



2015 Milestones & Achievements

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PURPOSE

To reclaim lives lost from the destructive impact of mass incarceration.

Connect: Since 2006, our volunteers have helped hundreds of people break the degenerative cycle of trauma that perpetuates addiction, social decay and poverty. Our Coalition saved taxpayers millions of \$\$ in hidden losses.

Educate: Members worked with community leaders, sponsored workshops, panels and conferences to develop and implement working models of societal recovery. Helped defeat \$132.5M jail expansion project and tax liability.

Advocate: Testified against state and local issues to reverse mass incarceration; identified restorative economic alternatives. Founder Irene Morgan now serves on the new countywide Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force.

#1: Our Coalition has shown how we have, with as little as \$1500 per person, saved taxpayers \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually.

The \$1500 went to housing, emotional trauma recovery, case management and functional life skills training. By comparison taxpayer losses accelerate when people fail to break the cycle of incarceration. We calculated that just five of our clients had cost taxpayers over \$2.5M from their prior 20 years of recycling through the punishment based system. That's \$500,000 each.

By intercepting the problem at it root – where trauma and shaming begins – and using our method of support we interrupted the habitual abuse pattern so people could start recovering their own lives. The return on investment is dramatic. Our programs are scalable to mentor hundreds of people.

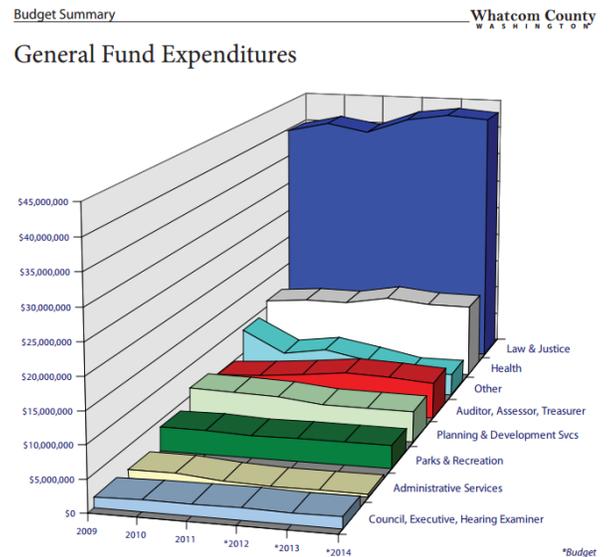
#2: Our Coalition implemented a jail reform movement.

Whatcom County has been spending a million tax dollars a week (60% of our budget) to arrest, prosecute and jail hundreds of people. Two-thirds of them are non-violent. Often they were arrested for no-harm driving violations, accidents or poor judgment caused by stress, addiction, mental health or poverty. Statistics show this kind of mass incarceration has failed taxpayers, producing a co-dependent and degenerative result.

Hundreds of Coalition volunteers researched to find the pivot point of optimal leverage to reverse the cycle to get the best return for taxpayers.

We published the *Stop Punishing Taxpayers, Start Rebuilding Community* taxpayer report to show stakeholders how to pivot to achieve best results:

1. Providing shelter, early mentorship, education and job training is best.
2. Trauma intervention for addiction, abuse and mental illness is second best.
3. Health recovery, re-training and jobs after incarceration is 3rd best.
4. Incarceration is last resort. It is highest expense and should only be used for violent offenders when other options have failed.





Societal Intercept Community Business Model

Goal 1: \$250,000 – Builds foundational structure

Base capital and operational funding includes providing office space, two staff, a workshop/meeting room, basic business center. This provides prevention services for 100+ people/mo.

Goal 2: \$500,000 - \$1 M expands the service reach

Expands to shared housing and sheltering for 35+ at risk people immediately in small homes or in an industrial location. Staff & mentors provide case management, coaching, and hands-on functional literacy training for inmates and families.

Goal 3: \$2 to \$5 Million guarantees regenerative business duplicability

This provides the capital and operational funding for a full service, 24-7 community intervention facility that provides recovery, education and transitional housing for 100+. Satellite locations can support communities and provide gradients of job re-training programs such as a sustainable farm, a furniture recovery business, team transportation, a green business incubation center and other enterprises.

#3: Our Coalition concludes it is better to fund restorative economic solutions rather than create taxpayer debt for regional jail expansion.

Coalition members spent hundreds of volunteer hours meeting with local policymakers to recommend downsizing the jail population and proposing alternatives. Instead, the County's bureaucratic habit of expanding revenue generating led them to spend millions on their plan and to propose building a regional jail complex estimated to cost taxpayers \$132.5 Million. When taxpayers realized the unsustainability of this, they defeated the jail tax.

Current research is clear: Except where we must incarcerate for violent offenses, incarceration is a failed system yielding excessively negative returns on investment for the taxpayers. This is a national to local problem. Following the money trail, we learned the school-to jail-to prison pipeline system siphons money from local people up into national profit centers. This has produced a systemic co-dependent ripple effect resulting in generational poverty. It hobbles our workforce, harms local businesses, bankrupts our middle class, and creates legal abuse and self-destructive behavior.

“Local” is the point of societal interception. We can reverse the degenerative spiral of escalating societal destruction. In the debilitating aftermath of mass incarceration, we can team up to counteract the effects and optimize the multiplier effect. Our vision is a mutually beneficial plan based on proven business models and solid strategies that stimulate small business growth, rebuilds our workforce, puts our youth and displaced people back to work and increases public safety by strengthening community relationships..

#4: The RestoreALife Center - our ‘Societal Intercept’ Project.

The basic foundation is modeled after the highly successful, already proven Delancey Street project in San Francisco. Their “each one, teach one” mentorship model has an 85% success rate over 40 years. They provide residential rehabilitation services and vocational training for substance abusers and convicted criminals. Business and community funded, they are not co-dependent on government grants and have created business income streams like a 5-Star restaurant and a nationwide moving company.

Our business plan shows we can do this in Whatcom County. The community demand is high enough for an ‘each one, teach two’ mentorship and economic revitalization project. It interrupts the cycle of incarceration at its roots. It includes prevention, early intervention, new technology training and entrepreneurship, personal achievement, relationship building and leadership coaching to help bridge the generational gaps for people at risk.

Spreading each of the different community businesses into our small cities in collaboration with other groups, we can revitalize our people, stimulate small business development and help rebuild our towns. It's a win-win-win.

When people know better, they do better.