

IN2WORK IMPACT

EDUCATE.

ENCOURAGE.

EMPLOY.

LEON'S STORY: A TRUE PARTNERSHIP

"Flint Man Becomes First Michigan Inmate To Get ServSafe Certified In Jail"



LEON M.
IN2WORK Graduate, 2021

Leon was incarcerated in Flint, Michigan for 21 months; he was also the very first graduate out of the IN2WORK Program at Genesee County Jail. Both the Aramark team and Genesee County officials celebrated his success with a graduation ceremony. Leon prepared individually packaged meals for all the attendees – including his mother and aunt who surprised him at the graduation. Fighting back tears, Leon accepted his certificates and thanked those who supported him through the program.

To fully support students like Leon, the IN2WORK program partnered with the Sheriff's department program IGNITE. Both programs aim to break the cycle of incarceration through education and employment. The partnership strengthens and encourages graduates to build a pathway to a career by taking advantage of reentry assistance, leading up to job placement with the county.

“Good do come out of bad, you know? I’m just thankful and grateful I was given this opportunity. It was a long journey, but I stuck through it. I never would have thought that I’d be where I am today.”

Let's look at Leon's rehabilitative journey:

- He graduated from the I2W & IGNITE programs and was released from jail
- Immediately after release, Leon applied and earned a position with the county's senior's nutrition service program.
- Today Leon has a full-time job, receiving a livable wage within the same county that he was previously incarcerated.

Education and continued reentry support are proven to reduce recidivism and boost employability and earnings. The partnership between IN2WORK and Genesee County helped Leon jumpstart his career and validate is inherent worth.



“I want everyone to see that this is the reality of investing in people. There is a population that is sometimes forgotten, and many times dismissed.”
- SHERIFF SWANSON



THE FUTURE:

Leon would like to open his own food truck. He specializes in making deep fried burritos with five different meats, potatoes, olives, jalapeños and cheese.