified the most common reasons they don't, and



Becky Mathis-Stump and Gail Kopf

discussed strategies to overcome those barriers, and equip our donors and volunteers to shout our stories out loud.

Other helpful learning labs were: *How Your Nonprofit Can Use Social Media to Inform, Engage and Recruit;* *Create a Plan to Promote Your Value;* and *Nonprofit Board Governance.*

A guidebook from The Hub West Virginia, explained how to create a blueprint to rally others in the community that share an interest in helping women released from jail or prison. The Hub West Virginia, helps to create initiatives that address community opportunities and challenges.

The mission statement of the WV Nonprofit Association is "Serving Nonprofits. Strengthening West Virginia."

When nonprofits like Shiloh Village work with and through organizations and individuals outside themselves, they can create a much larger impact than they could achieve alone.



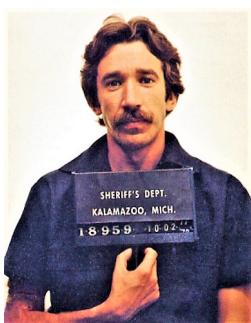
## Wheel of Fortune

Supervision agencies across the country are increasingly incorporating case management approaches when supervising people on **probation** or **parole**. The most common lead case planners are providers of community-based behavioral health, community agencies that support probation and parole, and correctional agencies that provide oversight for local jails or state prisons.

The following infographic shows an example centered around the lead case planner who oversees the planning process and engages the person leaving incarceration, their support system, and each partnering agency during the reentry process.



## Caught Red-Handed



Most of America knows Tim Allen best as the genial, lovable dad from TV's *Home Improvement* and his current red-state reassurance sitcom, *Last Man Standing*. But if you were looking for cocaine in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the 70s, you might have known him as your drug dealer.

So many people knew him as a dealer, that in 1978, an undercover officer set up a sting operation that might have landed Allen in jail for life, had he not snitched on nearly two dozen other dealers. He served over two years in a federal prison. "It was a watershed moment," Allen said in an issue of *Closer*. "It put me in a position of great humility, and I was able to make amends to friends and family, and refocus my life on setting and achieving goals." Slowly, Allen began to open his heart to God as he saw His guiding hand throughout his struggles; he reached a point where he dedicated his life to Christ.

In a recent episode from *Last Man Standing*, Allen found a way to incorporate Jesus Christ into the script. Despite getting constant flack for talking about his faith, the scene shows that Allen refuses to back down. With over a decade of sobriety from alcohol, Allen is free to enjoy his family. Allen's life boasts of God's redeeming grace and goodness, and proves that no man is too far gone. Even when he pushed God away, Allen was able to find Him again.

