



~ Offering a Road to Hope

Impact Report

2022

Mailing Address:

PMB #105 2447 Tiffin Ave.
Findlay, OH 45840

Office Address:

1219 West Main Cross, Suite 201
Findlay, OH 45840

(419) 455-6082

WelcomeToANewLife.org

[#MoreChances](https://twitter.com/MoreChances)

The lives you've impacted:



Richard, pictured with his WNL supporters at Drug Court graduation!

"It hasn't been easy - honestly what in life is? Everything involves work and sometimes it's hard. What matters is where and what you're focusing your energy on. **Happiness is held in the future**, not lurking with your demons in the past. The thing everyone should know is to not be afraid, and to reach out for help. At one time I was, and I ended up in rehab again - but I evolved and came home more open. Reach out no matter what it is, **there is always someone to help point you in the right direction.**"



Our friend **David** (left) shared his story at our Annual Recognition Breakfast, which featured keynote speaker author & journalist **Sam Quinones** (below)



A note from our Executive Director:

What would it mean to you if you could hit the reset button? Would you have the support and resources to make the change in your life? Change is hard, but there are so many “why’s” in this new life journey.

Over the last several years, it has been amazing to work with these men and women and help them achieve a crime-free, drug-free, productive life. The reset button is giving them HOPE, self-worth and a feeling of accomplishment. We are even beginning to see our mentees give back to the community and continue to impact others by working in recovery.

So much can be done when we become a community that cares!

- Carla Benjamin

A special thank you to the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation for making it possible for Executive Director, Carla, to receive her Certificate in Nonprofit Management through The Center for Nonprofit Resources in Toledo!



Our Top Donors

Jebbett Level (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Duane and Kathy Jebbett
Garry and Kathleen Peiffer
Don and Carrie Templin
The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation

Partnership Level (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Findlay Noon Rotary

Road to Hope Level (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Chuck and Dee Dee Bills
Thomas and Kathleen Donnell
Michael Eller
Christopher Guglielmi
Frank Guglielmi
Handbags That Help

Stan Kujawa
Chuck and Peggy Lyon
Marathon Petroleum Corporation
*Gene and Elaine Stevens
Dr. Emil and Joyce Ziegler
Richard and Karen Zunkiewicz

Mentor Level (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

Associated Charities of Findlay
Denny and Janice Bishop
Bryan, Ford, Lincoln, Inc.
Ann Buis
Chuck and Paula Clapper
Jeannine Clark
Clouse Construction
Bill and Alice Conlisk
Cooper Tire Foundation
Randy and Anne Diehl
Financial Strategies Group
Findlay Elks
Findlay Service League
Beverly Fisher
Gateway Church
Peter and Sue Gilgen
GSW Manufacturing
Jeffrey Hall
Janet Hallberg
Hancock County Special Sheriff
Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative
John and Patti Haywood
Heavenly Pizza
Thomas and Carol-Dale Joseph
Kirk Family of Companies
Ryan and Candice Korkos
Ron and Marjorie Kruse
Dave and Gwen Kuenzli
John Larbus
LaRiche Chevrolet/Cadillac

Dr. John and Denese Malacos
The Malaney Family Fund
Nancy Moody-Russo
Robert and Melinda Murphy
Rod and Barb Nichols
*George and Patricia Nicholson
Ohio Logistics
Drs. Stephen and Ami Orr
Carl and Zan Palmer
Tom and Jodi Parke
John and Judy Richter
Puck Rowe
Rich Rowe
*Bill and Donna Ruse
Dan and Bonnie Sandman
Dan and Janet Schwartz
Dan and Shari Siampaus
St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
St. Andrew's United Methodist Women's Group
St. Marks United Methodist Church
St. Michael the Archangel Parish
Gary and Brenda Steed
Joe and Lissa Streaker
Graham and Denise Thomas
Karen Wachs - Leah H. Thomas and Thomas
C. Buchanan Fund
Dr. Rick and Debra Watson
Weber Construction LLC
Chuck Younger

Thank you as well to our donors who wish to remain anonymous.

**Denotes donor who has passed away*

Visit www.WelcomeToANewLife.org/DONATE to contribute today!

Your impact on the community:

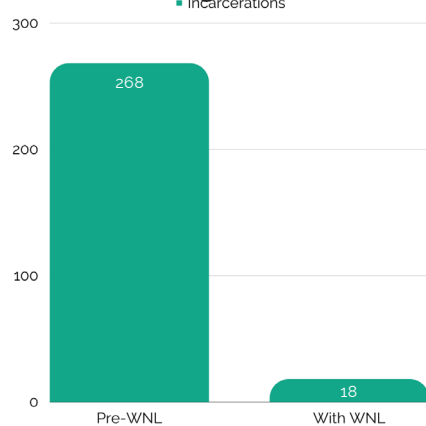
2022 By the Numbers

33 mentees

31 mentors

26 active members have not returned to jail on a new charge*

Active Mentee Incarcerations Before Joining WNL vs. After*



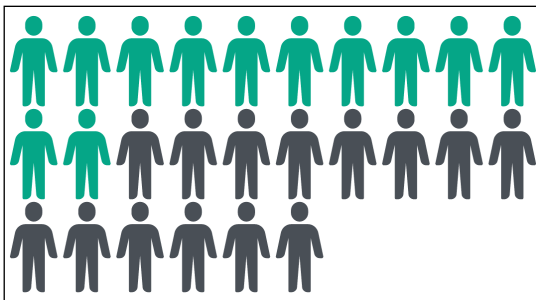
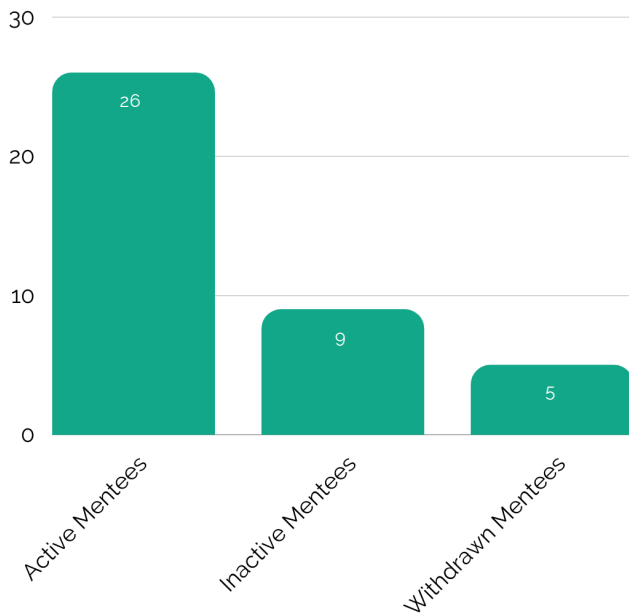
This shows that those who are active in Welcome to a New Life are still working through things and accepting responsibility for things that have happened in the past, but instead of giving up and saying 'I'm done,' they keep going back to WNL. **This says a lot about the program and the mentors they are working with.**

- Captain Ryan C. Kidwell

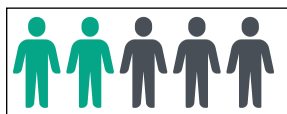
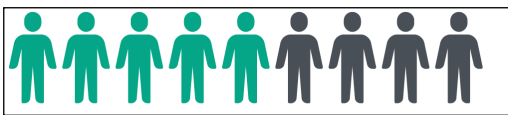
We would like to say a very special **THANK YOU** to all of the Findlay and Hancock County non-profits and community organizations for your support and collaboration. You ALL play a vital and active role in the success of our mentees. Together, we are able offer a road to hope as we welcome each of our mentees to a new life.

**numbers from 2019-2022 as a cumulative approach provided by Hancock County Justice Center*

Total Number of Hancock County Justice Center Inmates Participating in WNL



Inactive Mentees with No Recidivism



Withdrawn Mentees with No Recidivism

**numbers from 2019-2022 as a cumulative approach provided by Hancock County Justice Center*

WNL Cost Savings vs. Cost of Incarceration at HCJC (at Avg. Jail Per Diem of \$109.41)

WNL Cost
Savings for
13,170 Days

\$1,440,929.70

HCJC
Expenses for
537 Days

\$58,753.17

Total Savings

\$1,382,176.60



An overdose last year left me hospitalized with acute damage to my liver and kidneys. I was discharged after a month, on dialysis, and homeless. My local shelter would not accept a resident with medical issues like this, and . . . my parole officer sent me back to the halfway house I had left earlier in the year. I returned with a newly felt determination to remain sober and a renewed appreciation for life as a father and son. . . My case worker referred me to WNL. I entered the program thinking I was getting a secondary parole officer, but I was open to living a new life. It felt like a chance to get help with a living situation and deal with the possibility of living a life of unending visits to the nephrologist. **Deciding to live a new lifestyle was easy; actually doing so is entirely foreign to me.** I've never had a single positive role model. . . In the short time Pastor Richard has mentored me, I've accomplished goals I believed would hinder me for years. He's instructed me on basic skills most people learn before adulthood. He's been my friend and teacher and has given me the respect I've rarely seen in people my entire life. **Because of his influence and the help of WNL, I can see paths to success opening up to me that I've been blind to.** I'm lucky to be given a real chance to turn my life around. I'm blessed to have a mentor through my journey into living a life I've spent wishing I was capable of.

-Steven, WNL Mentee

**numbers from 2019-2022 as a cumulative approach provided by Hancock County Justice Center*

From Our Founders

My interest in helping individuals incarcerated in the Hancock County jail started well over 30 years ago. My barber and close friend, Jim Woodward, asked me if I would like to join him as a guest at the county jail and help support the inmates. This experience allowed me to understand and want to help those who wanted to better their life. When I relocated back to Findlay recently, I received a call from my church about restarting the jail program. I talked to my friend, Puck Rowe, who had an interest in this program and together we co-founded Welcome to a New Life. With the support of so many in the community, Puck and I found board members and hired our first Director, Carla Benjamin, who has cared so much for our mission. I would like to thank Puck, Carla, our two dedicated staff members and all our mentors for all they do. Thank you to the Hancock Sheriff department, Findlay City Police, and criminal justice department. Lastly, this would not be possible without all our donors and community partners who have supported our goals. Thank you!

We look forward to continuing this journey.

-Stan Kujawa

We have all made our mistakes in life. However, when one chooses to partake in using dangerous drugs and excessive alcohol, the results can be terrible. Once people permit addiction to become a part of their lives, they begin living a life of crime with no hope - losing families and kids from their lives - in addition to risking their own death. Welcome to a New Life's program has been developed to train mentors to guide, support and encourage their mentees to leave a substance abuse life.

For WNL to succeed, much assistance must come from other non-profits, the Criminal Justice System, and other community services.

Financial support from the community is critical. Those that have and are giving gifts can be assured that lives are being touched in a very positive manner. The staff at WNL and our many volunteers are incredible! Thanks to all and congratulations to the mentees that have made the decision to achieve a "new life". In just a short time, WNL has witnessed many find the life that they deserve.

- Harold "Puck" Rowe

2022 Milestones

Our Growing Staff

In 2022, we received a grant from the Hancock County Community Foundation that allowed us to expand our team by hiring Kim Kogan, our Mentee Advocacy Coordinator.



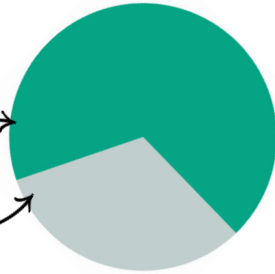
New Office Space

Thanks to the TLB Foundation, in 2022 we were able to move into a wonderful office space to bring our team together.

Funding Breakdown

Donations: 68%

Restricted Grants: 32%



2022 Board of Directors



Stan Kujawa
Co-Founder
Board President



Puck Rowe
Co-Founder
Board Vice-President



Pastor Dan Metzger
St. Mark's Church
Treasurer



Joyce Ziegler
RN, CNOR
Retired



Charles (Chuck) Bills
Ohio Logistics



**Sheriff Michael
Heldman**
Hancock County
Sheriff



Stefan Adams
Findlay City Schools



Jim Woodward
Hancock County Jail
Chaplain



Julie Baker
Retired



Jim Freel
Retired



Precia Stuby
ADAMHS Board



Alex Treece
Attorney

OUTGOING:
Chief Robert Ring
City of Findlay Police

INCOMING:
Ryan Korkos
Marathon Petroleum Corporation

HONORARY:
John Malacos
University of Findlay
Director Emeritus

Bill Ruse
Honorary Board Member
(Posthumous)

2022 Staff



Carla Benjamin
Executive Director



Kim Kogan
Mentee Advocacy
Coordinator

Become a Mentor!



What has Welcome to a New Life Mentoring meant for me?

My journey with Welcome to a New Life has had two phases. Phase one was the pairing phase. Like any other relationship, there must be a good rapport between both people for a healthy pairing. In Phase One, I was like an athlete in the draft waiting for the right team to play for. I was introduced to several people, and the matches weren't meant to be. It was discouraging, but you can't force a great connection. The WNL team was fantastic about including me in everything, even though I technically wasn't a mentor.

Then Phase Two happened: A great connection with a young man named Steven who was ready for a new life! Steven and I got along from day one, and it was clear we would be an excellent mentor-and-mentee match.

We have worked on life goals together. We have had some serious and challenging conversations. We have dug into some deep wounds and scars.

I love meeting with Steven because we are 100% honest with each other, and I have the honor of helping him do the vital work of building a new life! Small talk isn't my thing; I prefer the hard stuff, and so does Steven. He's an incredible young man who needed a friend with more life experience.

I am older and have a few lessons under my belt. As Steven reaches his goals and sets his sights on new and better things, it challenges me to be the best version of myself. I am not just harping at Steven to be better;

I would like to think we make each other better and grow as men.

If you want to become a mentor, I will caution you on this; phase one of waiting can be challenging. But when you are paired with someone, and it works, you will be a blessing to their lives, and they will be yours.

My question to anyone considering becoming a mentor would be:

"Why wouldn't you want to help someone have a new life?"

Richard Hiltibran, WNL Mentor



To learn more about how to get involved with Welcome to a New Life, visit www.WelcomeToANewLife.org!



-OFFERING A ROAD TO HOPE

PMB #105
2447 Tiffin Ave.
Findlay, OH 45840

**DONATE to
Welcome to a New Life!**

Scan our QR code to make a secure, online donation directly to Welcome to a New Life! Your contributions are what enable these life-changing opportunities for the men and women in Hancock County who need your help!



www.WelcomeToANewLife.org