



TAKE A STANCE ON FAIR CHANCE

Jason before...



Jason after!

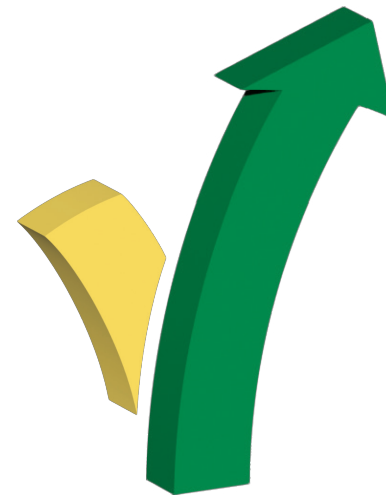


New Beginnings

When poor choices bring someone to the point of prison, they have a new choice they can make to start over and build a new life. Prison sentences most often end with release back into the community. Within the Oregon prison system are incredible programs that offer training in living wage job markets and better.



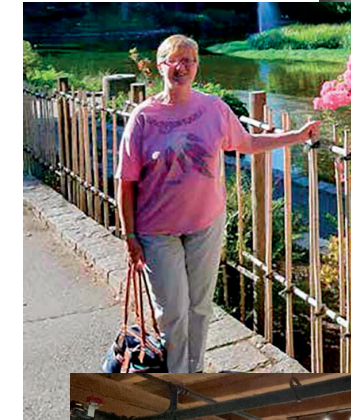
What does it mean to give someone a second chance?



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Giving Someone an Opportunity

"I just need a chance to work, to earn a wage, to be trusted again to do a good job, to be productive" — these are regularly the words of current and former adults in custody (AICs) who desire to do well and contribute positively to the community and their families, and to make a new life with a fresh start.



Where are They Now?

The success stories stack up faster than we can tell them. Above are just a few of the formerly incarcerated who took it upon themselves to find programs that helped them build a new life. From small business owners to 6-figure salary earners, each was determined to work hard, succeed, and never return to prison.

Jason's Story - Still Being Written

When Oregon Corrections Enterprises (OCE) was facing opposition to providing programs for AICs in Oregon prisons, with some people calling for the closure of the very programs that help AICs build new lives for themselves, Jason Bown was a strong advocate for why the programs are invaluable to the people who participate. With strong writing and speaking skills, Jason detailed his support for OCE in our Voices from the Inside series, making it very clear how he felt.

"So, when you look at me, if you see someone being taken advantage of or exploited, you're just choosing to be blind to reality so you can support your own agenda. The truth is, I'm the one doing the exploiting. I've taken full advantage of the opportunity this program and the wonderful people involved provide, and used it to turn my life around so that I can be more than I ever had the ability to be on any other path." (<https://www.oregon.gov/2022/07/14/blogpost/jason-bown/>)

Not long after his submissions, Jason was released back to the community, and he did so with a job already in hand. The security and motivation that this type of opportunity provides a person who is releasing contributes directly to their success. Jason credits OCE staff, the program, and the company he worked for both inside and out.



"This program, what it's done for me, makes the world a better place because it changes people like me and gives us a genuine chance at a better life. Who can put a price on that? ...I wake every day with the foundation of my purpose focused on being the absolute best version of myself that I can be. That grew from the seed this program planted, and it will be with me for the rest of my life."

Jason is a driven person who took advantage of an opportunity and made the most of it. His experience while special, is not entirely unique. People from many OCE programs have gone on to work for the company they worked for through OCE upon release. We want to see this become the standard.

About OCE

In partnership with Oregon Department of Corrections, our mission is to promote public safety by providing AICs with work and training opportunities in a self sustaining organization. OCE believes strongly that second chances are created and earned through the work that we do.

We recognize a need for growth and an evolution of our programs and mindset. We strive to offer meaningful skills for tomorrow's job market and build a sustainable OCE that will continue to provide critical second chances. We are acknowledging the past, addressing the present, and planning for the future.



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DocuMart Said Yes

From Print Shop to Private Sector

Each had a different story and a different sentence length. Some served time in multiple institutions. Some had never been legally employed. One by one, they applied and were accepted into the OCE Print Shop work skills training program at Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI). They trained in the printing business, rotating through multiple stations and developing (or enhancing) both technical and general employment skills. They gained a healthy respect for their new work environment and it would serve them well in their futures.

Upon release, like so many others in their shoes, they faced obstacles to employment. Applications and interviews returned rejection. But going against the grain, DocuMart said yes. They took what seemed like a risk and hired a person who just needed an opportunity to show what he knew he could do.

Over time, that first hire from the Print Shop led to four more. Each of the men in the image above was given a chance at DocuMart, and they have proven to be outstanding hires, one rising all the way to Plant Manager.

Multimedia Design Program

Building Lives Inside and Out

Yet another incredible story is the Multimedia Design program. Originating at Oregon State Correctional Institution, the program has expanded into Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Satellite training opportunities have also been opened at Oregon State Penitentiary, Snake River Correctional Institution, and Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution.



Program participants learn graphic design, video editing, motion graphics, sound editing, 3D rendering, and website coding skills on top of the standard computer skills needed for the rapidly advancing technological world.

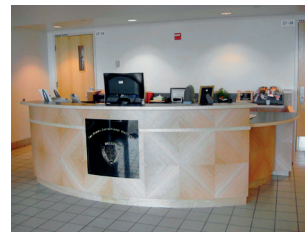
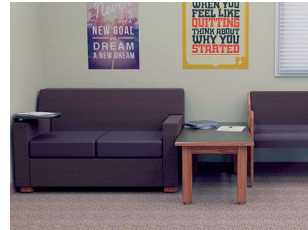
This program supports successful transition from incarceration into Oregon communities. Upon release from prison, the first two participants in the program had jobs waiting for them and another releasing soon has secured a job right here at OCE. And the story keeps being written! This program is one of so many outstanding OCE training programs helping AICs prepare to fill the need in the community for skilled workers with a drive to succeed.

"This program is really encouraging and helps me to think that I have a future in the design industry. I really can't express the gratitude for helping us so much to learn all that we can. It means a great deal to me."

-Graphic Designer, OSCI

Manufacturing Opportunities

Do you know about the vast skillsets held by participants in OCE Manufacturing programs? Don't just look at what we are selling, but at the people who are building what we sell to support the opportunity for them to train. OCE manufacturing programs train in CAD, CAM, and CNC operation; wood, metal, and garment manufacturing; machine operation, logistics, welding, sanding, spraying, assembling, upholstery, and milling. Do you need a craftsman-level cabinet maker? A custom upholsterer? A forklift operator, a clerk, a warehouse worker, an embroiderer? Do you need someone who will be overjoyed to show up to work on time every day with a will to succeed? We can introduce you to these people!



Partner with OCE to Provide Opportunities

Help write countless more success stories

There are two options available for organizations interested in establishing a partnership with OCE to reach the workforce while they are still in the training programs:

- The government entity model (for government, non-profit and tribal entities).
- The private partnership model.

Both options can be beneficial if you are planning to expand your business or program but do not have the floor space or labor force to do so.

While those are the existing models, we desire to do much more. We want to expand opportunities for people releasing and help them parole directly into employment and a better life.

Help remove the barriers to success. Help be a part of the solution for safer communities. Have a direct impact to the hope of those who just need to be given a chance to make it. OCE programs are at the forefront of reducing recidivism in Oregon, according to an Oregon Criminal Justice Commission report published in 2017. The re-incarceration recidivism rate in 2022 was 8.6% for AICs with six months of OCE programming.

OCE training programs are filled with people who have made the choice to make a change. They desire a new life, a life they are proud to live and can support on their own. Do you need call center operators with incredible communication skills, graphic designers with multiple certifications, furniture makers, printing machinery operators, people who can sew, sand, mill, spray, ship, inventory, or even be a leader in your organization? It might be time to consider a different source for your workforce. Take a stance on giving second chances. Give us a call; we'd love to talk to you.

Want to learn more?
Scan the QR code
for more details on
our web site.

