

## **Peaceful Schools NC ([www.peacefulschoolsnc.org](http://www.peacefulschoolsnc.org))**

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*Peaceful Schools NC is not a one-size fits all program. We do not have a packaged product that we swoop in to administer. We believe that peace comes from within communities and that it is the members of the community who hold the power to make a change. We also do not work with our schools in isolation. The Peaceful Schools NC network is a supportive learning community. Teachers visit one another's schools. We build connections between school leaders. We generate new ideas via think tanks tackling a common challenge. Our work becomes stronger with each school that becomes involved.*

*We work to empower schools to actively create and sustain a positive school climate. Through an individualized approach, we offer consultation, professional development, and ongoing resources for teachers, administrators, students, staff, and parents. Our work with schools often includes:*

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- *Consulting and planning with administrative teams*
- *Parent education nights*
- *Programs for students*
- *School climate surveys*
- *Participation in Student Day*
- *New-teacher orientation and training*
- *Ongoing consulting and support as needed*
- *Discounted fees to attend our biennial conference*
- *A supportive network of schools working together to support each other in this work*

### **The Core Values include:**

- Child-Centered Education
- Equity Focus
- Interactive and Experiential Programming
- Holistic View of Community
- Restorative Practices
- Student Voice, Responsibility, and Agency
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**Contracts with public, charter, independent and other schools; overall, peaceful schools has worked with 8 public, 10 charters, 5 independent, and 4 others**

*(Bolded schools are current contracts)*

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- First facilitators training
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The organization, being as it is completely volunteer run, does not have regular expenses, and there is enough of a cushion to get through expenses incurred in the lobby day effort.

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## **STAFF SIZE**

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## **INCOME**

For 2022, and for 2023 (projected), our income is in the \$1.5 million/year range. As we have explained in the past, we are fortunate to be able to devote a large portion of our expenses to public education and mobilization via a wide range of outreach tools including paid advertising across a host of online and traditional platforms. This has been vitally important to taking our message straight to the public across North Carolina in order to successfully and substantially (though not fully!) counter Duke Energy's giant propaganda machine that distorts and suppresses open public debate on climate and energy justice issues.

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## **ReEntry House**

### **Reentry House Plus, Inc**

**Mission:** *Reentry House Plus (RHP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to provide housing and needed support to individuals transitioning from prison, Reentry House Plus is devoted to assisting formerly incarcerated people reintegrate back into the community as healthy, productive citizens. We at Reentry House Plus believe in second chances and are committed to doing our part to ensure that people receive the support, skills, and encouragement they need to rebuild their lives. (<https://reentryhouseplus.wildapricot.org/>)*

**What ReEntry House (RHP) does.** A house accommodating up to 5 men was purchased in Hillsborough, NC and opened June 1, 2021, and is the first facility in northern Orange County to provide the housing and emotional support to reduce recidivism and rebuild lives. In addition to providing shelter, Reentry House Plus has partnered with SWIT – *Success While in Transition* ([www.successwhileintransition.org](http://www.successwhileintransition.org)) – to offer life skills training and one-on-one mentorship to the residents. A justice-involved individual's integration back into the community requires social skills such as self-advocacy, respect for community and the ability to form positive relationships. SWIT classes teach these important life skills while certified Peer Support Specialists provide personalized counseling and help residents find permanent housing, employment and needed healthcare services. Our in-house manager is a certified Peer-Support Specialist.

**Our History.** A group of volunteers and supporters arising out of Yoke Fellows at Orange County Correctional started the non-profit corporation to provide housing and needed support for those being released from prison. In September, 2019, the founding Board of Reentry House Plus, Inc. voted to incorporate. The first year was spent determining a reentry model and raising needed funds for a house and SWIT operations. In November 2020, the board began offering SWIT classes, alternating monthly between a church in Chapel Hill and one in Hillsborough. In January, 2021 the Board made a commitment to find a house in the Hillsborough area and began to raise the necessary funds. In March 2021, we placed a bid on a home in the Carolina Loop neighborhood, close to the bus and shopping. Within 3 months, the \$93,000 was raised for the closing costs and down payment, through Self Help Credit Union of Durham. The house began operation in June 2021, and is fully functioning with 4 residents, a residential manager and the SWIT Program.

The SWIT program was developed by Tommy Green and William Elmore who themselves are formerly incarcerated. Green and Elmore understand the challenges of reentry, and have considerable training and experience working with people in transition. They oversee the day to day operations of Reentry House Plus and are responsible for hiring staff. RHP also responds to the need for education and support beyond the walls of our transition house by opening the SWIT program to participants in the larger community.



**Accomplishments.** In 2022 RHP developed its ability to help returning justice-involved men and women by fulfilling several goals:

- RHP diversified its Board with the inclusion of 5 men and women of color - ALL of whom are either previously incarcerated or heavily involved with justice-related issues.
- A Fundraising and Development Committee was created to diversify and strengthen our fundraising efforts. To that end we have:
  - Added an ABC grant to our monthly income.
  - Increased our Wild Apricot contact list to over 450 participants
  - Increased the number of monthly givers by 100% to over 30.
  - Received over \$20,000 of in-kind donations which was used to fund a separate transportation budget.
  - Ran a successful **Giving Challenge** that doubled total gifts up to \$5000 for both the Board and the outside community. Over \$16,700 was received from outside donors and the Board participated with another \$3,900. Including the matching we received a total of \$29,535.
  - Purchased a second-hand Prius that is used exclusively to transport residents to work, shopping, medical and legal appointments, etc, all while keeping gasoline usage low.
  - Participated in several retreats including the Board and SWIT to create the foundation of Mid-term and Long-term Strategic Goals. This work in process is often referenced as we endeavor to find the best paths forward for RHP.
  - Opened initial dialogue with Wounded Healers to better understand how our two missions are complementary and to find ways to increase the effectiveness of our two organizations by applying the strengths of each to help the other. To that end, RHP has welcomed Edward “Scottso” Scott, a founder of Wounded Healers, onto our Board and we are exploring the premise of a joint application to the United Way, after having been encouraged by United Way to apply.

**Future Plans.** The theme for this coming year is to greatly expand our services as a Community Resource, thus, meeting more identified needs. To begin, that will include finding leaders for both Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcohol Anonymous (AA) classes to be held at the Loop house. In addition, Tom McQuiston will work with Will and Tommy to better define and to formalize in written form the 21 principles that comprise the core of the SWIT teaching.

RHP will work with Will and Tommy to again open the SWIT classes with a follow-up Peer Support component to the greater community. These outside classes will not only provide a needed incubator to test the viability of the newly-defined principles of the SWIT classes, but they will also allow Will and Tommy to train others to run the classes, thereby lightening their personal teaching load going forward.

RHP will be partnering with UNC Health to offer Living Healthy-Chronic Diseases classes at the Loop House. Tommy is already a certified “Lay Leader” who can lead the six once-a-week classes which – to start - would also include a volunteer from the UNC program. Before July of 23, Peer Support Specialists from SWIT will also go through the UNC Living Healthy training process and Tommy will re-certify. Under this RHP/SWIT/UNC collaboration, men and women who attend the classes will be offered

additional “outside” support from SWIT for help with transportation and follow-up help in their quest to Take Control of their chronic condition. Tommy is uniquely positioned to manage this new offering since he has been the head of the NC FIT program for Orange County for some years and both programs are sponsored by UNC Family Medicine.

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## **ReEntry House**

### **Reentry House Plus, Inc**

**Mission:** *Reentry House Plus (RHP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to provide housing and needed support to individuals transitioning from prison, Reentry House Plus is devoted to assisting formerly incarcerated people reintegrate back into the community as healthy, productive citizens. We at Reentry House Plus believe in second chances and are committed to doing our part to ensure that people receive the support, skills, and encouragement they need to rebuild their lives. (<https://reentryhouseplus.wildapricot.org/>)*

**What ReEntry House (RHP) does.** A house accommodating up to 5 men was purchased in Hillsborough, NC and opened June 1, 2021, and is the first facility in northern Orange County to provide the housing and emotional support to reduce recidivism and rebuild lives. In addition to providing shelter, Reentry House Plus has partnered with SWIT – *Success While in Transition* ([www.successwhileintransition.org](http://www.successwhileintransition.org)) – to offer life skills training and one-on-one mentorship to the residents. A justice-involved individual's integration back into the community requires social skills such as self-advocacy, respect for community and the ability to form positive relationships. SWIT classes teach these important life skills while certified Peer Support Specialists provide personalized counseling and help residents find permanent housing, employment and needed healthcare services. Our in-house manager is a certified Peer-Support Specialist.

**Our History.** A group of volunteers and supporters arising out of Yoke Fellows at Orange County Correctional started the non-profit corporation to provide housing and needed support for those being released from prison. In September, 2019, the founding Board of Reentry House Plus, Inc. voted to incorporate. The first year was spent determining a reentry model and raising needed funds for a house and SWIT operations. In November 2020, the board began offering SWIT classes, alternating monthly between a church in Chapel Hill and one in Hillsborough. In January, 2021 the Board made a commitment to find a house in the Hillsborough area and began to raise the necessary funds. In March 2021, we placed a bid on a home in the Carolina Loop neighborhood, close to the bus and shopping. Within 3 months, the \$93,000 was raised for the closing costs and down payment, through Self Help Credit Union of Durham. The house began operation in June 2021, and is fully functioning with 4 residents, a residential manager and the SWIT Program.

The SWIT program was developed by Tommy Green and William Elmore who themselves are formerly incarcerated. Green and Elmore understand the challenges of reentry, and have considerable training and experience working with people in transition. They oversee the day to day operations of Reentry House Plus and are responsible for hiring staff. RHP also responds to the need for education and support beyond the walls of our transition house by opening the SWIT program to participants in the larger community.

**Accomplishments.** In 2022 RHP developed its ability to help returning justice-involved men and women by fulfilling several goals:

- RHP diversified its Board with the inclusion of 5 men and women of color - ALL of whom are either previously incarcerated or heavily involved with justice-related issues.
- A Fundraising and Development Committee was created to diversify and strengthen our fundraising efforts. To that end we have:
  - Added an ABC grant to our monthly income.
  - Increased our Wild Apricot contact list to over 450 participants
  - Increased the number of monthly givers by 100% to over 30.
  - Received over \$20,000 of in-kind donations which was used to fund a separate transportation budget.
  - Ran a successful **Giving Challenge** that doubled total gifts up to \$5000 for both the Board and the outside community. Over \$16,700 was received from outside donors and the Board participated with another \$3,900. Including the matching we received a total of \$29,535.
  - Purchased a second-hand Prius that is used exclusively to transport residents to work, shopping, medical and legal appointments, etc, all while keeping gasoline usage low.
  - Participated in several retreats including the Board and SWIT to create the foundation of Mid-term and Long-term Strategic Goals. This work in process is often referenced as we endeavor to find the best paths forward for RHP.
  - Opened initial dialogue with Wounded Healers to better understand how our two missions are complementary and to find ways to increase the effectiveness of our two organizations by applying the strengths of each to help the other. To that end, RHP has welcomed Edward “Scottso” Scott, a founder of Wounded Healers, onto our Board and we are exploring the premise of a joint application to the United Way, after having been encouraged by United Way to apply.

**Future Plans.** The theme for this coming year is to greatly expand our services as a Community Resource, thus, meeting more identified needs. To begin, that will include finding leaders for both Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcohol Anonymous (AA) classes to be held at the Loop house. In addition, Tom McQuiston will work with Will and Tommy to better define and to formalize in written form the 21 principles that comprise the core of the SWIT teaching.

RHP will work with Will and Tommy to again open the SWIT classes with a follow-up Peer Support component to the greater community. These outside classes will not only provide a needed incubator to test the viability of the newly-defined principles of the SWIT classes, but they will also allow Will and Tommy to train others to run the classes, thereby lightening their personal teaching load going forward.

RHP will be partnering with UNC Health to offer Living Healthy-Chronic Diseases classes at the Loop House. Tommy is already a certified “Lay Leader” who can lead the six once-a-week classes which – to start - would also include a volunteer from the UNC program. Before July of 23, Peer Support Specialists from SWIT will also go through the UNC Living Healthy training process and Tommy will re-certify. Under this RHP/SWIT/UNC collaboration, men and women who attend the classes will be offered

additional “outside” support from SWIT for help with transportation and follow-up help in their quest to Take Control of their chronic condition. Tommy is uniquely positioned to manage this new offering since he has been the head of the NC FIT program for Orange County for some years and both programs are sponsored by UNC Family Medicine.