



# CJM Connection

The newsletter of Criminal Justice Ministry St. Louis

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### Building Community

On August 8, volunteers, current and former clients and CJM staff came together for an end of summer bar-b-que. This was an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of the many volunteers who have helped our clients in direct and indirect ways. It was also an opportunity for our clients to be part of community, and participate in a summer tradition. It was heartwarming to see Mission Welcome Home volunteers reconnect with clients with whom they had shared a welcome home meal.

Larry, a participant in the R2R program, shared his experience returning home. He expressed gratitude for all those who gave him a chance, including Laughing Bear Bakery, where he is employed.

Tim, a volunteer at the Transition Center St. Louis, shared powerful stories of how his understanding of the incarcerated has been changed through his coming to know the men he serves. He has been impacted by the experience of service and living out his faith,



We appreciate all those who contributed to the event, including St. Vincent de Paul parish for allowing us to use their space, the volunteers from Boeing Global Engagement who came to set up and serve, Pappy's Smokehouse for contributing food, and Doug Evans for grilling.

## Staff Changes

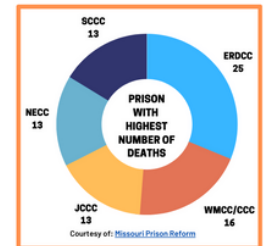


We are excited to welcome Stefanie Moore as the Director of Reentry Programs. Stefanie holds an MA in Criminal Justice and brings great experience to this role.

She is an adjunct instructor in Criminal Justice at both Maryville and Lindenwood Universities. She was most recently the Site Director for Ashland University's Correctional Educational Program at Missouri Eastern Correctional Center. Her career includes experience at Gateway Foundation as a Reentry Specialist Supervisor, and at Keyway (formerly CWIT) as a Reentry Case Manager, and working with juveniles and families entangled in the foster care system. She serves on several boards across the St. Louis, including as Chairperson, and is a trained community mediator for Community Mediations of St. Louis. Stefanie also served as the Research Chair for St. Louis Alliance for Reentry (STAR) in the past.

In October, Paul Faust will begin a transition from Case Manager for the Release to Rent Veterans program to become the Volunteer and Ministry Coordinator. Paul has been involved with CJM for many years, starting as a volunteer, and then as a practicum student. He has served as a Board Member and facilitated Peer Support Groups before becoming a case manager in the R2R Veterans program. Paul says "I'm passionate about our mission and grateful for the opportunity to serve."

### Reality of carceral state in Missouri



In 2022, 134 deaths were reported of individuals in the custody of the Missouri DOC. Five prisons accounted for the majority of these deaths. Absent in the Missouri legislature is any efforts to oversee, hold hearings, or investigate the significant death tolls in Missouri prisons.



As issues of incarceration affect every community in Missouri, we will host townhalls across the state to bring impacted community members together in order to unify and build a coalition to affect necessary change, advocate for humane conditions, and move forward in unity. We will screen *The First Step* Documentary, hear from a panel featuring impacted people, share information, and have Q & A.



## Upcoming Events

**October 21** - Service Day - help clean, paint, and weatherize apartments to create a home for our returning citizens.

**December** - Christmas Cookies - bakers please get ready to make cookies for the incarcerated and clients in our transitional housing program. Collection dates to be announced soon.

Contact [info@cjmstlouis.org](mailto:info@cjmstlouis.org) to sign-up.

## Openings

CJM has two opportunities available for Case Managers to work with women and veterans in our Release to Rent Reentry Housing programs.

We encourage those with lived experience in the criminal justice system to apply. We provide a competitive salary and benefits package.

See the postings on our website at:  
<https://www.cjmstlouis.org/jobs>



