



DID YOU ATTEND OUR LUNCHEON IN SEPTEMBER AT MONTREAT?

If you did, thank you! If you didn't, don't worry!
Below is the link/QR code to watch the presentation:

<https://youtu.be/Jicmu9dqqSg>

Scan with phone camera to open
video on youtube: ➡



December 14, 2023

Dear loyal Ministry of Hope supporter,

WHEW! It's that time of year again – filled with traveling, busy schedules, visiting loved ones, lots of running around in an effort to make the season festive and bright, all jammed into the end of what's already been such an overwhelming year, right? Well, I'd like to share with you about a visitor that's often unexpected around the holidays: Grief. There's a heartfelt poem that talks about how she shows up uninvited at a party, and brings along Anger, Fear, Frustration, Guilt, and Hopelessness with her.

We see a LOT of Grief at the Western Correctional Center for Women (WCCW). She and her friends visit almost everyone there at one time or another – taking up every corner of space, speaking louder than all the other voices in the room. They cause uncomfortable feelings and leave a mess. When the visit is over, there is a realization that one friend remains – quietly cleaning, working to make things right again... **LOVE**. She had been there the whole time, and looked familiar, but was just dressed as Grief.

At a time when our world can feel like a scary place, it can be hard to know where and how to help with so many people suffering – here locally, across our country, and in so many regions around the world. But we're happy to say that Love is a close friend to the Ministry of Hope and our community. We recognize the importance for experiencing all of Grief's friends. Every day, Love also gives us opportunities to introduce more of her friends to those we serve: Joy, Healing, Growth, Strength, Respect, Courage and **HOPE**.

It has been said that each of us has the power to create our own future. Well, I can assure you that Ministry of Hope has been living by that mantra, continuing our quest throughout the year for providing safe spaces, trust, courage, inspiration, care and motivation for those inside – and outside – the gates. **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 – in serving the residents at WCCW.

We continue to find new ways to provide programs, services, pastoral care, classes, and mentoring in the constantly changing incarcerated landscape. Volunteers and (limited) groups have returned 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 2024, and with your help, we'll make a reality the high hopes we have for the upcoming year!**

Maya Angelou said, "Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope." 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 2023 holiday, and a healthy and bright 2024. On behalf of our Board, as well as all the residents, staff, and our chaplains at WCCW, **we truly thank you** for remembering Ministry of Hope with your support.

Let's continue to invite LOVE and HOPE into our lives and our community.

Lauronda Morrow Teeple
Executive Director



THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW



We are seeking supporters that can assist us in growth for 2024...

The funds raised will directly impact our ability to hire the additional staff, administrative support and resources we need to increase our programs that are provided weekly and monthly to women inside WCCW (for pre-release reentry programs) and "outside the gate" transitional programs (for those that have released into our community and need support services).

Every dollar counts! See my enclosed donation of \$ _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Detatch, include with donation, and mail to: Ministry of Hope, PO Box 998, Black Mountain NC 28711



Scan with phone camera to open web page for Edward Jones representative!

TRANSFERS OF STOCK MAY ALSO BE A FORM OF DONATION!

Many supporters have been very generous this year by transferring a portion of their stock holdings - could this work for you?

Contact our Edward Jones representative for more information:

Alaina D. Nelson | (828) 505-4469
1011 Tunnel Rd Ste 205, Asheville, NC 28805

DONATIONS CAN ALSO BE MADE SECURELY ONLINE:



**MAKE A
DONATION
← NOW**

www.MinistryOfHopeWNC.org

In the last 10 years, our chaplains have extended our services even further to include additional programs to assist the residents in their journey of transition - which starts "on the inside" (in the heart and soul, pre-release), as well as "on the outside" (their physical world) and eventually leaving WCCW. We've realized in recent years that in order to help the ever-growing demand, **it's going to take another growth spurt, as well as broadening the ways we serve.** Not only is the population continuing to grow, but so is the number of women who are passing through WCCW without the time or opportunity to gain the valuable tools and resources to transition back into our communities successfully.



LIVING WITH LOSS
Grief Recovery Program



MENDING FENCES
Family Mediation Programs



HOUSES OF HEALING
Domestic Abuse
Recovery Program



OPENING DOORS
Post Release &
Reentry Programs



CHANGEOVER
Transitional
Mentoring Program



READ ME A STORY
Children's Book
& Audio Program

Any group that works in service to the women at WCCW (or any correctional center) will tell you that **the ultimate goal we all have is to REDUCE RECIDIVISM - the likelihood that an individual will return to prison within three years.** The North Carolina state recidivism rate is pretty scary - over 50%. Yes, that means that one out of every two individuals released from incarceration right now will return within three years. Needless to say, we feel it's our duty - now more than ever - to help break that cycle. Women who have participated in one or several of our programs (and through the transitional housing) drop the recidivism rate to less than 10%. **IT WORKS, plain and simple.**

The extension of services into any new programs will not take away our efforts, energy or focus from our primary goal of serving the residents at WCCW, but recidivism is not only impacted by what goes on "inside" the prison, but also what happens "outside the gates" once a woman is released. Availability of resources needed for day-to-day life, a reliable support network (of peers, mentors, and community), and safe housing options **TRULY** make a big impact on one's ability to maintain the "transition within" that happened before their release and have a truly successful transition.

Currently we have identified two main areas of growth we're exploring: 1) transition services (pre- and post-release reentry education, support, programming); and 2) providing support and resources to incarcerated women serving shorter sentences (who currently are unable to participate in our long-term mentoring programs, or are serving their time in county detention centers).