JumpStart has served more than 4,900 incarcerated men and women in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. More than 2,100 successful graduates of the program have been released over the last ten years with a success rate of 96% not returning to prison. The current housing for the JumpStart Outside Transition program includes 16 houses spread throughout Spartanburg County. Our growth projections for the next three years require a doubling of current beds to meet the demand.

JumpStart Restoration Village Upstate is our “Vision for Tomorrow”. It is a transitional housing plan with a single campus that will meet the growing needs. The Village will provide a community for those re-entering society from prison in a setting that prepares them to be productive citizens. This model will improve the total program’s effectiveness and efficiency dramatically by streamlining operations and expanding available space to accommodate future growth. Cost per participant will be reduced, increasing the organization’s financial stability.

JumpStart training, best practices, and curriculum will be available to other states that express interest in our success and Restoration Village Upstate will serve as a model where others can come to learn how to integrate returning neighbors into their communities.

Immediate Investment Opportunity

The “Vision for Tomorrow” campaign will fund the necessary infrastructure and staff for JumpStart’s long-term organizational growth and sustainability. It will enable JumpStart to continue to deliver and improve the nation’s best prison to re-entry into society program for generations to come.

Beginning now and continuing through 2021, the campaign will raise funds and build additional human capital for JumpStart’s endeavors to help transform prisoners from the inside out.

Your generous response to this grand opportunity is where this dream begins to become reality. Please consider how you will rise to the challenge. Contact us about the Vision for Tomorrow and how you can contribute.

Putting Heart and Soul into it All

Ruby Cromer, founder and owner of Staffing Associates in Spartanburg, was introduced to JumpStart by a friend who felt Ruby’s company could help with employment opportunities for those re-entering the workforce. She realized right away that her clients would want to see a work history for candidates, but for most of them, there was little to no history because they were just leaving prison. Ruby’s heart was in the right place, but the circumstances seemed to dictate something else — she thought.

During this same time, Ruby’s stepson, Travis Cromer, was serving time at Perry Correctional Institute and came up for parole. Because of difficult circumstances, Ruby had not spoken to Travis in nearly four years. When asked by Travis’s father, Ricky, to attend the parole hearing, Ruby found out that Travis had become involved with JumpStart earlier in the
year although she knew very little about the organization. Ricky told Ruby that Travis had become a very different person and was nearly unrecognizable.

At the parole hearing, Ruby saw the difference. Travis was attentive. He sat up straight, watched what was going on and smiled a lot — things that were out of character for him. But, it was because of the change in his life from being involved with JumpStart. Rick Rigdon, an outside volunteer for JumpStart, had played a key role in working with Travis as a coach and mentor.

When they finally called Travis's name, no one was prepared for what happened next. Travis had a well-rehearsed speech ready and he delivered it to the parole board. He was the tenth inmate to go before the board and the first to be granted parole — except Travis wanted to stay. He actually asked to stay so that he could finish the JumpStart program — something no other participant had ever asked to do. The parole board granted his request and Travis stayed to complete the program.

Ruby wasted no time learning more about JumpStart. She took a tour and learned how the transition would work for Travis upon his release just as it does for others coming out of prison. And, she knew she wanted to get involved with JumpStart.

After a meeting with JumpStart's employment director Don Williams, Ruby realized her company could save JumpStart significant costs by taking on the payroll administration duties for them. The savings and value from this turned out to be tremendous.

When Travis was released from prison, JumpStart was there. He was given a room at the “Big House” and immediately got involved with helping people get to and from their jobs. Travis also recommitted his life to Christ and re-established family relationships. Through Don Williams, Travis was able to get a job that he loved, live within a budget and enjoy true freedom. Although his life was finally coming together, Travis continued to suffer from an existing health condition with an enlarged heart that ultimately took his life six months later. He is now enjoying eternal freedom in Heaven.

Today, Ruby continues to serve JumpStart and tells her story. She realizes that God used Travis to draw her to JumpStart where many lives have been touched. Ruby sums it up well, "God always has a purpose for us. He expects us to live in obedience, surround ourselves with Godly people and study His word. I thank Him for putting Travis in my life which led me to JumpStart where I can put my heart and soul into the work I do for them."

### A Tour That Changed Everything

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### JumpStart Needs You

Whether you serve as a volunteer or support us financially, we appreciate your contributions. If JumpStart is new to you, we encourage you to support us as you feel led to do. **Can we count on you to help us bring the Vision for Tomorrow dream into reality?** Here’s how:

- Please complete the enclosed card and return it to JumpStart in the provided envelope
- Give securely online at jumpstartvision.org/summergiving
- Mail checks to: JumpStart, Summer Giving, 418 Old Greenville Road, Spartanburg, SC 29301-4756

Thank you for being a blessing to JumpStart! Our ministry is impossible without you.

Yours in Christ,

Chuck Fields / Chairman

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**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- **Serve**
  - Get plugged in: volunteer@jumpstartvision.org
- **Give**
  - Return the enclosed card or give online: jumpstartvision.org/summergiving
- **Pray**
  - Join our prayer team: team@jumpstartvision.org

JumpStart is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing a Christian environment for ex-offenders that will allow them to transition from incarceration to a productive life.