



# Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council

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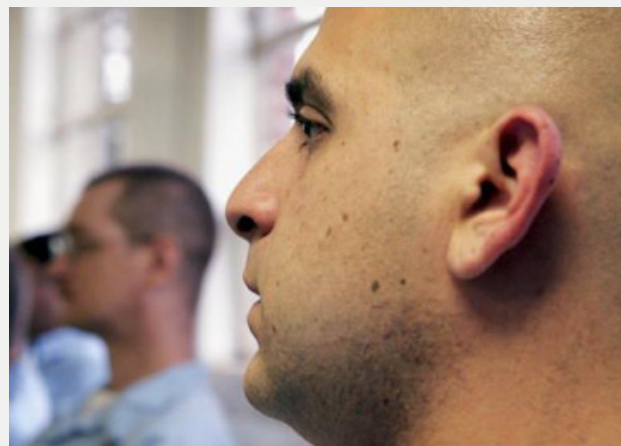
## Helping ex-offenders make a successful transition to a productive community life

### A Network of Coordinated Services

- Flintridge Center, the Pasadena Police Department and various local nonprofit organizations formed the Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council in 2010 to help formerly incarcerated individuals transition back into society.
- Coordinated by Flintridge, the Council—a coalition of 40 public agencies and local service providers—conducts monthly resource fairs where the formerly incarcerated learn about available social services and programs.
- Referrals are provided for transitional housing and sober living facilities; family services; drug and alcohol treatment programs; homeless shelters; medical, mental and dental health services; tattoo removal; job preparation; and assistance with child support and transportation needs.
- The resource fairs offer a free lunch and door prizes in a welcoming atmosphere and typically draw some 30-40 individuals.
- Flintridge Center staff and partner agencies also provide one-to-one counseling and case management assistance for individuals who request it.
- By connecting formerly incarcerated men and women to a network of comprehensive, community-based services, we provide the critical support that can help deter recidivism.

### By Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration, Public Safety is Improved

- California has one of the largest prison populations in the United States and a recidivism rate that is among the highest.
- Ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court to reduce its overcrowded prisons, the state of California passed a bill (AB109), which releases some 30,000 low-risk offenders to county supervision.



**Mission:** To build hope and resilience in the lives of youth and their families in Northwest Pasadena and West Altadena. We work in partnership with the community to provide life-changing services and to act as a catalyst for pragmatic solutions that reduce community violence, improve academic achievement, and launch career paths for the benefit of the greater Pasadena/Altadena area.

**Vision:** A healthy, safe community where families thrive, youth reach their full potential, and equality and opportunity are accessible to all.

*“Flintridge in partnership with the Reintegration Council is doing important work in reducing recidivism in men and women who are coming out of the prison system. They really see that every life matters .... This kind of inspiring work is what Flintridge excels at.”*

**Julianne Hines, District Director**  
**Assemblymember Anthony Portantino**

- A projected 9,000-11,000 inmates who previously would have been supervised by state parole officers upon release will now be shifted to LA County Probation supervision. Neither parolees nor probationers, they are called “post release supervised persons” or PSPs. State parole agents will continue to supervise the more high risk individuals. And, while the state has provided funds for counties to provide services to the “PSP” population, such funds have only been approved through the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2012.
- The Reintegration Council is stepping up to the plate and preparing to meet the service needs of individuals returning to Pasadena/Altadena neighborhoods upon release. Many have mental health and substance abuse issues. With few skills and little means of support, these individuals face significant challenges, including finding housing and a job with a steady paycheck. However, the very good news is research indicates that with appropriate support structures and assistance, many can become contributing members of society.
- The referrals and friendly assistance provided by the Reintegration Council lessen the temptation and desperation that can lead ex-offenders to return to criminal activity.

### **We Get Results**

- The Council began coordinating the resource fairs in June 2011 after the Pasadena Parole Office lost its funding for the program.
- After conducting a survey to identify service gaps, the Council expanded the monthly events, bringing in new service providers (e.g., financial planning and case management), as well as employment agencies and on-site health screenings.
- Council members engage in extensive outreach to inform the formerly incarcerated about the resource fairs. Within the first five months under Council operation, the fairs drew more than 100 ex-offenders, with 60% from the Pasadena/Altadena area.
- Through a grant from The Ahmanson Foundation, 25 formerly incarcerated individuals are receiving specialized case management services from Friends Outside. All have created case plans and are working to address their specific needs for medical exams, job readiness skills, technical certifications, employment, housing, drug treatment and legal services.
- The Council created a brochure listing local resources, which the Police Department distributes to individuals released on parole.
- The program’s effectiveness is enhanced by involving the formerly incarcerated in all aspects of the program. They participate in the decision-making and planning efforts, assist in outreach, help clients obtain access to services, and give motivational speeches at the resource fairs. Their input has proved invaluable to the Council and adds to the sense that we are all working together as a community.

*The Reintegration Council has been called a model program for parolee reintegration by Pasadena’s Police Chief Phillip Sanchez.*

*Since 2010, the city’s overall crime rate has dropped 9.8%.*

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Everyone has the potential to change

## Anton's Story

Anton (not real name) is 31 and covered with tattoos from his neck down. A former gang member, he'd had a rough life and served a third of it behind bars for robbery. After his release, he went to live with relatives in Pasadena. That's when a family member called Flintridge's office in tears. She'd seen an article about the reintegration services in the *Pasadena Weekly* and hoped we could help. A meeting was arranged with Flintridge's Outreach Coordinator. Though skeptical at first, Anton warmed up when the Coordinator shared his own story of overcoming similar challenges. The Coordinator helped Anton with his résumé and referred him to a vocational counselor with a state assistance program. Anton was also encouraged to pursue his GED, enroll in vocational training and have some tattoos removed. Anton's grateful relative wrote the Coordinator, thanking him for his wisdom and life-changing advice. She is now helping Anton follow through on the suggestions.

## Ruben's Story

It's hard for many in today's economy to find a job, but for men and women returning home from prison, it's even more difficult. Ruben (not real name) was released from prison and lives in a residential treatment center for substance abuse. Despondent about not finding work, Ruben attended the Council resource fair and met with Flintridge's Outreach Coordinator. The Coordinator told Ruben about a construction company looking for general laborers. He walked Ruben through the online application process and helped him create an appropriate email address. After submitting the application, Ruben was called in for an interview and hired. Now, he has a job with a decent wage and is on the path to continued recovery.

**Join us in helping ex-offenders start a  
new life of recovery,  
and help keep our community safe.**

*Contact Mark Eiduson, Flintridge Center Director of  
Strategic Partnerships, at 626/449-0839, ext. 128  
or [Mark@Flintridge.org](mailto:Mark@Flintridge.org).*



## Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council

### Donors

The Ahmanson Foundation  
Jaylene L. Moseley

### Community Partners

Advisory Team & Council Members  
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L.A. County Sheriff's Department – Altadena Station  
NOBLE  
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Phoenix House  
Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater L.A.  
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Fuller Theological Seminary

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Walter Hoving Home  
Weingart Center  
Western Justice Center  
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Worksource Career Partners  
Young and Healthy

# Thank you!

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