

# HORIZON PRISON INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: July 2022 - June 2023  
[www.horizonprisoninitiative.org](http://www.horizonprisoninitiative.org)



## TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES FROM THE INSIDE OUT

### OUR PROGRAM:

Horizon Prison Initiative seeks to change high-risk behavior and thinking patterns of men and women who are or have been incarcerated. We currently have programs at two correctional facilities in Ohio: London Correctional Institution for men (LoCI) in London and the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) in Marysville.

Participants live in dormitory style arrangements, separate from the general population, throughout the yearlong program. They take courses, build a community, and learn how to get along together living in a functional "family".



Multi-Faith Tradition



Residential Program



Restorative Justice Focus

“

Horizon taught me how my actions hurt not only me, but also hurt my family and loved ones so much more! Until now, I never took the time to realize the effect my actions have on others. I am so thankful that Horizon gave me the tools I need to realize my thinking errors and how to fix them.

- Gary, Horizon Graduate  
London Correctional Institution, London, OH

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## FROM THE DESK OF OUR DIRECTORS

This year marks 23 years that Horizon Prison Initiative (HPI) has provided faith-based, residential programming for men and women, regardless of faith tradition through character reformation, trauma-informed healing, building community, and numerous electives addressing addiction, parenting, life skills and more.

Our program is at capacity at both London Correctional Institution and the Ohio Reformatory for Women with a waiting list at the women's prison. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) has awarded a contract for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. ODRC funding provides a stronger position to serve our clients "inside the walls" and provides funding for basic services.

The graduation ceremonies held at both institutions celebrated the achievements of over 120 participants. The keynote speaker at the Ohio Reformatory for Women was Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted who praised the women for their hard work leading to their successful completion of the 10-month program. We are grateful to Channel 6 (WSYX) for their coverage of this story. You'll find more about this on the 2023 Horizon Highlights page.

The Horizon Prison Initiative is also sustained through the support of community donors and the dedication of staff and volunteers who believe in the restoration and transformation of the human spirit.

- Big and small donations from people across Ohio, as well as other parts of the country, are always needed to provide for additional programming needs beyond basic services.
- Donors, grants from the Siemer Family Grant, The Dominican Sisters of Peace Shalom fund and Sisters of the Precious Blood Heritage Mission Fund. These funds provide opportunities for additional programs beyond the ODRC contract.
- This year Horizon initiated reentry programming at both facilities and is partnering with re-entry programs in the community to assure the continuation of support for all justice involved individuals post release.
- Volunteers are a critical component of Horizon's success, both inside and outside the walls. Contact us to find out more about how you can join us in mentoring, supporting, and working with Horizon to continue this important work.

**"THANK YOU"** for your time and your continued support as we move forward into the 2023-24 cycle of the Horizon Prison Initiative's mission to transform the lives of our clients, families, and the communities in Ohio.

Jim Burns  
Board of Directors President

Rev. Dr. Renee P. Wormack-Keels  
Executive Director

## HORIZON HIGHLIGHTS

Horizon Prison Initiative (HPI) received a multi-year, faith-based grant for the first time from Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC).

The grant covered costs of basic programming for the 2023 class cycles at London Correctional Institution (LoCI) and the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW).

This new partnership is confirmation that the mission of HPI has made a significant impact in the lives of our clients, families, and communities in Ohio, slowing the rate of recidivism.

**\$1,600 - \$1,800**

The cost to send an incarcerated individual through Horizon's full-time intensive, 10-month, residential program.



Board and staff members visit HPI's Executive Director's Civil Rights quilt exhibit for residents at ORW.

From left to right: Mary Kerns (ORW Program Director), Chloe (ORW Intern), Rev. Dr. Renee Wormack-Keels (Executive Director), Jim Burns (Board President), Mary Casey (Board Secretary)

Horizon brings hope and healing to incarcerated people, and their communities.

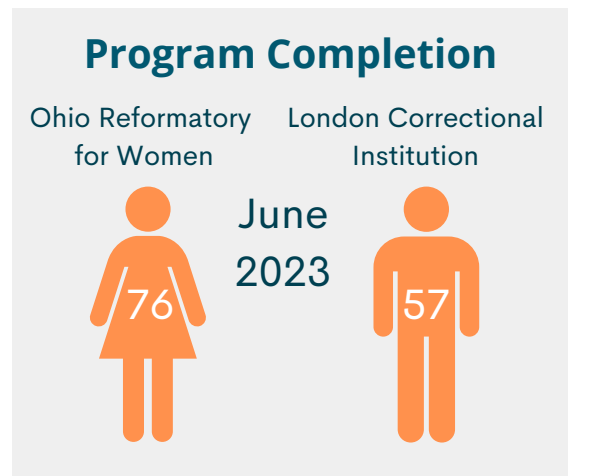
# HORIZON HIGHLIGHTS

## Horizon was spotlighted on ABC 6 News.

On June 9th 2023, Lt. Governor Jon Husted was the keynote speaker for the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) graduation in Marysville, OH. Seventy-six (76) women who successfully completed the 10-month Horizon Prison Initiative program participated in the celebration. The women put on a skit based on the Wizard of Oz. It was a creative retelling from the point of view of women who are behind the walls.

That same weekend, 57 men at London Correctional Institution (LoCI) in London, OH celebrated their completion of the program.

Photos of ORW's graduation. ABC 6 News attended along with Lt. Gov Husted. They published an article and video.



 [Click to read the news article.](#)

 <https://www.> Search for the article and video online using keywords: ABC 6 News Horizon Prison Initiative



## Spotlight on...

# OHIO REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN (ORW)

Horizon’s partnership with Accompanying Returning Citizens with Hope (ARCH) opened the door to many opportunities.



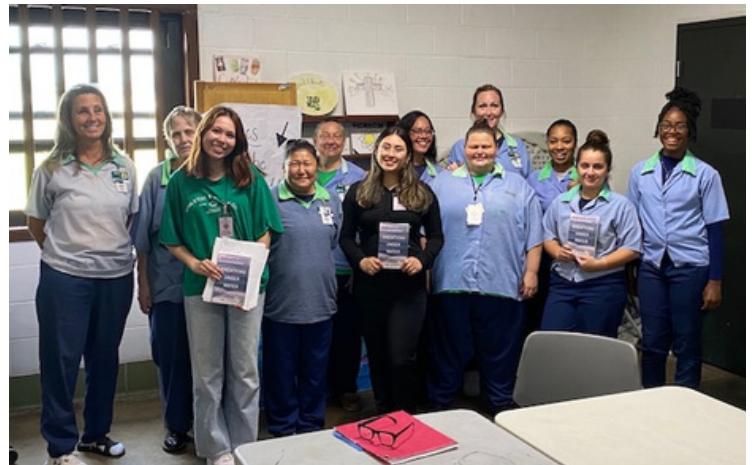
ARCH team from left to right: Wendy Tarr (Executive Director), Vanita Nevis (Program Coordinator), Christina Ray (Workforce Development Coordinator), Dana Davis (Program & Operations Manager), Harry Cox (Workforce Development Case Manager)

**ARCH is a reentry non-profit** in Franklin County that helps returning citizens secure housing and employment upon release from prison.

This year, Horizon completed its first year of offering re-entry programs and services for the soon-to-be-released. It has been both a challenge and a rewarding experience to see women in the community after seeing them on the inside. Re-entry in Ohio is the undertaking of preparing women and men to be successful in returning home after incarceration.

ARCH interns from Notre Dame led a **spirituality group** about the 12 steps based on the book, *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps*, by Richard Rohr.

- Held in June–July 2023, the group met once a week for two and a half hours for each session.
- Multiple faiths were represented.



ARCH interns and Horizon participants hold the class workbook.



Kitchen in ARCH transitional housing

**ARCH trained three Horizon cohorts** of 12 each from August 2022–August 2023 to **prepare them for going home**. This course is a requirement for those who are accepted into ARCH’s Getting Ahead reentry program.

The Getting Ahead program has a long waiting list that ARCH fills with Horizon graduates who are scheduled for release in the next 60–90 days.



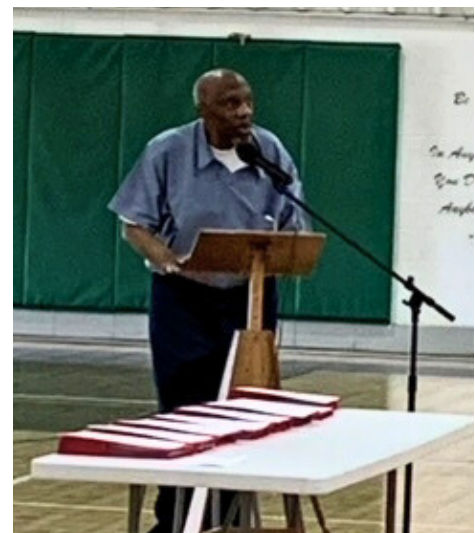
## Spotlight on...

# LONDON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION (LoCI)

LoCi's program continues to be at full capacity. In June 2023, 57 men graduated from the Horizon program and received certificates.

Men received certificates of completion from the 2022-2023 cycle. Families and friends were treated to an incredible meal provided by Vicky Justus, Deputy Warden. We extended our heartfelt thanks to her for providing the meal. Families and program graduates were able to spend at least an hour or more following the ceremony.

Photos of LoCI's graduation ceremony.



Mary Kerns, Program Director at ORW, was the keynote speaker.

Following the completion of this cycle, the graduates along with program staff began preparing for the next cycle by interviewing candidates and assisting those who are preparing for release within the next 12 months through our re-entry initiative.



Spotlight on...

## LoCI's Community Resource Coordinator



**Mujeddid Muhammad**

As a former participant of the Horizon Program and presently serving in the capacity of Community Resource Coordinator, my foremost role is to serve as a living example of successful reintegration following incarceration.

Since my release in 2018, I have achieved significant milestones in my personal and professional development. I earned an Associate Degree in Social Work from Columbus State Community College and am currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree at Capital University.

In addition to my academic pursuits, I have obtained certifications as a Certified Peer Supporter and the Certificate for Qualification of Employment, among various other re-entry credentials, all of which equip me with valuable skills for working with individuals who have been involved with the justice system.

In my capacity as Community Resource Coordinator, I actively engage in a range of activities and initiatives aimed at assisting individuals in the process of reintegration. These include participation in men's mentoring groups, facilitating re-entry information sessions, conducting workshops on trauma-informed awareness, and collaborating with various re-entry stakeholders.

My primary objective is to establish connections between available resources and individuals preparing to transition from the Horizon Re-entry program back into the community. To facilitate this, I initiate the process by having Horizon Residents complete a detailed profile questionnaire upon their entry into the program.

Following a thorough review of the profile questionnaire, I arrange Teams meetings with program participants. During these meetings, I seek to gain a comprehensive understanding of their immediate re-entry needs by asking clarifying questions based on their responses.

Subsequently, I leverage my network of contacts and resources within the respective counties to address any issues that can be resolved while the individuals are still incarcerated. For matters that require post-release attention, I ensure they are connected to the appropriate service providers and agencies.

Beyond this initial support, I remain an ongoing mentor and resource for these individuals, extending my assistance as needed following their release.

***My commitment is to guide and support them in their journey toward successful reintegration into society.***

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Angela Dodson



Angela works at a national bank as a Compliance Analyst. After completing the Minority Leadership Program provided by the United Way of Roanoke Valley, she was appointed Treasurer for the Roanoke Youth Athletic Association. She brings with her a passion for wanting to see all people of diverse backgrounds have an equal chance to succeed in life.

Rose Ann Butts



Rose is a Trauma Informed Care Supervisor, focused on providing positive educational tools, support and resources to people challenged by mental illness and substance use disorder. She is also a restored citizen who spent time at ORW. Currently, she is completing academic studies in the Bridges to Baccalaureate program developed by Dr. Andrisse who says, "It's never too late to do good!"

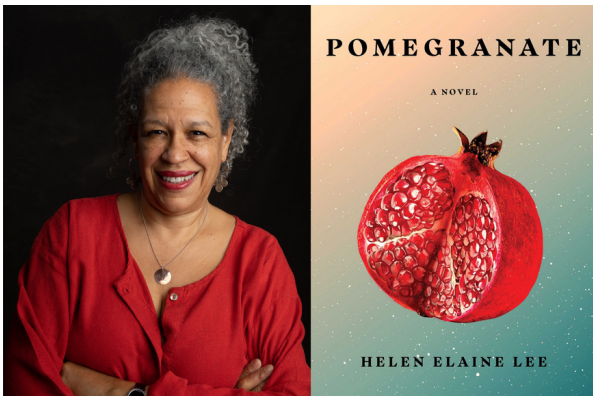
Gerneicca Gordon



Neicca, as she prefers to be called, brings a wealth of experience in working in the community providing guidance and assistance to individuals under community corrections. She is a certified life coach and community outreach specialist.

## SPRING 2024 EVENT

### Author Visit Fundraiser in March 2024



Helen Elaine Lee will be coming to ORW to do a reading from her recent publication, **Pomegranate**.

The novel's story line is about a soon-to-be-released woman from prison after serving time for opioid possession.

Ranita's journey is one of a woman inspired to imagine herself and the world differently.

Be on the lookout for more details!



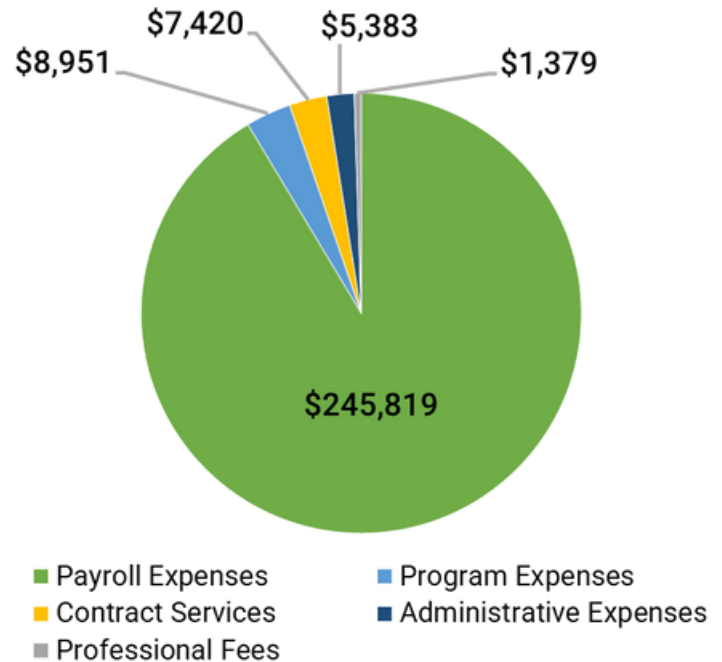
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 2022 - June 2023

## Income



## Expenses



## HORIZON'S FINANCIAL IMPACT

### Housing prisoners is expensive.

- Ohio taxpayers pay \$37,595 per prisoner per year.  
Source: Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation & Correction - [www.drc.ohio.gov](http://www.drc.ohio.gov)

### Horizon graduates have a much lower recidivism rate.

- In Ohio, the typical inmate has a 27% chance of returning to prison within three years of being released.
- Horizon lowers that rate to just 9%.

### Donating to Horizon is a good investment.

- The cost to send an incarcerated individual through Horizon's full-time intensive, 10-month, residential program is approximately \$1,600 - \$1,800.



For every 10 Horizon graduates who stay out of prison, the state saves \$376,000 per year.



## How Horizon Has Impacted Us



"I learned to practice active listening, use nonviolent communication, and how to deal with myself. I learned about restorative justice. Horizon helped me regain my life." LoCI graduate

"We've learned about healthy relationships, boundaries, how to deal with people, self-worth, community, accountability, how to forgive ourselves, coping skills, and how to have clean, sober fun." ORW graduates

## You Can Help Change Lives

### Volunteer

#### Become an Outside Brother or Sister

- Visit men and women in the Horizon programs to provide a listening ear and informal mentoring.

#### Facilitate a Class

- Share your expertise in an area by teaching a class for a set number of sessions in an institution where Horizon operates.

#### Support the Leadership Team

- Provide administrative, communication, grant-writing, or fundraising services to help increase Horizon's impact.
- Join the Board of Directors.

### Donate

#### Text2Connect

- Text 5394 to 614-230-0347 to donate to Horizon Prison Initiative through The Columbus Foundation.

#### Individual Gifts

- Pledge a one-time gift or set up recurring monthly or quarterly payments. Go to [www.horizonprisoninitiative.org](http://www.horizonprisoninitiative.org).
- Ask your employer if they have a matching program for great causes. Some companies match dollar for dollar, which would double your donation!

#### Group Gifts

- Ask your congregation to invest in the transformation of a Horizon participant.
- Ask your book club, golf group, investment club, civic organization, or online gaming friends to contribute as a group. If 10 friends give \$160, or 20 friends give \$80, you will change a life.

# THE HORIZON TEAM

## Board of Directors

James H. Burns, President  
Mary Casey, Secretary  
Rose Ann Butts  
Angela Dodson  
Gerneicca Gordon  
Nia Kaudo, Esq.  
Rev. Dr. Joyce Penfield  
Keith Wilbur

## Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Renee P. Wormack-Keels

## Staff & Volunteers

### Ohio Reformatory for Women

#### Staff

- Mary Kerns, Program Director
- Dr. Pam Patsch, Re-Entry Coordinator
- Susan Dick, Community Resource Coordinator & Administrative Coordinator

### London Correctional Institution

#### Staff

- Jeff From & Madeleine Trichel, Co-Program Directors
- Brian LeCrone, Administrative Coordinator & Re-Entry Coordinator
- Mujidded Muhammad, Community Resource Coordinator
- Sue McClelland, Community Building

**Volunteers:** Thomas C. Blake, Jo Dee Davis, Marcus Freed, and Rick Hough

— “ —————

**Prison saved my life,  
but Horizon saved  
my soul.**

- Program Graduate

————— ” —

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Website: [www.horizonprisoninitiative.org](http://www.horizonprisoninitiative.org)