



Our case for support

Cypress House seeks to stem what has been an expanding culture of incarceration to make way for an important shift away from how society treats the previously incarcerated.

Cypress House is an affiliated organization of St. Luke's Episcopal Church • Scranton, Pennsylvania

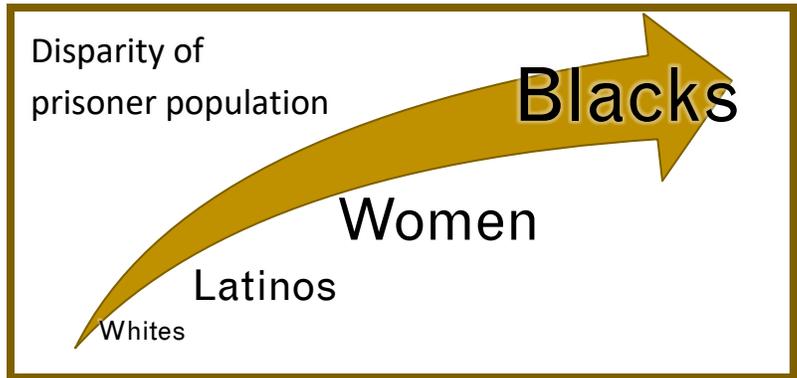
<http://cypresshouse.org/>



Our Work

Cypress House Bakery will offer employment, vocational training, educational opportunities, and a number of social services to previously incarcerated women and men, with a special concern to hire individuals who identify as black, Latino/a, indigenous, or of another marginalized identity. It is hoped that Cypress House employees, apprentices, the parishioners of St. Luke’s, and the broader community will work together to serve as a catalyst for change in northeastern Pennsylvania, addressing the racial and social injustices to which we bear witness.

The problems have skyrocketed

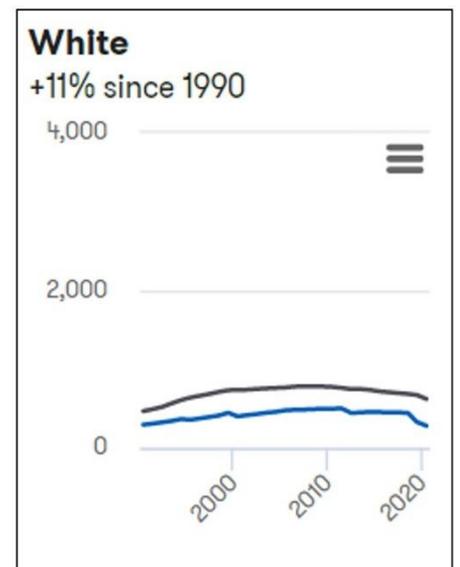
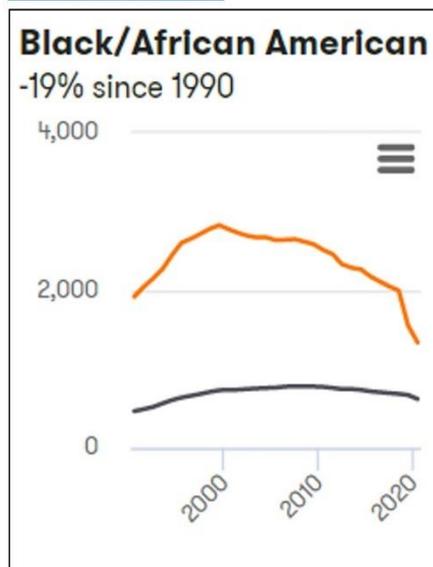


Incarceration rates have soared in the United States and particularly in Lackawanna County, which has one of the highest jail incarceration rates in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Also prevalent is the alarming scale of racial and ethnic disparity of prisoners.

According to the [Pennsylvania Department of Corrections](#), the overall population of the state was 12% Black, yet Black residents were about six times overrepresented in prison. Latinos were more than two times overrepresented in the state’s prisons. And the same was true for those paroled.

US incarcerated population vs. resident population

[Vera Institute 2022](#)



■ U.S. total incarceration rate

Lackawanna county

A study* of the Lackawanna County jail population between January 2018 and August 2019 adds detail about the people who can be served by Cypress House.



22% Black population in local jails
4% Black population in all of Lackawanna county



26% Female population in Lackawanna county jails
15% National average



5.4X Rate of Black men admitted to jail compared to white men
3X Rate of Black women admitted to the jail compared to white women

(*Onat, I. & Jenkins, M. J. [2019]. Report to Lackawanna County Stakeholders on Jail Reduction Strategies, Final report of the project "Exploring the Dynamics of Jail Population", Scranton, PA: Center for Analysis & Prevention of Crime).

The need for jobs

[World Population Review](#), 2022

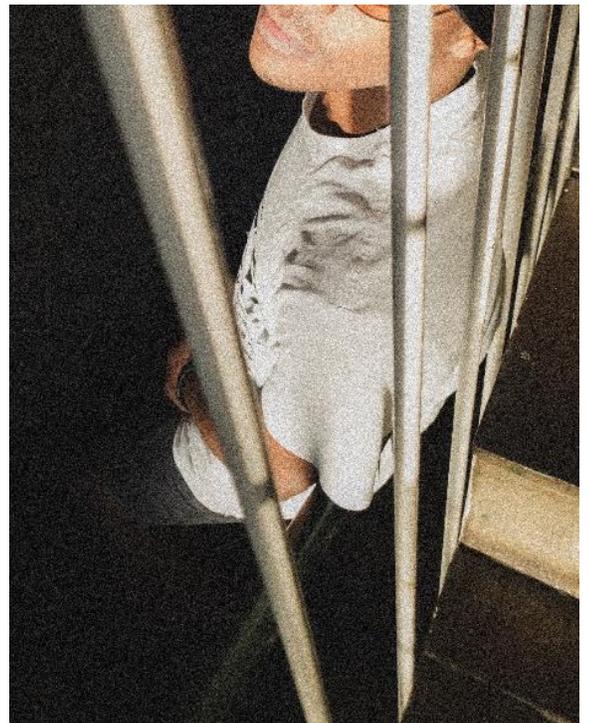
- The US justice system places its efforts on getting criminals off streets by locking them up but fails to fix the issue of preventing these people from reoffending afterward.
- Recidivism affects everyone: the offenders, their families, the victims of the crimes, law enforcement, and the community overall. The average incarceration per-inmate cost in the U.S. is \$31,286 per year.

[The Brookings Institution](#), 2022

- Individuals with jobs are less likely to commit crimes, reducing recidivism.
- Roughly 7.9 million people return to local communities from state prisons and local jails across the country each year.

[Lackawanna County Re-entry Taskforce](#), 2022

- There are less than one hundred supportive employment opportunities in Lackawanna county for individuals newly released from imprisonment.





Cypress House is uniquely suited to address the problems



The idea that became Cypress House Bakery at St. Luke's grew from the parish's commitment to reach out to our community in ways that make known the healing, all-encompassing love of Christ. Historically we are, and we continue to be, a space where people of all races, all faiths, and all backgrounds can come together in a common cause. With the establishment of Cypress House Bakery (CHB), we are uniquely suited and committed to working toward diversity, equity, and inclusion both internally and in the community we serve.

As members of the Global Homeboy Network, we at CHB will follow the principles and practices that have guided [Homeboy Industries](#) founded by Fr. Greg Boyle. By embracing the Homeboy model, CHB will move closer to the marginalized in the hope of obliterating the margins. As Boyle tells us, we need

to situate ourselves next to the disposable so that we get to a point where we stop throwing people away.

Why now

As our community in Lackawanna county is experiencing extreme racial and societal biases against those reentering the community post-incarceration, exacerbated by the reentry population being largely shut out of the labor market, our unutilized and underutilized space in the parish's Throop Memorial Building can house the creation of jobs for women and men victimized by societal biases post-incarceration in our community with a return to life on the outside.

What drives us

Our Vision

We hope to live more deeply into God's call to seek and serve Christ in all persons, respecting the dignity of every human being through a lived kinship that believes each is exactly what God had in mind when God created us.

Our Mission

Cypress House Bakery seeks to provide hope, employment, vocational training, educational opportunities, and support to previously incarcerated men and women wanting to work toward positive change, allowing them to redirect their lives and enhance their contributions to our communities.

Our Values

Faith in Christ, integrity, honesty, excellence, accountability, and respect.

Our impact

The impact of the apprenticeship program will be assessed by the transformation of lives through building relationships based on the theory of *radical kinship* – trust-filled, authentic relationships...

Radical KINSHIP

INvite
INclude
INspire
INvest
INvolve

- Where the boundaries of race, culture, and economics are traversed.
- That create an important shift away from how society treats the previously incarcerated.
- In which people can heal, be transformed, and live a life infused with hope and dignity.

But we will go one step further. We must show our world what standing with those previously incarcerated looks like, what their healing looks like, and what investing in their futures looks like. We stand with them so that instead of violence, pain, or trauma, we will foster inclusion, care, unconditional loving kindness, and compassionate acceptance. We need to obliterate once and for all the illusion that we are separate.



Programs and services for apprentices

- Food Handling Certificate from the PA Department of Agriculture
- Educational programs on problem-solving, setting goals, stress management, and coping skills
- Baking methods and skills development curriculum
- Mental health or related behavioral counseling
- Interview skills and portfolio development
- Addiction recovery
- Ongoing pastoral care
- Community service
- Financial literacy





We are built on a foundation of faith

Our mission is based on the idea that we serve God by serving others. CHB is about imitating the kind of God who loves unconditionally, who offers second chances, who walks with the excluded in the hope of a deeper, wider inclusion for them.

We commit, through word and action, to bring equity to our efforts and justice to those with whom we work. We will connect issues of racial and social injustice with historic barriers in the hope of repairing the breaches caused by biases against individuals post-incarceration.



Our needs



Staffing

- Daily operations manager
- Five apprentices
- Bakery Manager
- Part time mental health professional
- Administrative assistance
- Accounting services



Supplies & materials



Bakery equipment

Finances

Foundations and major funders \$5k+

- The Spitz, Hawk, William Penn, Tighe, and Schwartz Mack Foundations
- Episcopal Church Becoming Beloved Community Grant
- Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Bethlehem
- Scranton Area Community Foundation Innovative Impact Grant
- Victory Knoll Grant
- Four individual major donors
- St. Luke's Parish in-kind donation

Funds raised to date

Major donations \$5K+ from foundations, grants, individual donors	163,000
Other donations	21,000
Total	\$184,000





Help us today

Your gift will help create life-changing employment experiences for the newly released in northeastern Pennsylvania -

and help us address the inequalities, prejudices, and attitudes that sustain systemic injustices against the formerly incarcerated.

How to give:

Philanthropic Donations

- ◆ Multi-year pledge or a [one-time gift](#)
- ◆ Stocks and securities
- ◆ Planned gifts
- ◆ A bequest in your will

Corporate Sponsorship

In-Kind Donations

Contributions other than cash, such as:

- ◆ **Goods**, such as computers, software, furniture, office equipment, or bakery appliances
- ◆ **Professional Services**, such as administrative/financial support; accounting; construction, repair work, or other manual labor; rent-free use of space; videography; use of copyright or intellectual property
- ◆ **Expertise**, such as legal, tax, or business advice; marketing and website development; counseling & social services; curriculum development & teaching courses

thank you!

Cypress House at St. Luke's is a
501(c)3 non-profit organization
81-3902333

<http://cypresshouse.org/>

