

March 2021 marked one year of global lockdown. Changes like the cancellation of visitation and programming are only the tip of the iceberg. We acknowledge the tough circumstances on the inside and want to assure you all that **WE STAND WITH YOU!**

RAC CREDITS UPDATE

As the vaccine is administered throughout the state, Success Stories is prepared for the return of in-person programming. Although the dates haven't been set by CDCR, we are eager to return and support those inside working diligently to come home as soon as possible.

ART CONTEST



Artwork by Grace Pekrul

Calling all artists! Submit a work of art or writing, using any medium, for a chance to win! **The contest theme is your Top 5.** We will pick winners for both art and writing and you can enter both contests if you wish!

PRIZES

- 1st Place \$150
- 2nd Place \$100
- 3rd Place \$75

We will use our social media platforms to have our followers vote for the winners.

Winners will be announced in our Q3 Newsletter and prizes will be sent for Q3/Q4. Prize money will be given in the form of a quarterly package. To submit, please send to the address at the bottom of this page! **Deadline to enter is June 30, 2021.**

Please note: by submitting, you consent to your art or writing being used for future fundraising efforts to support our work.

STIMULUS ELIGIBILITY

Have a loved one check on your eligibility at the following link: <https://caresbehindbars.com>

EXCITING NEWS

Our team spent many years in prison with Chris Johnson and Roy Duran, Jr. These two supported us through some of our toughest moments. It brings us immense joy to inform you that both Chris Johnson and Roy Duran, Jr. have been found suitable for parole! Both Chris and Roy will continue to work for Success Stories Program upon returning home. Welcome home, brothers!

Congratulations to Alumni Jorge Salazar and Craig Lujan! After just under two years of being home, these two men have fulfilled their dreams having homes of their own. Jorge and Craig are an inspiration and remind us that anything is truly possible.



Pictured: Craig Lujan, Hugo Gonzalez, and Jorge Salazar

OUR RECENT GRADUATES

An amazing group of youth from Project Bridge graduated this past quarter. It was a pleasure to witness them having the space to express their truest thoughts, feelings, and dreams.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? WRITE TO US AT:

Success Stories Program 1175 East Baker Street E-19 Costa Mesa, California 92626

SUCCESS STORY

Graham Finochio



Success Stories Coach and Coach Coordinator, Graham Finochio is a prime example of transformation and what our work is all about. After serving the majority of his 37 years in group homes, county jails, and prison, Graham sat down and reflected on how life has changed since his release in 2019.

Graham is an incredible coach who works in prisons, youth centers, and treatment facilities with the main goal of addressing harm through dialogue that challenges toxic masculinity and patriarchy. He connects with others in an authentic way, sharing his unique experiences

and utilizing the relate - investigate - recreate model.

“I never thought I would ever be working for Success Stories,” Graham shared. Joining the Success Stories team has allowed him to sit with deep thoughts, considering what’s most important to him, and reflecting on his choices have allowed him to honor his Top 5.

When asked what motivates him to do this work, Graham humbly expressed,

“It feels good to finally be my true self. I now believe in myself and I want to pass that on.”

He didn’t want to end the interview before acknowledging those inside. “Understanding that it gets tough in there, sometimes change is easier said than done. To all my brothers and sisters incarcerated, I want to remind you, **challenge yourself to be yourself and surround yourself with good people that will hold you accountable in being the best YOU that you can be.**”

ALUMNI RESOURCES

Our Alumni Network has been created, **for you and by you**, to continue building the communities we create during the 12-weeks of Success Stories Program.

If you’re in need of any kind of resources – financial, educational, personal care, support – please write to us.

HELP US STAY CONNECTED TO YOU

If you move, please return this slip so that we can ensure you continue to receive our newsletter and other resources. Please send back this slip with the info below:

Name:

CDCR #:

Current housing address: