After going through a difficult season in life, Jeff Lemoine found himself addicted to drugs and alcohol and ended up incarcerated. While there, his faith helped him find clarity about his situation. "The last time I was incarcerated, God really spoke to me. I knew I was done with that life. I had nothing left," he said – a moment of reckoning familiar with many prisoners. Jeff knew he wanted to start over once he was released, and he knew he finally had the strength to do so. The only question was, did he have the resources?

The lack of resources is a challenge for most justice-involved individuals returning home. They often have nowhere to turn for help with housing, food, employment, “Most don’t need a hand out, they need a hand up.” - Jeff Lemoine

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This challenge is one for most incarcerated individuals returning home. They often have to ask, “Where will I sleep? How will I eat? Who will hire me?”
Thankfully, a woman in Jeff’s community believed in him and believed he was a changed man. She allowed him to stay with her until he was able to get back on his feet. This life-changing moment paved the way for success for Jeff. He is now building a career with his construction skills and mentoring others fighting addiction — all because someone took a chance on a man previously incarcerated.

The Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative hopes to create more success stories like Jeff’s by meeting the needs of those returning home from incarceration and making sure they have the necessary resources for success. These stories are made possible through LA-PRI’s structure and the participation of the program’s team members. Jeff wants others to know that people truly can change and that most individuals returning to the community aren’t looking for a handout, only a hand-up. Just a little motivation, direction, and a chance can change a life and, quite possibly, an entire community.

TO LEARN MORE GO TO http://www.socialworx.org/laprista/the-lapri-framework/