



A Bridge to Freedom

Reentry Program

Step into Freedom, Build a New Tomorrow

March 1, 2024

Ms. Cassandra Evergreen
123 Maple Street
LaFayette, GA 30750

Dear Ms. Evergreen,

I am happy to share with you our life-changing organization, A Bridge to Freedom. There are many challenges that individuals who were previously incarcerated face upon reentering society. These issues include a lack of housing available to them, a lack of employment due to their background as well as lack of training or education, as well as often mental health and substance abuse issues. Due to these many challenges, within three years of their release, two out of three former prisoners are rearrested and more than 50% are re-incarcerated¹. A Bridge to Freedom seeks to address these needs and break the reincarceration cycle.

Our organization began and is currently operating with 20 tiny homes which gives us the capability to help 20 previously incarcerated individuals rebuild their lives. It had been a blessing that our initial homes filled so quickly, but the need for this type of assistance has been much greater than our 20 homes can offer, and we currently have a waitlist of 26 people. Without our assistance, those 26 people could very well end up back in the jail or prison cycle. And that is where donors, such as yourself, come into the picture.

We have a goal to add 10 more tiny homes by September. These 10 tiny homes would allow us to expand how many individuals whose lives we can change. In addition, more funding is needed to help supply basic needs to these individuals as well as to continue to expand and improve our programs. Our estimated costs for these additions and improvements are about \$100,000.

¹Benechchi, L. (2021, August 8). Recidivism Imprisons American Progress. Harvard Political Review. <https://harvardpolitics.com/recidivism-american-progress/#:~:text=By%20the%20end%20of%202020%2C%20there%20were%20more>



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In just the few months that A Bridge to Freedom has been in operation, not only have these homes been filled, but we have seen the difference that our program has made in the lives of its participants. Seven of our participants have been able to find steady employment and several more have been taking advantage of the job training and education programs that we offer. Many individuals involved have addressed previously untreated mental health conditions, and others have committed to overcoming their struggles with substance abuse. Without this program, and its generous donors, these life-altering changes could not have been made.

According to the State of Georgia's Board of Pardon's and Paroles website, in June 2023 there were 16,369 individuals out on parole. Without programs such as A Bridge to Freedom addressing this ongoing issue, not only are the lives of the parolees affected, but the tax payers and society as well. According to ajc.com, Georgia operates the fifth-largest prison system in the nation, at a cost of \$1 billion a year. Giving former prisoners the support and training that they need, keeps them out of prison and jail, and instead of taxpayer dollars supporting them in jail or prison, they can become a more productive member of society, contributing to the economy.

I want to thank you for your consideration of donating to A Bridge to Freedom; your donation is tax-deductible and it makes a world of difference to us, the participants in our program, as well as the whole community.

Thank you for your time,

A Bridge to Freedom
123 Anywhere Street
Rock Spring, GA 30739