

Newsletter

November, 2015



RISE UP[®]
INDUSTRIES

Pathway to a Better Future

Mission :

Rise Up Industries minimizes gang involvement by providing integrated gang prevention, gang intervention and post-detention reentry services.



www.riseupindustries.org

Introduction

This is our second annual newsletter and is our opportunity to provide a quick update to those who have been supportive of our mission.

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS



Second EDITION

Officers & Directors

Joe Gilbreath - President
Ross Provenzano - Vice President
Gary Lynn - CFO
Steve Spooner - Secretary

Directors

Joshua Aquirre
Dell Centanni
Joey Estrada Jr., Ph.D,
Vincent Oliver

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Conceive - Believe - Achieve

Message From the Board



In our 2014 Newsletter, we projected the opening of our Reentry Center in the first half of 2015. We are disappointed to report that we did not reach that goal! However, we are convinced that this is merely a temporary setback and we are confident that we will open our center in 2016.

Disappointment aside, we are very optimistic and have many positive achievements in 2015 which we will share with you in this Newsletter!

The reason for the delay in opening our Reentry Center is simply the lack of adequate funding. Our program is designed to provide a comprehensive set of wraparound services, and each of these services adds to our budget requirements. Additionally, the individuals we serve will receive minimum wage for 40 hours per week for the entire 18-month program. While some of this required funding will be offset by the revenue generated in our social enterprises, experience shows that the breakeven point for social enterprises will not happen immediately and may take many months to accomplish.

We have decided that the prudent approach is to have our first year's operating expenses in the bank before opening our Reentry Center. Our concern is for those we serve. Our members will be enrolled into our 18-month program as they are released from incarceration. We do not want to risk running out of funds and abandoning these individuals in perhaps the most critical period of their transition from gang life.

We understand that our apparent slowness in starting our program is frustrating to many. It is frustrating to us as well, as we are anxious to begin serving those whose lives have been impacted by gang involvement. We would like to compare our journey to the construction of a high-rise building. Years before the structures begin to rise above ground level, and there are years of work in geotechnical surveys, financing, architectural and engineering design work, permitting, excavation, foundations, and underground utilities, etc. Most of this work, which is necessary for the proper foundation of the structure, goes unnoticed by those not directly involved.

This newsletter is intended to shed some light on some of the geotechnical, design, permitting, etc., type work that is happening in order for us to complete the foundation of the Rise Up Industries' Reentry Program.

We are very grateful to all who are involved in our efforts to date and look forward to our continued journey together!



As one of our Core Values states:

- *Perseverance - We are resilient; it isn't whether or not we fall but that we have the courage to Rise Up after the fall.*

Advisory Council

We have established an Advisory Council to receive insights and advice from experienced individuals with a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. We have been very fortunate with the many positive responses we have received to serve on our Advisory Council. We are extremely grateful to the initial members of our council. We held the first of our two semi-annual meetings in October. Our Advisory Council is comprised of the following members.

Members

Dr. Ron Baza

Professor, University of San Diego and Southwestern College

Bishop Cornelius Bowser

Charity Apostolic Church

Dr. Derry Connolly

Founder and President, John Paul the Great Catholic University

Dr. Kenneth G. Gross M.D.

Skin Surgery Medical Group Inc.

Mr. Phillip Jelsma

Crosbie, Guner, Schiffman, Southard, Swanson

Mr. Steve Kim

University of Southern California

Mr. Barry LaForgia

Founder and Executive Director, International Relief Teams

Mr. Royden Marsh

District Employee Assistance Program Clinician, Megellan Health Services

Ms. Lynn Sharpe-Underwood

Adjunct Professor, Criminal Justice Systems Department, Alliance International University

Mr. Blaise J. Subbiondo

Founder, E-Tap, Inc

Mr. Raymond Uzeta

President and Chief Executive Officer, Chicano Federation of San Diego County

Deacon Jim Vargas

President and Chief Executive Officer, Father Joe's Villages

Deacon Jim Walsh

Assistant Director, Office of Social Ministry, The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego

Grants & Funding

Grant writing has been our top priority ever since we received our 501(c)(3) status in September of last year and our CA Franchise Tax Exemption status in January of this year. To date, we have written 35 grant requests or letters of inquiry (LOI).

Rise Up Industries is committed to pursuing diversified funding. Additionally, we have 16 open grant requests and LOIs requesting a total of \$1,085,500.



Foundation Grantors

We are extremely grateful for the grants we have received this year from the following foundations:

Caster Family Foundation



Sacred Heart Ministries of Charity



Christmas Challenge

An anonymous donor has recently pledged to match up to \$100,000 in donations and pledges received before December 25, 2015. Year-end donations can double their impact with this match challenge! We also have the ability to receive stocks, bonds or mutual funds into our Charles Schwab account. This allows the donors to avoid the capital gains tax while receiving the tax deduction benefit equal to the fully appreciated value of the assets transferred. Donate now and double the impact of your donation.

In our efforts to be transparent and gain some exposure, we have registered with GuideStar and are a Silver Participant. This allows potential donors access to our Form 990s. Our silver GuideStar logo is on our website and links directly to the GuideStar website.



We are registered with Amazon Smile, which allows Amazon shoppers to choose us as the charity for a donation at no cost to themselves.

Collaboration



Partnerships

The street gang situation is a large and complex issue to address. Success in addressing this issue will require the collaborative effort of all the community stakeholders. Our collaboration efforts include our active involvement in three organizations:

San Diego Reentry Roundtable
City of San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention
Global Homeboy Network

These organizations help RUI remain current on legislation, programs, lessons learned, and resources.

Making it Come Together



In addition to our involvement with the above-mentioned organizations, we have been actively pursuing collaboration with other nonprofits in an effort to provide a comprehensive set of quality services in our reentry program. Our intent is to be all inclusive and to use existing resources that are recognized as providers of quality services to create an effective team to address the issue of street gangs in San Diego. We are very encouraged by the response we have received to date. These include:

- For our education program, E-TAP has offered us the free use of their on-line Training Assistance Program to prepare our members for their high school equivalency test. Testing will be administered at the accredited Foothills Adult Center.
- Our case management services will initially be provided through an agreement with Outreach Consulting Services, which has extensive experience in case management with our target population.
- Our individual and group counseling will be provided through an agreement with the Fred Finch Youth Center.
- Our mentoring program will be implemented with volunteers. Some of our volunteer mentors have received training and experience through PRO-Mentors. See the mentoring information video link on our website. Parenting classes and training will be provided on site by DADS Corps, a program of SAY San Diego

Social Enterprise

A core element of our reentry program will be transitional employment in one of our social enterprises. Our program growth will be tied to the number of employment positions within our social enterprises. Much of our planning efforts have been focused on identifying and creating social enterprises. An update of our efforts is provided below.

Coffee Distribution



We have continued our coffee sales at Major Market (1855 S Central City Parkway, Escondido) and Valley Farms Market (9040 Campo Road, Spring Valley). We recently received some shelf space at The T-Shirt Company (387 South Coast Highway, Laguna Beach).

Silk Screen & Embroidery



Our market in this industry has made significant progress this year as we have directed our efforts to serving the silk screening needs of nonprofits, churches, and charity organizations. We are grateful to all of our customers who have allowed us to serve their silk screening and embroidery needs.

Machine Shop

This is the next social enterprise that we hope to stand up in early 2016. This is a very attractive social enterprise that will train members to be CNC machinists. This is a well-paid trade that is in high demand in San Diego. Additionally, there is subcontract work available that will allow us to provide work experience for our members and at the same time generate revenue

to assist in offsetting our overall operational costs. Haas Automation Inc. has agreed to entrust one CNC machine to us for our start-up operations and has invited us to submit a grant request for the required startup costs. We are presently confirming a location and support services to house the machine shop.

Service

Tattoo Removal



We have now been providing tattoo removal services for over two years. We have served 62 clients and provided 178 laser treatments. Our clients learn of our service by word of mouth, through other nonprofits and by direct referral from various government agencies.

Volunteer

At Rise Up Industries, you have the opportunity to assist essential programs either as an individual, with a group of friends, with one of our committees or as a community-wide effort.

With flexible options based on your time and availability, you choose your level of engagement, a cause that is important to you, and the type of program you'd like to assist. Below is a listing of current committees that are always looking for additional assistance.

- H/R Committee
- Finance Committee
- Development Committee
- Education Committee
- Counseling Committee
- Construction Committee
- Social Enterprise Committee
- IT / Social Media / Graphic Art
- Spiritual Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee

From all of the Board Members, officers and volunteers, we offer our deepest thanks and prayers to each of you and best wishes for a safe and healthy 2016!