

APRIL 16, 2021

A CHANGE OF HEART

St. Tammany Parish - Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative

MIKE'S STORY

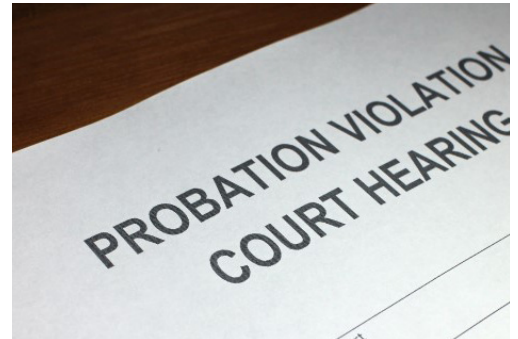
By Brittany Herron, Community Coordinator

At the beginning of Mike Phelps's 23-year law enforcement career, he saw the men and women in prison as people who deserved to be there. He saw them as the problem. Yet after seeing those he put in prison recidivate, he started to dig deeper into the issue and understand the barriers that send individuals back to prison time and again. Today, he sees things differently; "I look at the justice-involved as people with problems who need help, and I believe our job is to help those we can," he says.

When asked how he hopes to change the lives of those involved with the justice system, he humbly responds, "I cannot change anyone, but I can assist them in making changes themselves." Mike hopes justice-involved individuals can learn to improve their lives through proper counseling, access to treatments and supports, and witnessing others' successes.

Reentry programs, like the Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative (LA-PRI), play a vital role in helping justice-involved individuals access the help they need to break the cycle of recidivism. Once a feared probation officer, Mike now leads the St. Tammany Parish LA-PRI team as the program manager, believes in the program's results, and understands what it takes to keep men and women out of prison, ultimately strengthening the community.

"Most of the justice-involved population is worth the investment of our time and resources," says Mike, and he knows "helping to save one individual is truly worth it to that person's family."



"I BELIEVE OUR JOB IS TO HELP THOSE WE CAN."

- Mike Phelps

CURRENT PARTNERS

22nd Judicial District Court
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans
Church of The King
Florida Parishes Human Services Authority
GEO Reentry
NAMI St. Tammany
Northshore Technical Community College
Samaritan Center
St. Tammany Probation and Parole
Tri-Parish Works
United Way of Southeast Louisiana
Upward Community Services

AREAS OF FOCUS

LA-PRI is helping individuals reintegrate into their community after being incarcerated and keeps individuals from returning to incarceration.

Housing
Employment
Mental Health
Addiction Support
Peer Support Education
Vocational Training
Family Reunification

CONTACT US

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ST. TAMMANY PARISH

LA-PRI

PRISONER RE-ENTRY INITIATIVE

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