FREEDOM EXPRESSIONS

Pathway to Freedom, Inc. **November 2026**

Invest Where It Counts; Transforming Lives

By Scott McLean, Founder/CEO

As we come to the close of another year, I would like to begin by sincerely thanking our partners and donors for their continued generosity and commitment to Pathway to Freedom's Christ-centered mission. Your support makes it possible for us to continue serving individuals and providing the tools and opportunities they need to prepare for successful reentry.



Wesley Meeks and son at 2025 PTF Banquet

This year has been one of continued growth and expansion for Pathway to Freedom. Along with our ongoing work at the Hawkins Unit, we have seen new opportunities become reality. One example is the launch of our virtual program at the East Arkansas Regional Unit in Brickeys, which is now serving participants.

Building on that progress, our Workforce Readiness Training program is providing members with practical exposure to workplace skills, career pathways, and industry-related training. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to preparing men spiritually, personally, and practically for life beyond incarceration.

As we prepare for another year of ministry and service, we recognize that none of this work is possible without the generosity of our partners and donors. Our annual budget is $903,731, with an annual cost of $4,518 per inmate. By sponsoring one or more inmates, you can help transform lives. Every contribution helps sustain the programs and services that equip our members for successful reentry, and every gift represents an investment in lives that can be transformed.

The impact of that investment reaches far beyond the individual. When a life is changed, families can be strengthened, communities can become safer, and men can return home better prepared to become responsible and productive members of society.

As we look to build on that impact, we continue to explore opportunities that will allow us to strengthen and expand the work taking place at the Hawkins Unit. We have submitted a new grant proposal that, if approved, would provide funding to support future improvements and additional space at our Wrightsville location. At this time, we are still awaiting a decision on that proposal, but we remain encouraged about the opportunities before us and prayerful about the direction God continues to provide.

Another meaningful way to support Pathway to Freedom this season is through our annual Family Christmas Banquet for program participants and their families. This special event gives families an opportunity to come together while celebrating the birth of Christ and the true meaning of Christmas. It also provides an opportunity for members to spend meaningful time with their loved ones during the holiday season. The cost of this year's banquet is approximately $8,000, and we are seeking partners who would like to help make this special evening possible.

As you consider your year-end giving, I ask that you prayerfully consider supporting the work of Pathway to Freedom. Your partnership continues to make a difference in the lives of the men we serve and in the families and communities they will return to.

On behalf of everyone at Pathway to Freedom, thank you for your continued support and commitment to our mission. As we look toward the coming year, we remain committed to this important work. We wish you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

From Second Chances to Giving Back

By Indio Hendershot, PTF Graduate



Indio Encourages County Jail Inmates

I was born in 1986 on a couch in a house without electricity or running water, surrounded by drugs. Growing up in that environment, I struggled with addiction and hated myself for the life I had and who I had become. Before long, I found myself on my way to prison for the first time.

At 24 years old, I sat in jail feeling sorry for myself. Never once did I consider the two people hurt by my crime or my family, who had already lost me to addiction years earlier.

After serving my time, I was released and given a second opportunity at life. I had no excuses for failure, but as quickly as that opportunity came, it was gone. I had given it all up for drugs in the blink of an eye. On the day of my sentencing, the judge told me that I had ruined lives and destroyed families. Those words have stayed with me because I knew they were true.

Halfway through my sentence, I joined Pathway to Freedom. I learned that PTF can truly change your life if you're willing to make that change. During my two years in the program, I learned valuable lessons that guide me today. Two things stand out: receiving eternal salvation through Jesus Christ and learning about the ripple effect our choices have on others.

I graduated from PTF and returned home in February 2018, grateful for my third opportunity at life. This time, I was determined to use that opportunity for more than just myself. I wanted to make a difference for my family, my children, and most importantly, for Christ.

Since then, I have been blessed to share my testimony with Celebrate Recovery groups and return to the county jail to speak with men facing the same struggles I once faced. I know what it's like to be at rock bottom and how difficult it can be to believe life can get better. I want those men to understand that their circumstances do not have to be the end of their story, but the beginning of a new life if they are willing to change.

Sharing my testimony is important because I know what it feels like to be unwanted, hopeless, and tired. Today, instead of taking from others, I have the opportunity to give back and experience restoration in my own life. I no longer dwell on the pain and loss I brought my family and friends.

Instead, I smile knowing I now bring joy and love into their lives. Every time I give back, I receive something greater than a handshake or smile. I find comfort in knowing who I am, who Christ has helped me become, and the opportunity He has given me to make a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you, donors, and sponsors, for your generosity. It has been the stone that started the ripple effect that has changed my life, my children's lives, and my future grandchildren's lives. Every dollar not just adds lives to the kingdom of God but multiplies them.



Group 52 with counselor Jon Justice celebrates pre-release phase completion

Pathway to Freedom, Inc.
restoring lives, families and communities

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