

ABOUT OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Singer-songwriter John Flynn was recruited by the Franciscans to work as a volunteer with New Beginnings at the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution in 2005. Since then he has overseen the program's expansion into other facilities, as well as its adoption of crucial re-entry work with returning citizens, and its incorporation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. John has been recognized by the State Senate of Delaware for his work with incarcerated and returning citizens and is a recipient of the 2019 National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Champion of Justice Humanitarian Award.



WORDS FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS

"Keeps me on track. Keeps hope alive. It's not about what you did, but what you can do!"

"I feel cared for - loved
Means so much to me each day"

"NB-NS is my family. I started in Gander Hill.
Without it, I'd have nothing."

"New Beginnings is more than just a group to me, it's a family. It's a place where I can vent, get things off my chest, cry, laugh, smile, and not be judged. I look forward to each and every meeting because it really soothes my soul and takes me away from prison for just these few moments. This group has helped me change in so many ways."

"In this concrete and steel fortress of destroyed and interrupted lives, New Beginnings is an oasis of peace. Every time I leave to return to my housing unit I am uplifted and inspired."



Contact us:

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www.NewBeginnings-NextStep.org

New Beginnings- Next Step

Where change starts with relationships

New Beginnings
NEXT STEP



www.NewBeginnings-NextStep.org

OUR MISSION

New Beginnings-Next Step assists adult individuals who desire to prepare for and successfully meet the challenges of freedom, both prior to and after their release from incarceration.

New Beginnings-Next Step

- Creates and fosters a community of hope for and among incarcerated and returning citizens.
- Recognizes the dignity of each person and helps them to envision re-entry paths and possibilities.
- Grounded in a spirituality of reverence, self-determination, generosity and hospitality.



OUR PURPOSE

Founded in 1993, with roots in the Franciscan and Quaker communities, New Beginnings-Next Step runs peer support groups inside and outside of prison to help members build resilience by establishing relationships of trust and deep connection to community.

New Beginnings-Next Step's weekly support groups operate in a growing number of Delaware prisons. We also conduct weekly meetings for those who have returned to society. Our mission is supported by volunteers, a board of directors, and an Executive Director.

OUR PROGRAM

By building relationships with individuals while they are incarcerated and focusing on a holistic and caring approach that includes a spiritual dimension, New Beginnings-Next Step establishes long standing supports for participants. Upon release from prison, these relationships continue. New Beginnings-Next Step offers returning citizens a caring community that offers practical, peer-based support and assistance with:

- Weekly Grocery Cards
- Transitional or Emergency Support
- Weekly Bus Passes
- Building Relationship and Life Skills
- Helping Members Stay on Track

New Beginnings-Next Step participants are much less likely to reoffend. Our members experience a recidivism rate of approximately 15%, compared with the state-wide Delaware rate of 76%.*

**Delaware Public Media, January 2019*



OUR GROUPS

- Examine constructive value-grounding alternatives to destructive behavior
- Explore the role of spiritually based values such as belief in self, others and God
- Acknowledge dignity of self and others by development of active listening skills
- Promote accountability for motives and resulting actions

New Beginnings-Next Step relies 100% on contributions from caring individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations.

Donations are used to purchase grocery store gift cards and bus passes, support the emergency needs of returning citizens, pay the Executive Director, and support other ongoing expenses.

To make a contribution visit:
www.NewBeginnings-NextStep.org

