



*Transforming Lives & Building Futures
Since 1997*

Dear Friends,

We hope this finds you and your community well and enjoying a holiday season filled with joy.

This has been an exciting year for Partakers as we celebrate 25 years of *transforming lives and building futures*. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your friendship, good wishes, thoughtfulness, and support. If you were unable to join us for our 25th celebration, or just want to keep celebrating with us, **please enjoy the recording of our special 25th Anniversary event here.**

Partakers' first 25 years have been an amazing journey filled with stories of hope, promise, and lasting relationships, and we are just getting started! We could never have come this far, or have had the impact on so many, without you beside us as community partners, collaborators, mentors, and supporters.

With your help, we have been able to expand the reach of our mission to provide essential and lasting mentor relationships and vital educational resources for women and men impacted by incarceration throughout Massachusetts. Your support has allowed us to attract and engage key stakeholders, universities, educational institutions, and community organizations to partner with us to work together to change the narrative and the systemic policies that drive recidivism rates.

Our success over the past 25 years has been guided by intentional and purposeful plans to include those who have been impacted by incarceration to have a voice in the process of change. During the height of the pandemic the creation of a Partakers reentry initiative with Brandeis University was a pivotal moment in the growth, reach, and direction of our organization. With the expansion of essential re-entry mentoring teams and services through the **Partakers Empowerment Program**, our students are not taking the challenging journey of re-entry alone.

While we are proud of our accomplishments, and those of our many graduates students who have graduated from the **Partakers College Behind Bars Program show a 2% recidivism rate**-we see this important work as an opportunity to learn and to build upon our success. Our plans include replicating the current reentry initiative by inviting other universities, academic institutions, and community organizations, to partner with us to offer educational and essential support resources to returning citizens throughout the Commonwealth. These services coupled with Partakers mentor relationships create an

essential support structure to guide and help formerly incarcerated women and men reach a higher potential by obtaining the skills and knowledge they need to overcome the challenges of re-entry.

Looking ahead to 2023, we hope to **expand our in-prison mentoring program to include incarcerated students enrolled in pre-college programs, such as GED courses and English as Second Language programs.** We know that the power of Partakers' mentorships can make a difference for so many and we look forward to sharing this transformational experience with as many incarcerated students as possible.

We are also in the process of establishing the **Partakers Reading Circle**, a “Book Club” that will connect students with mentors through the shared experience of reading. For so many mentors who may not be able to easily visit inside, this will be a wonderful way to keep mentoring relationships strong while also expanding the reach to new folks who want to be engaged with the work of Partakers. The Partakers Reading Circle will provide mentors and students on the inside the opportunity to read and discuss a book of interest together, thus enhancing and expanding their educational mentoring relationship and experience.

Thanks to your continued belief in our mission, and the voices of our students and our mentors, Partakers is able to not only sustain our current programs but also develop these new and impactful programs and initiatives to grow forward. As another year of uncertainty ends, we look to 2023 with optimism and hope. We are ready to roll up our sleeves to ensure that the foundation we have built over the past 25 years strengthens and thrives. Our success is palpable in the stories and voices of our students and mentors. Our work has never been more important. As one of our graduates reminds us-

“When no one thought we could accomplish the simplest goals, Partakers gave us the chance to succeed, to prove that we can become someone.”

Thank you for being a friend of Partakers and for including us in your generosity of giving.

With appreciation and good wishes for a happy healthy New Year,

Arthur Bembury
Executive Director

“When I came into the program I was a broken woman and had no hope...Today I believe in myself and that I am worth a million-All due to the Partakers’ Mentoring Program”
~Partakers Student

**Watch Our 25th Anniversary
Celebration**

**Hear the Voices of
Partakers**

**Partakers College Behind Bars Mentoring Program | 617-795-2725 |
230 Central Street Auburndale, MA 02466 | www.partakers.org**



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