

Are you ready for a fair shake?

Hi, my name is Sue Kastensen. I'm the founder and director of Fair Shake, a resource center for everyone involved in supporting successful reentry.

Here at Fair Shake we understand that those coming home from prison have a huge hurdle to overcome in making a successful transition to life-after-prison. We have created unique tools for you and for those who will be involved in your success, including:

- A nation-wide **Resource Directory**, with over 14,000 entries and 230 reentry guides
- **Employment tools** for both formerly incarcerated folks *and* employers
- **Educate Yourself!** page with links to many free web-based education resources
- **FREE Member-only tools:** such as document storage, an email account and a Personal Web Page

Finding Your Specific Resources While You Are Incarcerated

We've created Fair Shake to be a self-service reentry center. We understand visitors will have questions and we hope you will write to us. **Unfortunately, we are not able to find resources for individuals.** Please ask family members, friends and/or case workers to locate resources for you before you go home. Send them a 'wish list' of categories and subcategories, and how far you are willing to travel from home to find them. They can simply go to our website, click on your resources, save them, print them and mail them to you! They can print all or parts of regional and local reentry guides as well.

Several institutions are now utilizing our free software application so incarcerated individuals can find their resources, learn to use a computer and understand how to find information on our website. The software can be used on any stand-alone computer and is often accessed on computers within a library or computer lab.

Fair Shake is not for everyone, and getting a fair shake does not come without effort. Our website is a do-it-yourself center where users find tools, materials and information and build their unique reentry success. We don't have everything you need, but we have tools and ideas for you if you're willing to invest in yourself.

"Reentry" is a constant process, not a spastic, scrambling effort that starts just a few months before you go home. This packet, and our software, contains reentry concepts to consider any time during incarceration and also after you return home. I continue to refer to the Transition Tips and Ownership Manual regularly, and I wrote them!

Incarcerated individuals and groups are utilizing this packet as a foundation for creating reentry classes and workshops. Please write to us if you would like to use their worksheets and facilitator guide, or see their suggested reading list. Perhaps your institution is ready for on-going reentry conversations?

I am often asked why I do this work....and if I have been incarcerated.

I created Fair Shake because one of my employees in a former company I owned asked if I'd hire someone coming home from prison. Once I learned about my applicant's struggles, and understood an employer's challenges, I realized many stakeholders play important roles in creating reentry success. To the question of "have I been incarcerated", the answer is yes...although never as an adult and never in prison. I spent 5 formative years in the juvenile justice system, bouncing between group homes, jail, a reform school, running away and foster homes. I didn't know it going in, but my 18th birthday was my release date.

We are all given different opportunities and challenges throughout our lives. Through desire, awareness, willingness and support we can increase our opportunities and decrease our challenges. The transition won't be easy, but nothing worthwhile ever is. A fair shake is not always given to us; it is often something we must create!

Thanks for considering Fair Shake.
Ubuntu,



Sue Kastensen
Fair Shake Founder and Director



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