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ReNforce

"We Are The Solution For Diversity and Opportunity"

More Than Thankful: Reflecting on What Connects Us



Beyond the Ballot, Beyond the Conversation

November is here, and I've been thinking about how often we talk about the importance of having a voice, yet how many people still struggle to be heard.

With Election Day approaching, there's a lot of conversation about voting, candidates, and the future of our communities. But civic engagement doesn't begin or end at the ballot box. It happens when we ask questions, understand the issues, and speak up about decisions that affect our everyday lives. And for those who cannot vote, their experiences, concerns, and voices are no less important.

This month, ReNforce is partnering with Women on the Rise to bring our community together for a conversation about probation and parole. This partnership is especially meaningful because both organizations understand that the people closest to these systems have valuable knowledge that should inform how we talk about them and work toward change.

Having navigated the criminal legal system myself, I know that probation and parole are not simply policies written on paper. They affect employment, family relationships, financial stability, and the ability to move forward. We want to hear from people who are living these experiences, their families, and community members who want to better understand how these systems work.

Sometimes the most important thing we can do is stop talking about people and start listening to them.

And as Thanksgiving approaches, I'm reminded that gratitude looks different depending on where you are in life. Some families will gather around a full table, while others will be missing someone they love. Some are celebrating new beginnings, while others are still working toward theirs.

This year, I'm especially thankful for the people who continue showing up. The families who refuse to give up on one another. The individuals who share their stories even when it's uncomfortable. The partners who understand that meaningful change requires more than good intentions.

At ReNforce, we're grateful to be part of a community that continues to challenge us, support us, and remind us why this work matters.

As we move through November, I hope we remember that our voices matter, our experiences matter, and what we do for one another matters long after Election Day and Thanksgiving have passed.

With gratitude,

Dr. Charlotte Garnes
Founder & CEO, ReNforce

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FEATURED PARTNER

Women on the Rise

Be Heard, Live Life, Go Vote



Casting your vote is about more than putting someone in a seat. The people we elect make decisions that touch our everyday lives, from our neighborhoods and schools to our courts, workforce opportunities, utilities, and the future of our communities.

This little Georgia peach says, "I secured my vote." Let it be a reminder that your voice matters, not only for you, but for your children, grandchildren, and the generations that will come after you.

We are also more than thankful for the generations before us who fought so that more people could have a voice and a place in our democracy. We honor that history by staying informed, understanding what is on our ballot, and participating when we are eligible.

Make a difference for yourself. Make a difference for your family. Make a difference for your community.
Be heard. Live life. Go VOTE!

In Community, We Find Strength

ReNforce staff had the opportunity to share our work at the Augusta Partnership for Children Collaborative Meeting, and what we walked away with was just as meaningful as what we shared.

The room was filled with connection—organizations exchanging resources, asking questions, learning more about ReNforce, and discovering new ways our work can connect.

But this picture represents something even deeper to us: **sisterhood.**

Those of us doing this work spend so much time pouring into others that sometimes we forget the importance of pouring back into ourselves. The conversations in this room were a reminder that the people doing the work need connection, encouragement, and space to remain grounded too.

Because the truth is, this work can come home with us. As we continue advocating, serving, and leading, we also have to give ourselves permission to heal, grow, and become healthier versions of ourselves along the way.

This November, we are thankful for the conversations, the new connections, the familiar faces, and the reminder that there is strength in being in a room with people who understand the weight and the purpose of the work.

Sisterhood | Connection | Healing |Growth| There was room for all of it.



Showing Up in Life's Hardest Moments

SOMETIMES A PHONE CALL REMINDS US EXACTLY WHY WE DO THIS WORK.

One of our participants had been working toward a plan for moving forward when life took an unexpected turn. During a difficult period involving their mental wellness, they were reincarcerated. But the story didn't stop there.

We continued to support the family because we know that when one person is impacted, the people who love them are impacted too.
Then came more loss. The family experienced unimaginable grief while already trying to process having their loved one return to the justice system. In the middle of everything they were carrying, our phone rang again. This time, the question wasn't, "Can you help me find a job?" It wasn't about a résumé, a certification, housing, or the next workforce cohort. It was simply a family trying to figure out how to help someone they loved grieve.

listening, being present, helping connect a family to support while recognizing that sometimes people don't need you to have all the answers, they just need to know they don't have to figure everything out alone.

These are the parts of reentry work that don't always make it into the numbers.
We can tell you how many people completed a training, earned a credential, secured employment, or received housing support. Those numbers matter.
But there are also phone calls like this one. There are mothers worried about their children. Families grieving. People trying to manage their mental wellness while rebuilding their lives. And there are moments when someone who has already been carrying so much feels like one more thing has been added to their shoulders.

Being trauma-informed means, we understand those layers. It means recognizing that sometimes before we can talk about the next job, the next class, or the next goal, we have to see the person standing in front of us and ask, "What do you need right now?"
That is why this November, we are More Than Thankful. We are thankful that our participants trust us enough to call. We are thankful that their families know they can reach out too. We are thankful for the people and resources throughout our community that allow us to say, "Let us see how we can help," instead of turning someone away because their need doesn't fit neatly inside a program.

Because this work has never been just about placing someone in a house or helping someone get a job. It is about people.

We are the people we serve alongside. We are part of the same community. And when life happens as it does for all of us, we want the people connected to ReNforce to know one thing: You are not alone.

Details of this story have been intentionally limited to protect the privacy and dignity of the participant and their family.

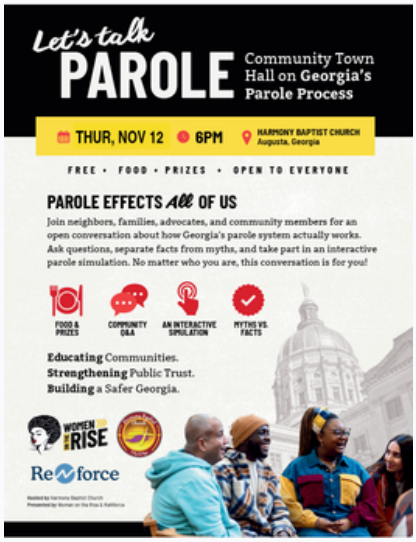
WHAT'S AHEAD?

SHOW UP. SPEAK UP. BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU.

Our listening continues! Join us **November 12** for Let's Talk Parole, a community conversation and interactive simulation on Georgia's parole process.

Then, on **December 3,** entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs, we want to hear from you! Join our upcoming Entrepreneurship Listening Session and help us better understand what you need to grow.

Register, tell a friend, bring a friend!
Let's keep moving together as a community.





CLICK TO LEARN MORE!
BEYOND THE RECORD: INVESTING IN PEOPLE, POWER, AND POSSIBILITY

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