



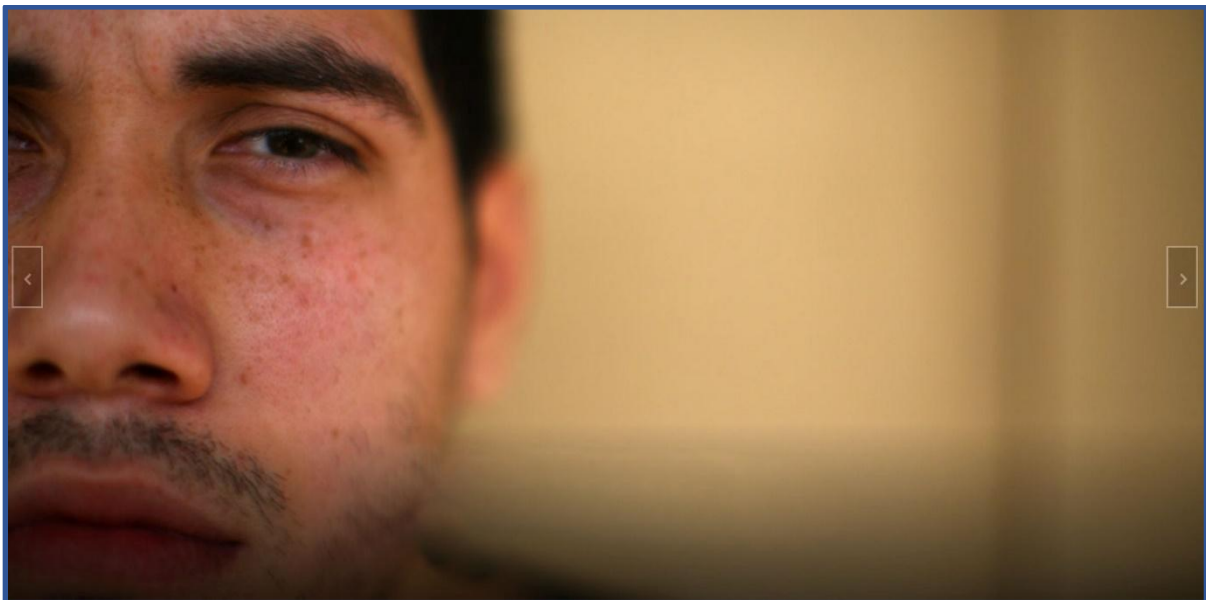
**The Journey to Successful and Sustainable Re-entry Begins Here**



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## THE SITUATION

**The Regional Realities of Reentry.** Every day, five days a week, 245 days a year, at around 2 pm, 50 or so of the approximately 13,500 men\* released annually from Texas Department of Criminal Justice prisons to the Houston area, arrive by public Greyhound bus and get off at the Houston Midtown bus terminal.

Having been isolated from society and the ever-changing world for a number of years, many returning citizens lack the basic knowledge of what to do upon release. They do not know where to go next nor have the understanding to access, much less how to find and navigate through all the regional service providers and ministries options that could enable them to successfully transition back into Houston communities and neighborhoods.

Logistically, Houston is a challenging city for anyone to navigate. It is not only initially overwhelming and frightening for many returning citizens to get around in, it is also difficult because they have no money, no job, basically no means of financial support. It even becomes more difficult when they have no identification, no transportation and oftentimes no family willing to help, or a safe home to return to.

## THE PROBLEM

**The Regional Problem.** Houston is highly blessed to have numerous social service providers, non-profit organizations, and faith-based ministries that are dedicated to serving returning citizens and their families. The problem lies in the vastness of the region, and the fact that there has not been a ***centralized physical location to access needed social services and ministries, technological integration and data sharing across all the providers and ministry resources.*** Services and ministries are disparate, fragmented and splintered across the county, with not one single provider able to deliver a turn-key, holistic, wrap-around model for a returning citizen's re-entry.

## THE NEEDS

**The Needs and Challenges of Reentry.** Three distinct overarching needs and challenges have been experienced and identified while serving the returning citizen population and their families:

- The necessity to have a prior connection and easy access to varied social services and faith-based ministries immediately on 'Release Day', under one roof, in a safe, central Houston location;
- Pre- and Post-release mentors and certified life coaches present on 'Release Day' as shepherds and advocates at the onset of the re-entry journey;
- More congregations and faith-driven volunteers willing to step up and answer the call to unconditionally disciple the returning citizen population and their families to whole hearts and transformed lives.





## THE SOLUTION

### **CrossWalk Center**

Houston's first integrated reentry hub of social services and faith-based ministries that will co-exist to serve a great number of returning citizens and their families in an undisbursed, more efficient and cohesive manner.

### **Faith**

CrossWalk Center, a 501(c) (3), is a Christ-centered, "faith driven" organization and missional community. The board, staff, donors, volunteers and key partners all believe they've been called to coalesce, to express and bring unity through Jesus Christ in order to serve re-entering citizens.

**Vision** CrossWalk Center's vision is that not one citizen will return to a life of incarceration due to a lack of access to mentoring, community support, love and a transformed life through God and Jesus Christ, His Son.

**Mission** CrossWalk Center's mission is to serve the Kingdom of God by unconditionally welcoming, serving and mentoring returning citizens, giving them hope and a future.

### **Values**

We believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.  
We believe God respects each individual, therefore we are called to give respect.  
We believe every human being has inherent value, therefore we do not devalue.  
We believe that family is the core institution and of fundamental importance.  
We believe in maintaining a healthy work/spiritual/life balance.  
We believe we are stewards of gifts, talents, and resources freely given by grace.

## SERVICES & MINISTRIES

### **Pre-Release Services & Ministries “UPSTREAM”**

- Mentors & Coaches
- CrossWalk Center Re-entry Questionnaire and Re-entry Planning

### **‘First Stop’ Release Day Services & Ministries “MIDSTREAM”**

- Family Reunification
- Family-Style Meal “First Supper”
- Orientation & Reentry Coach Connection
- Church Family Introduction
- Transportation
- Clothing & Personal Effects
- Medical and Healthcare Assistance
- Identification Documentation Assistance

### **Post Release/Aftercare and Ongoing Partner Services & Ministries “DOWNSTREAM”**

- Housing
- Church Family Integration
- Community Reintegration
- Education & Training/GED Assistance
- Work Readiness, Employment Coaching & Assistance
- Financial Literacy
- Individual Counseling
- Counseling for Families of Prisoners
- Men’s and Women’s Support Groups
- Certified Substance Abuse
- Certified Anger Management Counseling
- Certified Family & Marital Counseling
- Legal Counsel

**CrossWalk Center** is the region’s re-entry resources network and physically centralized hub, where businesses, governments, social service providers, and diverse faith-based communities, churches and para-church ministries, collaborate, cooperate, share best practices and serve unconditionally, for the sole purpose of successfully reintegrating returning citizens, and their families back into our neighborhoods and communities.

We serve as Life Coaches for sustainable re-entry, not just focusing on handing out information pamphlets, but connecting the individual and family to people and resources that will help them in their journey for as long it takes. CrossWalk Center’s premise is a healthy, holistic, wrap-around services, ministry, and Christian community approach instead of a corrections approach.

The CrossWalk Center model moves individuals to responsible self-management with coaches from the community with a body of believers in order to change the ingrained mindset of automatic societal failure to a heart and outward expression of success through transformational discipleship and coaching.

**CrossWalk Center** has a bold, but achievable vision of coalescing select social services and regional faith-based ministries, in partnership, driven by missional hearts grounded in the culture of Christianity.

## GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- **FIRST YEAR PILOT** - Serve and/or coach up to 1000 returning citizens of the estimated 13,500+ inmates expected to be released to Harris County in 2016-17.
- Establish Partnerships with existing Mentor groups to assist in selecting inmates that are in a 'state of change', that have a willingness to re-enter society through the support of CrossWalk Center and its Re-entry Coaches.
- Continue to serve the returning citizens and their families, with post release Re-entry Coaching, aftercare services at and through CrossWalk Center and its Partners. Immediate focus is on ANY barrier to reentry: *transportation, ID, housing, employment, education*. CrossWalk Center aligns and partners with the 'best of the best' experts in Houston to address each barrier.
- Further grow the missional impact of Houston's faith-based congregations by engaging them to serve the returning citizens community, within their church family, in their neighborhoods and communities, and as regular volunteers at the CrossWalk Center.
- On CrossWalk Center website, establish and maintain keyword searchable, filterable Regional Reentry Resources Database, operate 24/7 Re-entry Referral Hotline 000-000-0000
- Train up to 100 CrossWalk Center Re-entry Coaches, to serve inside designated Texas Department of Criminal Justice prison units once an individual has been approved for parole or has a discharge date, and has been recommended by Chaplaincy and/or a Mentor to re-enter society through CrossWalk Center. To-date 20+ volunteers have been trained at CrossWalk Center through our Partner Portal Houston.
- Set the standards, criteria and benchmarks to evaluate, select existing transitional homes and/or assist in establishing new transitional homes with a discipleship housing model and programming.
- Seek like-minded social service and ministry partners that fit and align with the CrossWalk Center vision and mission for re-entry to be housed at the Hub facility, and share overhead expenses in an Executive Suite Style Model.



## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF PRISONER REENTRY IN HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

The purpose of this section is to highlight the potential positive economic impact of the **CrossWalk Center, Houston's Hopeful Reentry Hub**.

### THREE COSTS OF FAILED REENTRY:

1. **LEGAL** – Cost of re-arrest, re-adjudicate the new case, and send to prison/state jail.
2. **PRISON** – Cost per year to re-incarcerate
3. **SOCIAL ASSISTANCE** – Financial burden of the family on society  
This cost includes food stamps, health care, child support issues and all other social services costs provided to the family by the state. In addition, there is the offender's lost wages (economic benefit) and loss of a taxpayer.

**THIS ANALYSIS ONLY ADDRESSES ONE OUT OF THREE COSTS OF FAILED REENTRY**

### **2. PRISON – Cost per year to re-incarcerate**

### THE COSTS GOING IN:

**26,647 Total Individuals from Harris County Sentenced to State Level Confinement.**<sup>1</sup>

>> **Number of Such Individuals Sentenced to State Jail:**<sup>2</sup> **2,535** (10%)

- Average Cost to the State to Incarcerate One Individual in State Jail, Per Day:<sup>3</sup> **\$47.30**
- Average Cost to the State to Incarcerate the Entire Population of Individuals from Harris County Sentenced to State Jail, Per Year: **\$44 Million**

- >> **Number of Such Individuals Sentenced to Prison:** <sup>4</sup> **23,998** (90%)
  - Average Cost to the State to Incarcerate One Individual in Prison, Per Day:<sup>5</sup> **\$50.91**
  - Average Cost to the State to Incarcerate the Entire Population of Individuals from Harris County Sentenced to Prison, Per Year: **\$446 Million**
  
- >> **Number of Such Individuals Placed in a Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facilities (SAFPFs):** <sup>6</sup> **114** (<1%)
  - Average Cost to the State to Place One Individual in a SAFPF, Per Day:<sup>6</sup> **\$62.68**
  - Average Cost to the State to House and Treat the Entire Population of Individuals from Harris County Placed in a SAFPF, Per Year: **\$2.6 Million**

#### THE COSTS COMING OUT:

**13,466 Total Individuals Released to Harris County** from State Level Confinement in One Year.<sup>7</sup>

- >> **Number of Individuals Released to Community Supervision:** <sup>8</sup> **229** (2%)
  - Statewide Average Cost to Have One Individual on Probation, Per Day:<sup>9</sup> **\$1.63**
  - Average Cost to the State for the Entire Harris County Post-Release Probation Population, Per Year: **\$136 Thousand**
  
- >> **Number of Individuals Released to Parole Supervision:** <sup>10</sup> **6,168** (46%)
  - Statewide Average Cost to Have One Individual on Parole, Per Day:<sup>11</sup> **\$4.04**
  - Average Cost to the State for the Entire Harris County Parole Population, Per Year: **\$154 Million**
  
- >> **Number of Individuals Released on Flat Discharge:** <sup>12</sup> **7,069** (52%)

#### COSTS OF RECIDIVISM OR RETURNING TO PRISON:

**1,062 Harris County Individuals Returned to Prison in 2014.**<sup>13</sup>

- Average Cost to the State to Incarcerate One Individual in Prison, Per Day:<sup>5</sup> **\$50.91**
- Average Cost to the State to Incarcerate One Individual in Prison, Per Year: **\$18,583**
  
- >> **Cost to the State to Imprison 1,062 Recidivated Individuals from Harris County, Per Year: \$19.7 Million**
  
- >> **The above per year cost DOES NOT INCLUDE costs to re-adjudicate, burden of family members on public social services, and lost tax revenue from loss of a tax-payer's wages, etc.**

#### CALCULATING THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF CROSSWALK CENTER, HOUSTON'S HOPEFUL REENTRY HUB

- >> **The annual investment for the CrossWalk Center's First Year Pilot to begin operating September 1, 2016 is: \$550,000.**

This investment will provide for startup services and ministry capacity for 1000 clients in our first year. It will also set us on a path to realize annual incremental growth in the number of clients served, begin to set mechanisms in place for our long-term sustainability, and position CrossWalk Center to strategically and thoughtfully expand and offer 'reentry' services and ministry to other marginalized people groups in our community.



### **Based on CrossWalk Center proposed and projected first three years:**

1. CrossWalk Center's goal is to serve up to 1,000 individuals in Year One.
2. In year two, that number would increase to 1,750
3. In year three, the number would increase to 2,500 individuals served annually.

**>> A total of 5,250 individuals over the first three years.**

If 5,250 individuals are assisted by CrossWalk Center over a three year period, our goal would be zero recidivism.

**ZERO RECIDIVISM IS THE VISION.  
IT IS AT THE HEART OF CROSSWALK CENTER,  
AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.**

For every **100** returning citizens **who do not recidivate**, Texas taxpayers would realize a prison cost savings of approximately:

**\$1.85 Million Annually**

The imprisonment hard cost calculation does not include the incalculable savings in human costs; marriages intact, children completing high school, fewer victims, as well as property cost.

As important, if not perhaps even more important than hard tax dollars, are the immeasurable soft outcomes and impacts, for each individual and their family. These intangible unmeasurable outcomes of the CrossWalk Center are: improved relationships, contributions to society, community-mindedness, spiritual connection and growth, positive impacts in communities, and being accepted unconditionally and valued as returning citizens and neighbors.

### **THE PILOT**

The First Year Pilot goal is that CrossWalk Center will see and directly serve up to 1000 returning citizens plus their families. Average daily intake of four returning citizens.

### **THE BUILDING**

East of I-45 inside the 610 loop, and just a very short distance outside Houston's central business district, within walking distance of the Burnett Transit Center six blocks to the south, stands the best facility that is targeted as the future home of CrossWalk Center. The 2103 North Main building is sitting on a one-half city block and contains two floors of offices, classrooms and ample meeting space. This convenient, easily accessible location is 2 blocks south of the southbound Metro Rail Red Line, 4 blocks south of the northbound Red Line, and is easily reached by I-10, I-45, Hogan and North Main Streets.

In addition, the adjacent empty lot to the north, a one-half block parcel, is presently available. The site at the corner of North Main and Marie Street is for the visionary future expansion of the CrossWalk Center building, to accommodate a multi-purpose auditorium with seating for 300, a commercial kitchen, additional program offices, a meditation garden and ample parking to comply with city code due to an increased footprint.

*The Building As It Is Today.*



*The Building As It Is Envisioned In The Future.*





## FUNDING

**The CrossWalk Center** services are provided FREE of charge to our clients. Financial support of CrossWalk Center, 501c3 non-profit, is funded 100% by charitable donations and grants.

## AREAS WHERE YOU MAY HELP WITH CROSSWALK CENTER SUCCESS

- Intercessory Prayer Team Members
- Congregational or Community Group Volunteer Teams
- Ministry Partners
- Social Service Partners
- Philanthropic Investors
- CrossWalk Center Mentors certified by Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
- CrossWalk Center Life Coaches for Reentry Journey
- CrossWalk Center Administration and Facility Volunteers
- Professional or Operations Project Volunteers
- City, County, State and National Government Support

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\* From the total 2014 annual release of 13,466 individuals, the number estimated to receive pre- and post-release services through and at CrossWalk Center annually is based on 245 TDCJ release days/Avg. 50 Individuals Weekly/M through F arriving at CrossWalk Center, or 2,450+/- potential individuals

**REFERENCE:** Strategic Reentry Group, SRG Technical Bulletin, *Justifying the Cost of Reentry Initiatives*

**SOURCE:** Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, Harris County, Texas, *Adult Criminal Justice Data Sheet* as of 03/01/2015

<sup>1</sup>Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), *Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2014*, p. 14,

[http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/documents/Statistical\\_Report\\_FY2014.pdf](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/documents/Statistical_Report_FY2014.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>LBB, *Criminal and Juvenile Justice Uniform Cost Report*, p.4.

<sup>3</sup>TDCJ, *Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2014*, p. 14.

<sup>4</sup>LBB, *Criminal and Juvenile Justice Uniform Cost Report*, p.4.

<sup>5</sup>TDCJ, *Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2014*, p. 14.

<sup>6</sup>LBB, *Criminal and Juvenile Justice Uniform Cost Report*, p.4.

<sup>7</sup>TDCJ, *Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2014*, p. 39.

<sup>8</sup>TDCJ, *Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2014*, p. 48.

<sup>9</sup>LBB, *Criminal and Juvenile Justice Uniform Cost Report*, p.6. Figure reflects FY 2014 state cost of community supervision.

<sup>10</sup>TDCJ, *Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2014*, p. 51.

<sup>11</sup>LBB, *Criminal and Juvenile Justice Uniform Cost Report*, p.5.

<sup>12</sup>TDCJ, *Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2014*, p. 45.

<sup>35</sup>Individuals could return to prison after being revoked while on parole, Discretionary Mandatory Supervision (DMS), or Mandatory Supervision (MS).

**DMS:** In 1995, the Texas Legislature gave the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) the authority to review eligible individuals whose offenses were committed on or after September 1, 1996, for possible release to Discretionary Mandatory Supervision. The BPP must review eligible prisoners on or before their discretionary mandatory eligibility date, and it has the discretion to deny release.

**MS:** This is a type of release from prison provided by law for restricted categories of returning individuals. Eligible individuals are released on MS when their served calendar time plus their good time credit equals the length of their prison sentence. Under previous law (effective until August 31, 1996), release to MS was automatic, with no requirement for release approval from the BPP>For Harris County revocation total, see *TDCJ, Statistical Report: Fiscal Year 2014*, p. 32

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

[info@crosswalkcenter.org](mailto:info@crosswalkcenter.org)

713-237-0880 Headquarters

2103 N. Main St., Houston, TX 77009