

# Community Coach Connections



April 2022

[YavapaiReentryProject.org](http://YavapaiReentryProject.org)

## Community Coach Spotlight

My name is Chef Isaac Lerma. I am a young 37-year-old, born and raised in Phoenix. At the age of 19, I was sentenced to 8 years in prison for theft of a vehicle. When I was released in 2014, I never looked back.

The lying, cheating, and stealing had to stop in order to get the life I wanted. I knew I couldn't help others unless I helped myself first. So, I sought employment and education for that transformation. This transformation has been a continuous, never-ending process for me that I work on daily.

Today, I give back through volunteering with the Yavapai Reentry Project. At first, I only wanted to share my testimony of life after incarceration. Then I quickly learned that there was a bigger purpose than just my testimony. Since I've been on both sides of the law, I knew I had more to offer and became a coach.

There is life after incarceration and it starts with you wanting better. I, like many others, are living proof that you don't have to become a statistic. The problems and pitfalls that come with a criminal history can be overcome. With YRP we can share, connect, learn, conquer, and grow together. With all the negativity in the world that wants to disrupt our lives, it's more important than ever to make that connection.

*Isaac— We are thankful for your passion to help others find a new path.*



## Participant Spotlight



### Christopher Petrie

I have been completely blessed by being a part of the Yavapai Reentry Project. Right out of prison I found myself in a dangerous spot where it started to become normal putting my roommates meth bong away after getting home from work.

As the days went on, my will to stay sober began to slip and I started reaching out before the fall. Luckily I ran into Maddi at YRP and that's when everything changed. Maddi listened to what I was looking for and helped me find a place that wasn't a halfway house but was with sober people. I found a job that came with transportation so I could not only get to and from work but also have a personal life. This included time with my children that I missed desperately while incarcerated. Maddi has been such a great support for me and helped me succeed in ways I couldn't even imagine.

My sobriety is thriving, I make a great wage with other sober people. Plus, the room I now rent is one that's welcoming to guests. I have nothing but praise for the help I received from YRP and Maddi.

*Christopher—We are so proud of the amazing work you are doing. You have utilized all the healthy support around you and continue to make positive, healthy changes for your life. Keep it up!*

### Let's Celebrate Success in March!

Enrollments: 4

Successful Completions: 7

Total justice-involved individuals assisted : 283



- Marijuana is more potent than ever. Learn more about [today's marijuana](#).



- Did you know that counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl are killing our youth? Learn more at [TalkNowAZ.com](http://TalkNowAZ.com).

### Resources