



INTERFAITH PRISON MINISTRY  
FOR WOMEN  
*Heal.Grow.Thrive.*

**1980 - 2020**

**Celebrating 40 Years of Service**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

40

*Celebrating  
40 Years of Hope*

Dear Friends,

When the Presbyterian Women called up Chaplain Winona Jones duCille in 1980, not much was known about women in the realm of criminal justice. In that context, the creation of the program that grew to become Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women (IPMW) could be considered to have been cutting-edge.

IPMW has gone through several life cycles – and names – over these past four decades. How we carry out our work may have shifted as our base has broadened, yet our recent Oral History project has revealed a refreshing consistency to our work during this time. I have been heartened to learn that there are some recurring themes that have lingered in the hearts and minds of organizational leaders both past and present, that we are bringing to life through recent endeavors like the new Women's Reentry Project.

2020 was a transformational year in both anticipated and unanticipated ways. We came into the year with plans to celebrate our 40th anniversary through

a series of different live events. We launched a Kickstarter campaign for the long-awaited Conviction Concert album in February, and then alongside the entire world, we, the women we serve and our community of supporters were forever changed by COVID-19. The prison in which we primarily work was hit hard by the pandemic, with most residents testing positive for the virus, and one beloved friend – Ms. Faye Brown – having been felled by this deadly virus.

*Throughout these many years, we have remained true to our core 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.* And, we still take seriously the need to build bridges of hope for women in prison before and after release, reducing barriers to reentry by educating the general public about issues of incarceration and creating platforms from which women can claim their humanity by telling their own stories in unique and creative ways.

Despite gains made these past 40 years, women remain the fastest-growing segment of the prison population. With your faith and support, IPMW will be here as long as women ask us to walk alongside them through and beyond their carceral journeys. And, particularly during challenging times like these, we will continue to lift up the truth that there is much we can learn from incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women about resiliency and how to come out on the other side of forced confinement even stronger and better than before.

We give thanks to our organizational ancestors and are honored to still be nurturing the flame that they lit over 40 years ago. There is still so much left to do, and ***we greatly appreciate your partnership and support.***

Peace and many blessings,



Jennifer C. Jackson

Executive Director





## A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION



Forty years ago, a group of women from three Presbyteries across the state came together to fund the first female chaplain in the North Carolina prison system. Over the next four decades, the organization now known as Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women (IPMW) has provided chaplaincy services and more recently, transition education and reentry support for women, both at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women (NCCIW) and its minimum-security Canary Unit.

Since our founding in 1980, thousands of women have received the services they need to **heal, grow** and **thrive**. These women are able to succeed through community – community that you help us to provide.

***Here's a look back on our last 40 years and where, together, we'll be heading in the next.***

## THE CHALLENGE

---

Current systems are set up to continue to punish justice-involved individuals long after their prison sentences have ended. Too often, women are released from prison and have no other option but to return to home environments that are ill-equipped to support them in breaking free from the circumstances that led to their convictions. For 40 years now, dedicated donors, volunteers, chaplains, other staff and champions of IPMW have been seeking to change that.

## OUR SOLUTION

---

**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.

**GOAL** / to provide a long-term solution to helping women thrive both pre- and post-release, through spiritual and religious grounding, emotional literacy training, leadership development, job and life skills, accountability, responsibility, practical assistance, self-discipline, strong support systems and love.



**APPROACH** / we fulfill this mission through a variety of programs, services and interventions, both pre- and post-release. We also engage the community in trainings and simulations to increase their awareness of issues surrounding incarceration and the women and families who are impacted.



## OUR HISTORY

### *Celebrating 40 Years of Dignity, Hope and Freedom*



IPMW is founded when the Presbyterian Chaplaincy Coordinating Committee (PCCC) comes together to fund the first female chaplain in the North Carolina prison system, Rev. Winona Jones duCille.

Chaplain Marla Cates becomes PCCC's new chaplain and broadens the role of chaplain by formalizing the resident-led choir, organizing a drama troupe and helping institute the JobStart program.

**1980**

**1985**

**1989**

**1990**

**1995**

**1997**

**2000**

North Carolina builds the Raleigh Correctional Center for Women (now known as the Canary Unit), a new minimum-security, work-release facility for women who are within five years of release.

The JobStart transition program is founded by the Department of Corrections and is piloted at RCCW and five other NC prisons. The now-Canary Unit program is the only one still in existence.

# *Honoring all eight of our Chaplains and two Executive Directors, past and present.*



The Hope Center for Worship and Education opens and provides a major expansion in PCCC's services, including a space for worship services and other educational programs.



PPM becomes Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women (IPMW) to better reflect the broadening scope of the work and the women represented.

**2002**

**2004**

**2005**

**2010**

**2013**

**2015**

**2020**

PCCC changes its name to Presbyterian Prison Ministry (PPM) and becomes a 501(c)(3) nonprofit while the mission of being a ministry of hope to women in prison and after release remains unchanged.

IPMW celebrates its 40th Anniversary! Chaplain Jobe heroically serves women and staff of the prison amidst the challenges of the pandemic.

# 2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

---

*Though 2020 was anything but an ordinary year, we celebrated some extraordinary milestones across our entire organization thanks to our chaplains, other staff, volunteers, partners, donors and champions like you.*



## Chaplaincy Services

Continuing to serve in crisis

IPMW Chaplaincy Services experienced uncharacteristic upheavals in 2020 as a result of COVID-19 and had to navigate new regulatory changes that increasingly restricted the programming we were permitted to offer onsite at the Canary Unit. Despite these challenges, Chaplain Sarah Jobe continued as the only chaplain primarily assigned to the Canary Unit through the duration of the year after the retirement of Chaplain Willie Brazil, providing no cessation of pastoral care, comfort and self-study programming to residents and staff alike.

**3,462**

total chaplaincy touchpoints

**280**

women served



DIGNITY  
HOPE  
FREEDOM

## Transition and Reentry

Going where the need is greatest

After hosting three JobStart Friday sessions at the start of 2020, we quickly pivoted to create the Emergency Assistance Fund after the prison shut down in March. This allowed us to assist women who had lost their jobs or had become under- or unemployed because of the pandemic. Through this new fund, we provided support for rent and utilities, food, cell phone bills, parole fees, hygiene items, prescription costs, transportation expenses and more.

**1,263**

total touchpoints\*

**85+**

women served

\*after September 2020



## A Cause for Celebration...

A virtual celebration of 40 years of service

In October of 2020, our community spent five evenings virtually celebrating IPMW's 40th anniversary through a series of creative and informative video segments. The episodes lifted up the voices of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women through cooking, music and other forms of resiliency and creativity. They also honored organizational ancestors, shared about our history and engaged the community.

### Night 1

#### **HERstory**

Celebrating our rich history and the many champions who made it possible

### Night 2

#### **A Taste of Prison**

Laughing alongside formerly incarcerated cooks as they share their wisdom on making food in prison, from "prison lasagna" to "state cakes"

### Night 3

#### **Speaking Up, Singing Out**

Sharing songs of resilience and faith written by women in prison

### Night 4

#### **Heal. Grow. Thrive.**

Writing the next chapter of IPMW's history alongside free women who are teaching us about hope, courage and strength

### Night 5

#### **A Cause for Celebration**

Honoring the community that is paving the way for justice-involved women through our inaugural Hope Awards

To revisit the virtual celebration, head to [ipmforwomen.org/40th-anniversary](http://ipmforwomen.org/40th-anniversary)

# INAUGURAL HOPE AWARDEES

On the final evening of our five-night extravaganza, we presented the inaugural Hope Awards to community leaders who have had a significant impact on the women and the issues that surround them. We look forward to honoring more leaders each year!

**The Anonymous Trust  
and Kimberly Breeden**  
Director, SimplyEast Fund



*Angel of Hope*

**Dr. Alice Noell**  
Instructor, Wake Technical  
College/JobStart



*Beacon of Hope*

**Jessica Holmes**  
Former Chair, Wake County  
Board of Commissioners



*Champion of Hope*

## Women's Reentry Project

Launching into the next 40 years

In July 2020, IPMW launched the new **Women's Reentry Project (WRP)** thanks to a generous investment by North Carolina's Anonymous Trust. The WRP approaches reentry not from a punitive stance, but rather one of providing support, community and encouragement, while simultaneously working to remove systemic barriers to successful reintegration.

6

women accepted  
into the WRP in  
its first six months  
of existence

9

women regularly  
attended Peer Connect  
monthly support  
group after it pivoted  
to online

*Jennifer C. Jackson and Shanae Artis with Susan Burton,  
Founder and CEO of A New Way of Life Reentry Project*



**“**The Women's Reentry Project will be a place where women can seek refuge, sisterhood, support and inspiration as they prepare for and navigate life after prison and develop the capacity, tools and knowledge they need to forge new and better lives for themselves, their children and families.**”**

JENNIFER C. JACKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Back-to-school drive hosted for **14 children** of formerly incarcerated women and **23 Hope Bags** delivered to support women post-release



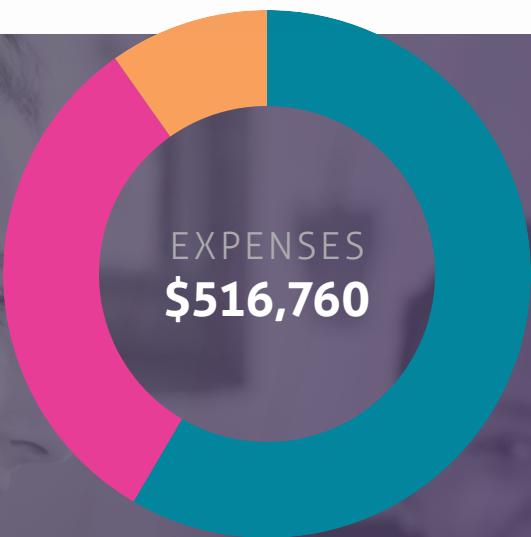
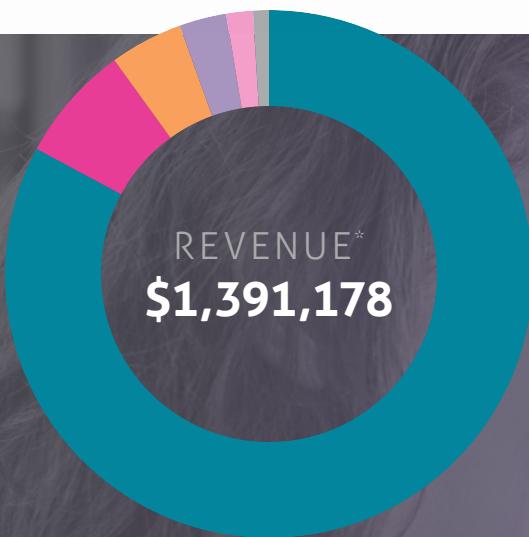
Duke HealthCARES Initiative launched with **four women** being paired with medical students to help navigate the healthcare system and set their own health goals



Education Sponsorship Program launched, helping **two women** obtain their Peer Support Specialist Certification and providing laptops to **six women** for employment, educational and health-related usage



# 2020 FINANCIALS



\$ 1,152,840 Grants  
\$ 99,706 Individuals  
\$ 62,240 Contract/Other Income  
\$ 40,223 Faith-Based  
\$ 22,669 In-Kind Donations  
\$ 13,500 Family Foundations

\$ 302,009 Program Services\*\*  
\$ 164,262 Management & General  
\$ 50,489 Fundraising

\* Revenue includes an outstanding receivable of \$782K which will be used in 2021 to build the new Women's Reentry Project.

\*\*Organization focused on building infrastructure in 2020 while not being able to run programs due to COVID-19.



# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF GRATITUDE AND GROWTH

---

- ▶ To the 214 individuals and institutions who financially supported IPMW during this challenging year.
- ▶ To the Anonymous Trust, the Bob Barker Company Foundation, the John William Pope Foundation, the W. Trent Ragland, Jr. Foundation and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation for your leadership, partnership, commitment to and support of our work.
- ▶ To First Presbyterian Church and our many church and faith community partners for your unwavering faith in the women we serve and in our work.
- ▶ To the Department of Public Safety, Wake Technical College, Capital Area Workforce Development, Catholic Charities and all of our strategic partners.
- ▶ To the many mentors and volunteers who tirelessly gave of your time and talents on behalf of our mission.
- ▶ Above all else, to the over 300 women who allowed us the privilege of community, friendship and service this year.

# 2020 LEADERSHIP

## Staff

Jennifer C. Jackson  
*Executive Director*

Shanae Artis  
*Transition and Reentry Manager*

Shelda Askew\*  
*Peer Support Specialist/Case Manager*

Willie Brazil\*  
*Chaplain*

Tonita Few\*  
*Development Director*

Sarah Jobe  
*Senior Chaplain*

Cherisse Kendrick  
*Bookkeeping Assistant*

Leanne Wells\*  
*Office Manager*

Mindy Farren  
*Duke Divinity School Intern*

Claire Latimer-Dennis  
*Duke Divinity School Intern*

Henley Peatross  
*Meredith College Intern*

Meredith Rawls  
*UNC School of Social Work Intern*

\* Partial year

## Board Members

Marci White  
*President*

Edith Platt\*  
*Vice President*

Shannon Morrison\*  
*Secretary*

Ron Aycock  
*Treasurer*

Bernadine Anthony  
Doris Bullock

Paula Malzone  
Allyn Meredith-Damman  
Tereciah V. Smithen-Quintana  
Jean Suber



We're so excited for what the next 40 years will bring and want you to be a part of it. Whether you're **giving your time, making a financial impact** or simply **helping spread the word** about our work, you are an active part of bringing hope and dignity to the women we serve. Visit [ipmforwomen.org/get-involved](http://ipmforwomen.org/get-involved) for more information!

GET INVOLVED!