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## HOW IT STARTED...

CREW (Connecting Resources to Empower Women), the newest program of the Transformative Justice Community, was established in partnership with the Lifers of Coffee Creek in February of 2024. Through the guidance and leadership of these remarkable incarcerated women, we identified a list of needs for CREW to address.

With funding from the [Collins Foundation](#) and the [Vital Project Fund](#), CREW officially began its work in January 2025 and has quickly grown.

## SINCE THEN...



### **Building a Foundation for Healing**

This new 10-session curriculum is a healing and growth journey for incarcerated women. It is on track to be completed with a facilitator's guide, participant workbooks, and 10 video teaching sessions featuring women with lived experiences by the end of 2025. Women's prisons in three different states will pilot the program in 2026 for a robust experiment to identify Then - Now - Next as an evidence-based practice to be used in women's prisons across the country.



### **Workshops for Incarcerated Women Preparing to Release**

This 12-session, completely free and publicly available workshop series was built upon the foundation of "Making Amends and Creating Community," created by Cameron Hayes for men in the maximum-security prison from which he was released. It was expanded and customized for women and is now offered free of charge to anyone seeking additional support for reentry preparation.



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**Empowerment Book Club** - CREW hosts a weekly book club on the medium side of Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), focusing on books centering strong women and healing from trauma.

**CREW Safe Rides** - No woman should have to leave prison alone and be left at a bus stop. CREW organizes a coalition of volunteers to give women a safe ride to a safe place.

**CREW & CCCF Release and Reentry Taskforce** - CREW holds monthly meetings with DOC and CCCF staff, gender-informed practices representatives, advocates with lived experience in prison, survivors of sex trafficking, community organizations, and interested volunteers to organize initiatives to meet the identified needs of women releasing from CCCF.

**Parole Board Preparation** - CREW is partnering with the Lifers of Coffee Creek to support workshops using the "Murder Review Guide" for those preparing to go before the parole board within the next 10 years. This support culminates in an intensive training session with parole attorneys, individuals who have been previously granted parole, a question-and-answer period, and a mock parole board hearing.

## WHAT'S NEXT...

**Release Center** - CREW is in the process of securing funding for office space to hold a Release Center for women leaving CCCF without a support system. Using a pay-it-forward model in which every woman who benefits will contribute in at least one way to those who come after her, CREW will be able to offer a variety of services and supports **free of charge**. Women will be picked up by two vetted CREW volunteers, taken out to breakfast, then brought to the Release Center, where they can:

- ☐ Get a gang or sex trafficking tattoo covered
- ☐ Enjoy a haircut and makeover
- ☐ Select three new outfits from a clothing closet
- ☐ Stock up on basic food items
- ☐ Choose from a variety of essential hygiene items



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- ☐ Connect with a ReGroup REP (peer mentor)
- ☐ Contact their parole officer
- ☐ Leave in a safe ride to their approved destination
- ☐ Benefit from ongoing support through ReGroup

**Powerhouse** - A book that will be written in collaboration with women in the Lifers of Coffee Creek about the creation of CREW and their own journey of healing, empowerment, leadership, and changing the culture within the prison.

**Please join us in continuing this transformative journey!**

CREW is launching an initial fundraising drive for \$250,000 to get the Release Center up and running and helping women by late 2025.

**We sincerely appreciate your support and ask that you help us fund this exciting initiative.**