



December 12, 2022

Dear loyal Ministry of Hope supporter,

As 2023 approaches, are we ready for what it has to offer?

I certainly hope so! But, I talk to a LOT of folks in my professional and personal life and I keep hearing the same story – just with different players and settings. This past year has been difficult as we have attempted to return to whatever “normal” life is supposed to be. There is a lot of uncertainty. Our last end-of-year letter had a similar feeling: the idea that we’re all trying to get used to the “new normal” and somehow get “on the other side” of a rough couple of years, remember? So if you’re like me, I sometimes don’t always feel confident about where we are supposed to get our strength, courage, inspiration, and motivation to keep moving forward for ourselves and our loved ones – especially when we feel as if we’re barely surviving, let alone thriving... And that couldn’t be more true for those inside the gates of Western Correctional Center for Women (WCCW) as we continue to serve them.

Amidst the chaos, **let’s remember what we’ve overcome instead, and what we’ve endured.** Let’s give ourselves a little TLC and some quiet space to heal during these hectic holiday times.

Take a moment and breathe. Pause. Remember that despite it all, you’re still going – and you helped us forge new paths of support for the residents this past year. “Going back” is not moving forward. Knowing this, we found new ways to provide programs, services, pastoral care, classes, and mentoring in this constantly changing incarcerated landscape. Opportunities for joy, healing, growth, and courage were found in unexpected places, and for that we are grateful!

Without your support, we would not have the encouragement, resources, and hope required to keep facing the ongoing challenges and changes – while **being present** one day at a time – to serve the residents at WCCW.

Volunteers and (limited) groups are returning to WCCW, and we have a new and operational Family Reunification Center on-site. Ministry of Hope has also been working to expand post-release programs and transitional assistance in an attempt to help even more women successfully reenter our community with the tools to start a new life for themselves.

We are ready for 2023, and with your help, we’ll make a reality the high hopes we have for the upcoming year!

Presence paired with resources equals a greater quality of life – physically and spiritually – even in difficult times.

By joining us in making a deeper connection with our residents, we are able to make a real impact in their day-to-day lives and their future. This creates **hope** for **renewal, reconciliation, and restoration** – our vision statement enacted! The Ministry of Hope wishes you and yours a blessed 2022 holiday, with wishes for a healthy and bright 2023. On behalf of the all the women, staff, and our chaplains at WCCW, **we truly thank you** for remembering Ministry of Hope with your support.

Let’s continue to be present for one other, our loved ones, and our community.

Lauronda Morrow Teeple
2022 Board Chair