

Released: Searching for Dignity and Respect Through Prison Re-entry Initiatives

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Each year, over 650,000 inmates are released from U.S. prisons, which includes 45,000 inmates within the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). Over the last decade, the number of offenders in the BOP has seen an increase of over 45 percent, with African and Hispanic -Americans representing 70 percent of the overall population. This paper chronicles my perceptions and thoughts as the four-year volunteer coordinator of the Victim Impact Program at Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) McKean, and how re-entry initiatives are being used to establish a sense of dignity and respect for released inmates.