

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Program Serving Marion County Offenders Receives \$60,000 from Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust**

Indianapolis – More than 5,000 people are released annually from state prisons to Marion County. They are typically faced with insurmountable needs and oftentimes when these needs go unmet, they return to a life of crime.

Thanks to a \$60,000 grant, offenders released to Marion County will have access to a program to help them succeed in the community.

When DeeEllen Davis met Buddy a couple of months before he was released from an Indiana prison, he shared information about his childhood. “I can really picture a little boy, watching his father beating his mother, being moved between relatives over and over, being separated from his siblings, being angry and uncontrollable in school, starting to drink and use drugs, his teeth rotting by 17 and then he starts getting in trouble with the law,” said DeeEllen, a member of a faith care team with Faith in Community Ministry.

Faith in Community Ministry, a program of Choices, Inc., received a \$60,000 from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust to help offenders transition to community living by offering practical, emotional and spiritual support throughout the transition to community life. FCM engages the faith community and coordinates a team of community volunteers who work with the person being released to find a job, housing, transportation and more. Buddy is FCMs first success story, and support from the Trust will bring help to more people.

Today Buddy is 53 years old and not the same man he was when he was released from prison in 2006. Buddy is beating the odds after spending half of his life incarcerated.

“It’s common for us to fear people who are coming out of prison,” said Mary Z. Longstreth, Director of Faith in Community Ministry. “Ninety-seven percent of people who are incarcerated return to the community eventually, and we need to understand how to work and live with them and not just push them out of our neighborhood.”

For more information about Faith in Community Ministry and Buddy’s story, please contact Courtney Kasinger at 317.205.8268 or visit [www.ChoicesTeam.org/fcm](http://www.ChoicesTeam.org/fcm).

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Re-Entry

Reintegration

Reconciliation

Providing support through faith communities for incarcerated adults re-entering society.

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