# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



HEAL. GROW. THRIVE.



# THRIVE GROW. HEAL.





-Helen Keller

# MISSION:

To equip women with the tools and support they need to heal, grow, and thrive - both in prison and in the communities to which they return.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

7

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

8

WHO WE ARE

9

A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION 2024

10

2024 FINANCIALS

11

CHAPLAINCY

13

TRANSITION & REENTRY

15

**EDUCATION** 

17



"There were times I did throw in the towel, and God threw it right back at me and said, 'Wipe your sweat and keep going.' So, I did."

-Missy, Women's Reentry Project Participant



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

At Arise Collective, 2024 was a year of building—not of bricks and mortar, but of the deeper structures that sustain transformation.

We are excited by our growth over the past few years, which has allowed us to increase our capacity and welcome more and more women into a safe and supportive community.

This year, we necessarily slowed down enough to strengthen our internal foundation to ensure that we are equipped to meet the complex realities of justice-involved women. Much of this was in answer to the increased impact that the opioid epidemic, as well as substance use in general, has had on the women we serve in recent years. Over 80% of women in our programs struggle with either/both mental health and/or substance use disorders; between 60-70% have opioid use disorder.



Jennifer C. Jackson Chief Executive Officer

We, therefore, were honored to be among the first group of nonprofits to receive funding from the Wake County Opioid Settlement Fund, which we are using to strengthen our response to the epidemic through expanded and more targeted services, peer support, and clinical care.

Our team also invested time – lots of time – in building out a robust reentry program structure with programming that addresses every layer of need that the women and I could imagine. This kind of infrastructure often goes unseen. However, it is what makes healing, growing, and thriving possible, because when a woman returns home from prison, what she needs most isn't just a fresh start—it's something solid to stand on.

As vital as our reentry programming is, our 45-year chaplaincy history inside the prison is the bedrock upon which our mission rests. I am therefore thrilled to relay that after 18 months of planning and due diligence, the Boards of Directors of Arise Collective and MATCH (Mothers and Their Children), another Raleigh-based nonprofit, unanimously approved MATCH's merger into Arise Collective, effective January 1, 2025. I look forward to sharing more about what this means in our next annual report.

As you will read in these pages, women are seeing results in their own lives through these and more efforts. However, their stories don't begin with big programs. They begin with women showing up for themselves and being met by people who care and a structure that holds, even when everything else feels shaky. From there, trust in self and others can grow.

That's the groundwork we laid in 2024. Thank you for building with us—for believing in the power of women to rediscover their worth, reconnect with their families, and write new chapters of their lives with strength and dignity.

With gratitude,

Jennifer C. Jackson Chief Executive Officer

### 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Otto, Chair
Sydney Batch, Vice Chair
Eric Fullilove, Treasurer
Jennifer Green-Lee, Secretary
Bernadine Anthony
Cassandra E. Burney
Trina Clayeux
Jennifer Conner
Jacqueline Ferguson
John Hardin
Jason Nieuwsma
Orgal Opata
Kalpna Jean Patel
Lisa Rowe-Ralls
Beth Thomas

#### STAFF

Jennifer C. Jackson, Ex-Officio Board Member, Chief Executive Officer Doris Bullock, Chief Outreach and Education Officer Yazmin Coleman, Clinical Director Tashani Gaskins, Operations Director Molly Grace, Development and Outreach Manager Robin Harrington, Care Coordinator Michelle Howell, Housing Coordinator **Anthony James**, Organization Driver Regina Jaynes, Communications Manager Cherisse Kendrick, Executive Assistant Kelly Nutty, Chief Development Officer Lydia Peebles, Care Coordinator Megan Peevey, Senior Care Coordinator Elisa Rosoff, Chaplain Bonita Sharp, Office Assistant Kimberly Stone, Women's Reentry Project Director

### WHO WE ARE

Arise Collective, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was started by Presbyterian Women in 1980 when a Presbyterian Coordinating Committee of Presbyteries across the state came together to fund the first female chaplain in the North Carolina prison system. Over the next four-and-a-half decades, the organization has provided chaplaincy services, as well as transition education and reentry support, for women.

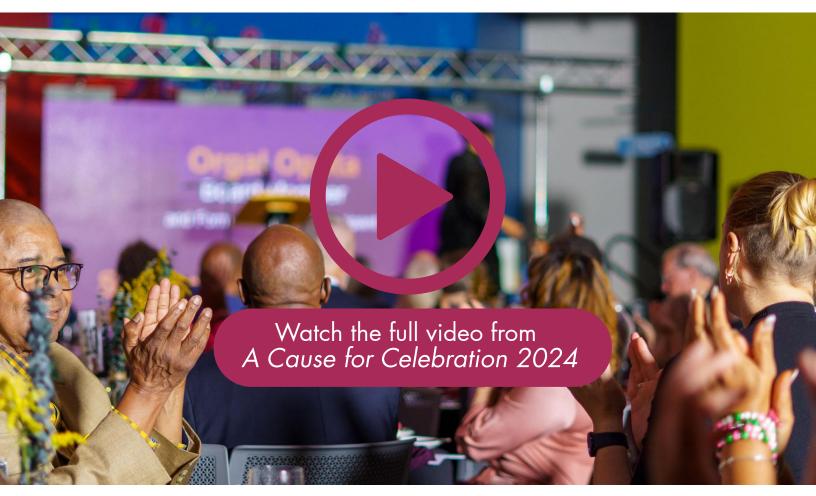
We primarily work in and around the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women (NCCIW) and its minimum-security Canary Unit, formerly known as the Raleigh Correctional Center for Women (RCCW), as well as at North Carolina's other two women's prisons, Anson Correctional Center for Women and Western Correctional Center for Women.

We fulfill our mission through a variety of programs, services, and interventions, while also engaging the community in training and simulations to increase their awareness of issues surrounding incarceration and the people and families affected.

The overarching goal of Arise Collective is to provide a long-term solution for women as they discover their own worth, improve their overall well-being, and successfully navigate life after incarceration. Since 1980, thousands of women have received services through the organization.



## A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION 2024



On Saturday, October 5th, Arise Collective's board, staff, program participants, friends, and allies gathered for *A Cause for Celebration 2024* and the 5th Annual Hope Awards Ceremony at Marbles Kids Museum in downtown Raleigh.

This year's event celebrated women's reconnection with loved ones, their best selves, and their higher power. The restoration of this reconnection, along with women's roles in fostering a healthy community, is at the heart of Arise Collective's mission.

Joined by <u>Valonda Calloway</u> as the Mistress of Ceremonies, this celebration featured a dinner and desserts provided by <u>Catering Works</u>; an exceptional, alcohol-free beverage bar from <u>Umbrella Dry Bar</u>; powerful stories from current reentry participants and others with lived experience; sensational music by <u>Smoothlvory2</u> and <u>Sizzle the DJ</u>; and a successful Fund-A-Need auction hosted by Ben Farrell of <u>Custom Benefit Auctions</u>.

Also featured at this event was the **5th Annual Hope Awards Ceremony**, honoring three inspiring leaders in our community: **SouthLight Healthcare**, Angel of Hope; **Tisha Temple** (Recovery Alive), Beacon of Hope; and **Stephanie Treadway** (Redirection NC), Champion of Hope.

"This celebration provided a window into the courage of women who are walking or have walked the journey of incarceration. Their stories of heartache and triumph remind us of the promise of this work," said Amy Otto, Board Chair of Arise Collective. "Through their powerful stories, everyone in attendance understood without a shadow of a doubt that women, when supported, can indeed live lives of dignity and higher purpose – thriving, not just surviving, after a period of incarceration."

Thank you to our sponsors and everyone who made this annual fundraising event a huge success!

## FINANCIALS: REVENUE



**Grants** 

Contract/Other

**Individuals** 

Faith-Based

**Family Foundations** 

**Earned Income** 

\$1,886,165

\$283,194

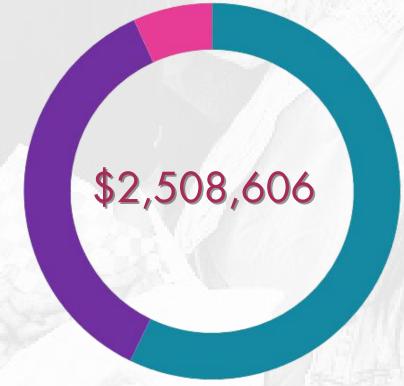
\$127,091

\$35,699

\$26,350

\$4,404

# FINANCIALS: EXPENSES



**Program Services** 

Management + General

**Fundraising** 

\$1,433,761

\$904,116

\$170,729

"I knew I wanted, needed, and deserved a better life than the repeated cycle I had been living. I told my care coordinator that I wanted a better life. She told me she believed in me and wanted a better life for me, too. That means the absolute most to me."

-Joy\*, Women's Reentry Project Participant



# BY THE NUMBERS: CHAPLAINCY

Meeting each woman's spiritual and emotional needs both inside and outside the prison



#### **PRISON CHAPLAINCY**

Programs overseen by the Arise Collective Community-Funded Chaplain during 2024 included: Christian Worship, Wiccan Worship, American Indian Prayer Circle, Catholic Worship, Yokefellows, Stress Reduction, GESS (Gender, Education, and Spirituality Support Group), Youth Services, and Mindfulness Meditation.

Special events the Chaplain participated in planning included: American Indian Green Corn Festival, Summer Solstice, Winter Solstice, Easter Service, Mother's Day Worship, Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, Christmas programming, and more.



#### REENTRY CHAPLAINCY

Reentry chaplaincy is a relatively new discipline within the clinical professional chaplaincy field.

Our Community Chaplain participates as a full member of the interdisciplinary Reentry Team, adding a valuable, clinical perspective to matters concerning the women in the Women's Reentry Project.

Interactions included:

- Provision of literature, including daily devotionals, guided journals, scriptures, inspirational coloring books, and self-help books;
- Scaffolding for therapeutic art and horticulture projects, which encourage healing; and
- Excursions to places such as public gardens, craft supply stores, museums, thrift stores, and bookstores provide safe spaces for building trust







"My biggest dream is to run an animal rescue where I can save animals, rehabilitate them, and find them loving homes."

-Libby\*, Women's Reentry Project Participant



# BY THE NUMBERS: TRANSITION + REENTRY

- Preparing women for a successful reentry by teaching and reenforcing the skills needed to navigate society's demands and norms
- Providing housing, transportation, case management, peer support, and healthy community to guide women along the road to employment, security, and self-sufficiency



1,402

Connections with justice-involved women

Residential: 1,295 Non-residential: 107



**32** 

Participants received housing support

5,378 bed days offered in 2024



**321** 

Residential case management services provided



107

Non-residential case management services provided



100%

of participants received transportation assistance



100%

of participants received assistance obtaining personal identification



66%

of participants achieved stable employment



4

participants
received a vehicle
through our
partnership with
Wheels4Hope

"It matters when you come home to a furnished room, clean clothes, hygiene products, and food. You don't have to worry about finding a job right away, and you can take time to acclimate to just being 'free' to start putting your life back together."

-Bianca\*, Women's Reentry Project Participant



Read
Bianca's
story

# BY THE NUMBERS: EDUCATION

Providing funding, housing, and comprehensive support services to women pursuing their Associate of Arts degrees or certification after incarceration



44%

of Women's
Reentry Project
participants
pursued vocational
certifications or
higher education
support



3

participants graduated with Associate of Arts degrees from Campbell University



8

participants were engaged in certificate programs through Wake Technical Community College



1

participant is actively engaged in a degree program through Wake Technical Community College



Three students (pictured) from Cohort I of the Reentry Higher Education Initiative (RHEI) successfully completed all academic requirements and graduated from Campbell University with Associate of Arts degrees on Saturday, December 14, 2024.

The graduates are now continuing their educational journeys as they work towards obtaining their Bachelor's degrees. They will begin classes for the spring semester in January, with one student enrolled in the Nursing program, one pursuing studies in the Psychology program, and one pursuing her Bachelor of Christian Science with a focus on Ministry.

"I am excited that this day has finally come ... that I finished what I started," said one graduate. "It was a lot of hard work, but with the support from Arise Collective and Campbell University, I now have a degree! Thank you."

On the night before graduation, the participants, along with their families, joined the teams from Arise Collective and Campbell University for a celebratory meal. The graduates were honored with gifts and received letters they had written to themselves at the start of their educational journeys in November 2022.

## SPECIAL THANKS ...

#### ... to YOU for your continued support and commitment to Arise Collective.

To the 437 individuals, churches, and businesses that contributed in 2024.

To the Anonymous Trust, Bob Barker Company Foundation, Carlyle Adams Foundation, Goodwill Industries of Eastern North Carolina, PNC Foundation, John William Pope Foundation, Presbytery of New Hope, W. Trent Ragland, Jr. Foundation, RRAR REALTOR® Giving Network, Nancy A. Wright Foundation, and Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation for their generous support of this work.

To our government partners, including the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the City of Raleigh, Central Pines Regional Council (CPRC), Wake County, and the Wake County Opioid Settlement Fund, for their commitment to Arise Collective and like organizations.

To our strategic partners, including Campbell University, Community Success Initiative, Duke Divinity School, East Carolina University, Green Chair Project, NeighborHealth, SouthLight Healthcare, Wake Technical Community College, Wheels4Hope, and many more, for their advocacy, work, and dedication.

To the member organizations of the Wake County Local Reentry Council, including individuals, other nonprofit service providers, faith-based organizations, and area businesses, all of whom work with women in securing their post-release needs.

... and to the many women we are privileged to serve. We could not do this work without you!





