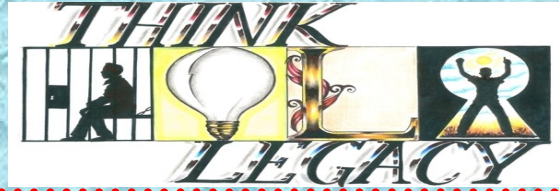


TUCKER TYMES



Think Legacy - Re-Entry

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Tucker's First Think Legacy

On Friday, February 23, 2018 at 9:00 AM, we held our first annual Think Legacy Re-Entry Program graduation in the Chapel of the Tucker Unit. Congratulations to the returning citizens that's participants of the Think Legacy Re-Entry Program on becoming uncommon men. This program is structured to provide participants with the confidence, skills and tools necessary to have the best opportunity for success upon their release into society.

The now nearly two year old program was put in place at the direction of ADC Director Wendy Kelly in an effort to reduce recidivism and insure inmates become productive, contributing returning citizens once they exit the correctional system.

This particular graduation was notable in that it was attended by a number of dignitaries and



Back Row Left to Right: Doyle Henson, Joshua Sinden, David Griffin, Donald Goldsby, Cody Ward; Middle Row Left to Right: Mark Austin, Michael Ransom, Nathan McBride, David Gardenhire, Kevin Davidson, Warren Willette; Front Row Left to Right: Clint Chism, Travis Harris, Rodney Howard, Ronald Odell, William Looney, Michael Warren, Maurice Ford.

Tucker Unit's staff interested in learning more about the Think Legacy Re-Entry program. Included among the group were key note speaker Det. Cassandra Briggs-McAfee representing the Pine Bluff Police Department; guest speaker Mr. Steven Graves; guest speaker Mr. Michael

Johninson; A New Direction 4 Life Founders Mike and Paula Wilbanks; Ms. LaCarol Clement representing Lonoke School District/W.A.G.E. Instructor; our very own Warden Joe Page III; Deputy Warden Linda Dykes; Major Rodney Ford; Lieutenant K. Riley; Sgt. D. McCoy; Sgt. J. Alexander; Continue on PG. 2

Being Yourself No Matter What

In your life you have to be yourself and never become comfortable with your accomplishments. Always look at your life as a process and the love, pain, and hurt won't be so harmful and you'll be able to not get caught in a shadow of what to be and you will be who you are. With you actually being honest with yourself then the actual life lessons will be taken seriously and you can correct a lot of your wrongs that you've had happen.

Once you are released, you want to

have goals you want to achieve. The first one should be gaining a support group and making your parole officer part of that support group. The only way you can do that is to start preparing now for your expected release. Having a focal point is having something that you're focused on besides recreation or something that doesn't matter. Anything that you embrace should have a positive reward that comes with it to focus on.

Realize that your family could be a

positive support system. You must stay focused on what you have been through and where you know you need to go as an individual. Realize that they do not owe you anything upon your release. Do not hold them to unrealistic expectations, because that could become an issue. You could possibly move backward, re-live incarceration and make a lot of things harder than what is has to be.

Special points of interest:

- Being a participant in a program such as this program takes an individual to have a conscious decision in their mind to be a positive asset to society.
- Being focused could be the difference between self development and self destruction.
- What matters most upon release will show in your actions and how you perceive things now.

Change Changes You

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W.A.G.E. 1st Graduation

October 19, 2017, we had our first W.A.G.E. graduation ceremony. In attendance were channel 11 THV news, ADC Spokesman Solomon Graves, Nicole Smart, and Debbie Shelton. Wage stands for Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy. The program is providing employment skills for inmates that are in the Think Legacy program. The W.A.G.E. Program has been progressing ever since it got going full blast in July 2017. Participants have to take the TABE test to get into the program. Every student must score a 9.0 GE level to be a candidate for the class. Each participant can earn up to five (5)

certificates for the state of Arkansas. The five (5) certificates that can be earned are Employability, Customer Service 1 and 2, Industrial, and Office Technology. There are only 10 slots in the afternoon class and are looking forward to serving more returning citizens. Soon to come will be morning class. Ms. LaCarol said, "that this class has set the bar extremely high for the classes to come." She also stated, "they are very intelligent, and respectful men. That she doesn't see them as inmates but as returning citizens and to keep their heads up and continue to pursue their individual life purpose."



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Gary Spearmon Jr., William Looney, Rodney Stokes, Ms. LaCarol Clement, Rodney Howard, Terry Shelton, Michael Ransom, Maurice Ford, Nathan McBride. **FRONT ROW:** John Pitts and Mark Ammonette



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Deputy Warden Linda Dykes; W.A.G.E Instructor LaCarol Clement; Corporal Theresa Lasley; Director of Lonoke County Adult Education Debbie Shelton; ADC Think Legacy Program Coordinator Nicole Smart; and Program Specialist April Ingram

Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: John Pitts, Rodney Howard, Ms. LaCarol Clement and Gary Spearmon Jr. These men are the first to receive their W.A.G.E. certificates.

GRADUATION Continued from page 1

Business Manager Ms. S. Keffer; Bldg. Major Asst. Ms. S. Johnson; Human Resource T. Clark.

Graduate Rodney Howard stated, "after coming in with the wrong intention from the beginning, he now know it was his thinking all along. And that Warden Page's vision for this program is the right vision for all returning citizens and just not only for Think Legacy participants. I know I can't speak for everyone, but I thank you."



LEFT PICTURE: Warden Joe Page III with Corporal Theresa Lasley as he addresses the graduates during the closing remarks of the ceremony. **RIGHT PICTURE:** Warden Page making W.A.G.E. Instructor Ms. LaCarol Clement and keynote speaker Det. Cassandra Briggs-McAfee feel welcomed before the start of the ceremony.

Message To The Returning Citizens

To all Think Legacy participants, I would like commend you for choosing to participate in the Think Legacy Re-entry program. Your choice to enter the program has given you the opportunity to be a better husband to your wife, a better son to your parents, a better father to your children, and a better citizen to society.

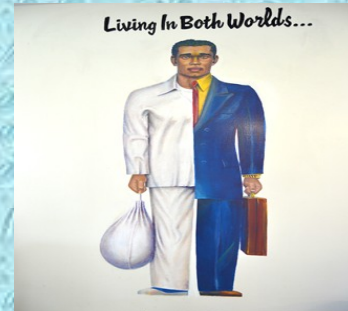
The program has introduce you to information that will teach you how to retain a job. How to keep a job will be very important to gaining your independence. The program also offers you vast information on how to improve your social structure that will aid and assist you in moving up the social ladder that has evaded you for years. The before mention is only a glimpse of what Think Legacy has to offer.

I strongly encourage all the incarcerated to participate in any re-entry program and

especially Think Legacy that is offered at you respective unit. We have a at the Tucker Unit Think Legacy, "if you keep it real, you'll get a better deal." This saying basically means, it's time to take a real look at your life and become the best you possibly can be. By facing and confronting those things that has held you back for years. Remember, everything starts and ends with you.

Respectfully,

Peer Counselor, T. Mason #83024



Stay Focused...

Congratulations to the men who have successfully completed the first class of the Tucker Think Legacy program. And to those individuals who are currently going through the process that the Think Legacy program at Tucker requires; "stay focused". Obviously, there will be challenges within the prison setting and upon our release back into society. We however, do not become successful by abandoning the principles we learn along the way. We have to trust the process.

The undeniable truth is there are many programs established to enhance individual success, but the key to succeed lies in our ability to buy in and maximize our full potential. We have to understand that we should live a secure and fulfilling life. This will help enable us to overcome those negative qualities by igniting and energizing our positive qualities. Those qualities that not only benefit us but others, to enhance society, to protect our environment instead of tearing it down and to help toe-

ing more joy, beauty, and love into the world.

I close by saying, trust the information, relationships, and process that the Tucker Think Legacy program provides. Incorporate it to your everyday life so that it can produce the fruit of success that we all want and need in life.

Inmate Council Concession Manager,

Keeyon
James
#118619



Graduate Warren Willette enjoying the refreshment on his way from the ceremony. "Thanks a lot Think Legacy!"

"Life is about the choices that you make as a individual. In life there is always choices that we have to make whether they are big or small. What we do with our options will dictate where we end up and wherever we end up is our reality."

Program Fund Raising Projects

First, I would like to thank Warden Page for allowing the Think Legacy program to help build the morale of the unit through food projects. Not only for the inmates but for staff as well. Everybody eats here at Tucker, thanks to Warden Page. Warden you're truly a blessing to this unit.

On June 9, 2017, we had our very first fund raising project with Dorey's Catfish and Chicken. Who would've thought it, hot catfish and chicken cooked and served here at the unit. Couldn't tell who loved it the most; inmates or staff, both were requesting for more.

On September 8, 2017, our next project

was Popeyes Chicken. Yes, I did say Popeyes. Here at Tucker hot n' ready. Gotta "love that chicken from Popeyes."

On January 5, 2018, we had second Dorey's Catfish and Chicken project off general population demand. Once again the guys here at Tucker can't get enough of Dorey's catering.

On February 16, 2018, our next food project was Pizza Hut Pizza. As you can see some of the pictures below how much they enjoyed these food projects here at Tucker. Yes both staff and inmates. This is how we do it at The Tucker Unit.



Corporal T. Lasley watches peer counselor T. Mason hands the inmate his order. Why so serious corporal Lasley? It's almost over!



Inmate D. Govan smiles for the camera has he receives his pizza from Think Legacy peer counselor T. Mason.



Inmate Council Concession Manager, Keeyon James just having some fun while assisting with Think Legacy Pizza Hut project.



Sgt. Coleman is laughing at Sgt. J. Alexander as he looks around for the camera but didn't know she were on camera as well. Now who's laughing?



Thank God it's Friday! Not because it's Friday, but because the pizza are here on Friday.



Corporal T. Lasley seems very cold as she watches. "Get it together guys," she stated.



Peer Counselor R. Stokes and Sgt. J. Alexander trying to get it right. No mistakes.



No signature. No exception. No pizza.



From Left to Right: Deputy Warden Secretary, B. Metcalf, Corporal T. Lasley, Mailroom, L. Cooksey and Lt. Johnson. Lieutenant always looking for the camera. We see you lieu.



Inmate K. Richmond can't wait to get back to the barracks to enjoy his Popeye's Chicken. "Don't have time for the camera, sorry. Thanks Think Legacy."



Gotta love that chicken from Popeye's. Well can't you tell by those smiles. Isn't nothing like good chicken at work.



Popeye's Chicken, yeah here at Tucker. Thanks Warden Page!

Becoming Uncommon Men

What you do is not as important as how you do it.

I believe that a person's character reveals what he or she really believes about life. First and foremost, it is important to be honest. Character begins with the little things in life. We must show that we can be trusted with each and everything, no matter how trivial it may seem. Character may be manifested in the great moments, but is made in the small ones. Over time, we create ourselves and build character through the little acts we do. Would you rather be described as successful and famous or as honest, forgiving, faithful, trustworthy, understanding of others, reasonable, thoughtful, and personally accountable?

Character is tested, revealed, and further developed by the decisions we make in the most challenging times. We have to know what is right, and we have to choose to do it. That is how character is developed, by facing those decisions and choosing the right way over and over until it becomes second nature. Outwardly, character reflects an inner life committed to honor and uncompromising integrity. Ultimately, character and its growth don't come from rules but from the small actions of responsibility that occur day after day. In the end, character is a blend of inner courage, wisdom, and a sense of duty to yourself, to others and to something greater than you. In a common world, becoming an uncommon man begins by cultivating uncommon character. It's sometimes easier to do the wrong thing, but it's always better to do the right thing. That's life. That's integrity. The choice between what's convenient and what's right. The lingering effect is that this choice carries long-term consequences than we realize at the moment. I believe it was Abraham Lincoln who said, "you can fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." It's a burden and reputation you do

not want.

Integrity is what you do when no one is watching. It's doing the right thing all the time, even when it may work to your disadvantage. Some people think reputation is the same thing as integrity, but they are different. Your reputation is the public perception of your integrity. Others determine your reputation, but only you determine your integrity. Integrity is critical to everything we do because it is the foundation of trustworthiness in our own eyes, in



the eyes of those around us, and most importantly in God eyes. Integrity does not come in degrees; low, medium, nor high. You either have integrity or you don't. When it's all said and done our reputation shouldn't matter. What others think of us is simply out of our control. What does matter, however, is what we think of ourselves. Our integrity. That is something we can control, by taking care of the little things, day in and day out, when no one is watching.

Being a man is not easy, but it never has been. The demands on us are many; the hour in the day are still capped at twenty-four (24). We get tugged, second-guessed, pulled in different directions, and at the end of the day we are left wondering what happened. And sometimes it seems like those are the good days. One of the most important things we have learned along

the way is having the courage to stand by our convictions, those things that we know are right, those guiding principles that we know to stick with. Sometimes that means standing out from the crowd or not being popular, but sometimes that's the only responsible place to be. No one is immune to peer pressure, and we're susceptible to it at any age. It's just as we get older, we do a better job of rationalizing it or hiding it altogether. In Black History Month, we talked about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man who stood by his convictions. Re-

gardless of how he was being treated, he stood with dignity, grace, and love. Sometimes we're so busy reacting to peer pressure that we forget we're exerting it on others. To thy own self, be true. This is critically important to remember as you set out in the world. You will come in contact with people who, whether the mean to or not, will exert pressure on you to conform. However, you are also in position of influence them for good. You can help your friends make better decisions just by your example. But to be that good example, you must have a clear foundation of who you are.

No matter where you are in your life's journey, you can begin today to be very intentional about leaving a trail of positive memories in the lives of those around you. We have all missed too many memories and moments in our lives because of poorly ordered priorities. But even so, it's never too late to set things straight and begin to enjoy God's blessings that are all around us. Maybe it's in the beauty of a sunset or the wrinkled face to a newborn baby. It might be in the trusting laugh of a child or in the second chance God gives us through our grand children. So how do you begin to set the right priorities for your life against the pull of the things the world says are important? It's not easy, but it's absolutely essential if you want to make sure you don't mess the

CONTINUED ON PG. 6

Returning Citizens Speak Out

While in Think Legacy, I have learned that I have been my own worst enemy because of the i was thinking. I've learned to carefully consider what I think about in order to build good attitudes and beliefs that will help me be a positive member of society upon my release.

Rodney Howard #115331

Since I came into the Think Legacy program, I can admit to changes in my life and my thinking and behavior that have improved for the better. Since committing my crime all changes are permanent and committed to my heart and soul. These things I learned in Think Legacy have turned me into a role model worth looking up to both here and the outside world. The mentors and counselors pointing out my troubles and the steps to correct all aspects of the Think Legacy group have been phenomenal with the help of Mrs. Lasley, Mrs. Ingram, inmate counselor Stokes, and inmate counselor Mason. I strongly recommend this program (Tucker Unit Think Legacy) to every inmate throughout the entire Arkansas Department of Corrections system.

Travis Harris #156076

My name is Jordan Rice #553846 and I've been in the Think Legacy program for a month and since then I've learned how important changing my way of thinking is to being able to stay out when I get released and not coming back to prison. I have two little boys that are without their dad. They need me and they are my heart and

soul. It's going to be a hard road probably one of the hardest I've ever endured. But I've lost two (2) years of my life to being locked up. With the tools I've learned in only one (1) month alone gives me a enormous chance of getting out and staying out. It's not only what we learned in the class room it's the positive people that I'm around on a daily basis. This class is making me think in ways I've never thought. It's truly helping me become a better man, member of society, and especially for my family.

Jordan Rice #553846

During my time in the Think Legacy program, I have learned several important things that will help me stay out of prison. I have learned how important it is to change the way i think in order to make better decisions which will result in better behavior. I've also learned how to find a job that fits my particular interests and skills as well as the importance of keeping a job once I have it. Overall, the program has taught me the basic principles needed to be successful and remain free once I am released back to society.

William Looney #652699

My name is Wayne Everhart #155797, I have

been in the Think Legacy program going on three (3) months now. During this time I have began to equip myself with the tools and information I need to not only stay out of jail and prison, but also become the best man and model citizen in society. I've learned to asses things and think them through because it is critical to me staying out of prison. Think Legacy has opened my eyes to how careless I was and how I took my freedom for granted. It is providing me and others with the tools and information to succeed in life upon release and overall a blessing from God.

Thank you and God Bless.

Wayne Everhart #155797

The Think Legacy program has given me the tools necessary to help facilitate me on my road to change, and the confidence to re-enter to society and never set foot inside a prison again. I've learned that by changing my thinking, I can change my life for the better. I can't change my past, but i can definitely determine my future. I used to think that because I'm a felon I won't be able to get a decent job or further my education. Now I know that to be false. There're countless opportunities available for felons. It's up to me to go after them. As a whole, this program has given me a new purpose in life. I recommend anybody whose ready for a change and to become apart of something great to join immediately.

Colin Toatley #161791

Delta Educational Opportunity Center

On Friday, March 16, 2018, Education Specialist Mr. Jaiemz Williams came to Tucker and discussed educational and career goals with the Think Legacy program. The TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) is a federally funded program that assists high school seniors, adults ages 19 and up, and all U.S. Veterans to enroll in and complete a post-secondary education program. All services are provided free of charge to participants who meet the eligibility requirements.

Take a college placement exam. Online test prep is available for GED, ACT, and ACCUPLACER exams. Loan default issues? An EOC counselor can provide options to restore financial aid eligibility. EOC provide numerous of help pertaining: complete an admission, financial aid, or scholarship application as needed; request aca-



Education Specialist, Mr. Jaiemz Williams representing the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC).

ademic transcripts and immunization records. All services are paid for by the U.S. Department of education.

Uncommon Men

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things that matter most. Start here: "seek first His kingdom." Take a few moments to be quiet and spend time with God. He will lessen your worries about tomorrow and release you from the breathless pace of the world's urgent priorities God has entrusted to you may not seem significant right now, but those who need you, it could make all the difference in their lives and in yours.

Prayerfully,

Peer Counselor, R. Stokes #148391



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