



# Reentry Review

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • OFFICE OF REENTRY

## North Star, A Guiding Light

The North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center truly has earned its name. Polaris a.k.a the North Star has helped mankind navigate the earth since ancient times; in that same spirit, the center's core focus has always been to guide returning citizens in finding their way to a productive, self-sufficient, place in society. North Star has been open since February 15, 2010, and five years later the coffee is still brewing and just as the aroma permeates the air, the news of its existence continues to spread throughout Greater Cleveland. North Star is operated by Oriana House, Incorporated and funded by a grant from Cuyahoga County's Office of Reentry. It continues to be a valuable resource to returning citizens in Greater Cleveland, providing a wide variety of services and programs to individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system. The services are free and open to all Cuyahoga County residents. What started out as an appliance store on Cleveland's East side 1834 East 55th Street has now been transformed into an innovative center providing an array of services and a full schedule of programs ranging from:

GED classes (*Morning & Afternoon*)

Computer Classes

Life Skill Classes

NA Meetings

Reconnection Programs

HIV Testing

Job Club

Job Boosters

Blueprint Reading Workshop

Legal Clinics

Collaboration with Parma City Schools

Tri-C College Counseling

Thinking for a change Classes

Vouchers for birth certificates and State ID's

AA Meetings

Ohio Benefit Bank

Net (Employment Program)

Family Matters Education Programs

Heroin Anonymous

Resume Class

Medicaid Enrollment Sessions

Library with Legal books and Novels

Collaboration with John Carroll University

Availability of classroom and office space (Free of Charge)

North Star began with three full-time and one part time employee and, to date, the staff has increased to include six full time and three part time employees.

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North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center before



North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center after (from Google.com)

North Star's computer lab began with a computer system from United Way's First Call for Help, empty classrooms, and had no classes or programs. Presently, 160-175 individuals per month walk in to access the services provided at North Star. The computer lab has 7 computers containing the Mavis Beacon Typing Tutor software, which teaches individuals how to type. On the average day it is common to find that each room within the building is filled to capacity and the need for expansion seems to be a warranted discussion in the near future for administrators.

Marcus Bell, the current Program Services Supervisor who has been employed by North Star since its inception, says that North Star started out with a targeted goal of 300 clients and only began with 3 to 4. During that time Marcus recalls passing out numerous fliers and brochures to neighborhood businesses and stores to help promote North Star. To date, North Star has served an estimate of 8,810 clients. The map below reports data taken from the 2013 Recidivism Report of North Star's new enhanced members (EM) from the period of January 2013 - December 2013, showing the distribution according to their Zip Code at intake.

## Statistic Show North Star's Clients Less Likely to Recidivate

North Star Reentry Resource Center, has become an innovative resource which has proven to be successful in assisting re-entry clients with overcoming the challenges associated with a successful transition back into the community. This initiative is essential in lowering recidivism rates and being more proactive in the prevention of increased crime and victimization rates. The array of services that North Star provides assists clients in maintaining a crime-free lifestyle, while developing skills that lead to self-sufficiency. In 2013, Oriana House Research Team conducted a study with a sample pool of 300 new Enhanced Members who either indicated a previous incarceration or criminal history on their entrance survey form for the period of January 2013- December 2013. Enhanced members are clients who are provided 4 or more North Star services/programs or who attend one of the three intensive programs: New Employment Transitions (NET), General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and/or Specialized Cognitive Offender Program and Education (SCOPE). The results of this study indicate that recidivism among those in the study (the percent who were reincarcerated within the first year of release) 5% were re-incarcerated in comparison to 28.7% statewide (see Chart 3). The recidivism rate statewide, in Ohio in 2013 was more than 5 times greater than that of the sample of Enhanced Members of North Star. Results from the study are below:

### DEMOGRAPHIC RESULTS OF NORTH STAR ENHANCED MEMBERS

- At intake, almost half (**49%**) of North Star Enhanced Members were between the ages of 18 and 35.
- Almost **80%** of new Enhanced Members were male.
- Over **80%** of those seeking services reported having a history of previous incarceration.

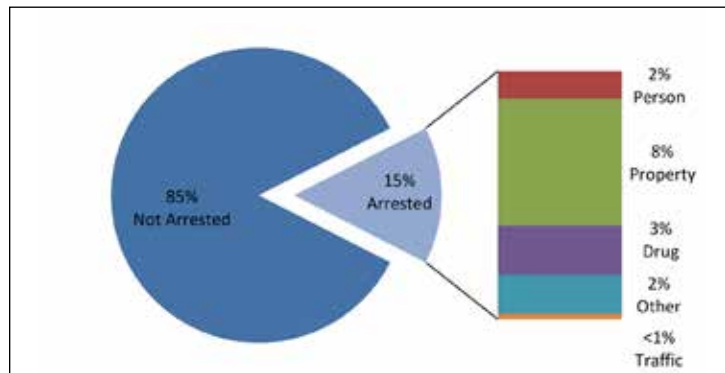
**Arrested:** Out of 300 Enhanced Members, 85% (255/300) remained arrest free in the year following their intake date. The breakdown of felony categories for the 45 that were arrested is as follows:

TABLE 1: Demographic Summary

Variable	Variable Categories	n	%
Age	18-25	55	18.3
	26-35	92	30.7
	36-45	82	27.3
	46-55	54	18.0
	Over 55	17	5.7
	Total	300	100
Gender	Male	235	78.3
	Female	65	21.7
	Total	300	100.0
History	Criminal History	55	18.3
	Previous Incarceration	245	81.7
	Total	300	100.0

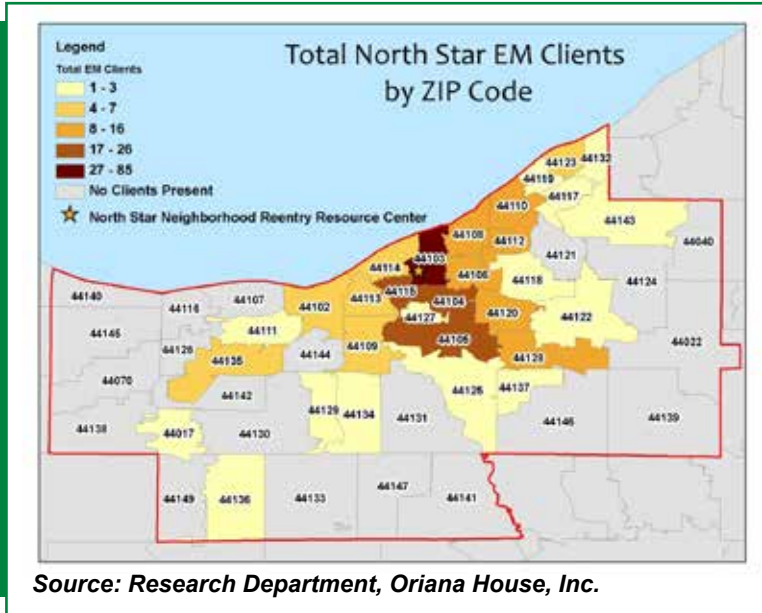
Source: Research Department, Oriana House, Inc.

CHART 1 – Rate of Arrest and Arrest Type



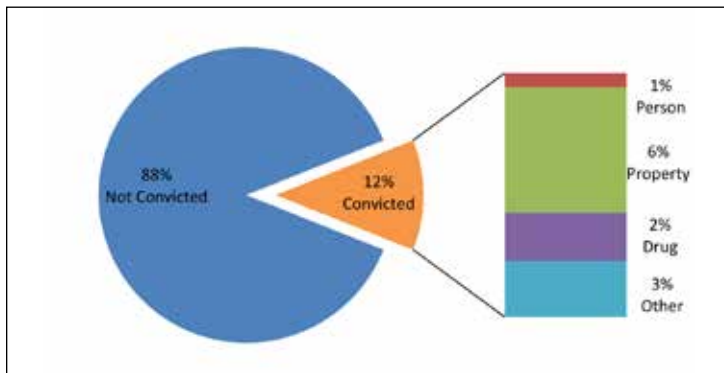
Source: Research Department, Oriana House, Inc.

North Star's computer lab...



**Convicted:** Out of 300 Enhanced Members, 89.3% (268/300) remained conviction free in the year following their intake date. Out of the original 45 enhanced members that had a felony arrest, 32 were also convicted of a felony within one year of the clients' intake at North Star.

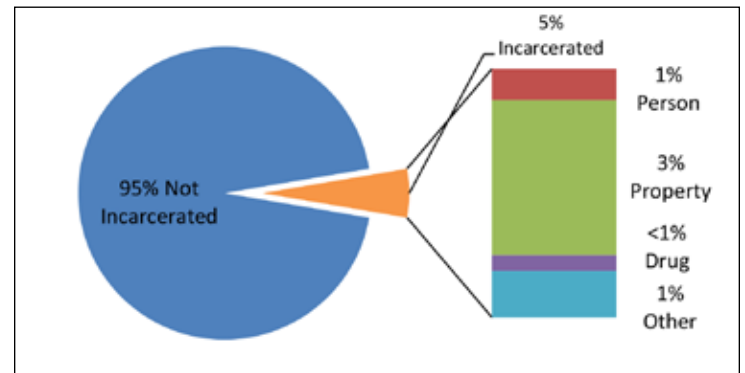
CHART 2 – Rate of Conviction and Conviction Type



Source: Research Department, Oriana House, Inc.

**Incarcerated:** Out of 300 Enhanced Members, 283 (94.3%) were not incarcerated in the year following their intake date. Out of the original 45 enhanced members that had a felony arrest, 17 were eventually incarcerated within one year of the clients' intake at North Star.

CHART 3 – Rate of Incarceration and Incarceration Type



Source: Research Department, Oriana House, Inc.



Mr. Darling assisted 11 volunteers from the Oriana House and reentry network in the creation of the mural. These clients are responsible for the drawings and also painting the mural. The following list of names was involved with this project: D. Copeland, J. Hale, K. Simons, M. Adkins, J. Auvil, C. Auvil, C. Darling, M. Jones, D. McDonald, A Townsend, E. Darling and T.W.

## A Mural of Hope

The recently completed mural that adorns the wall at North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center conveys a message of hope and encouragement for many clients in the reentry network. A former New Yorker Christopher Darling, Associate Professor in the Visual Communications Design Department at Kent State University was the visionary behind this project. Mr. Darling was out riding past the center one day and as he passed the North Star Center the idea of painting a mural on the front of the building was birth. A mural is a painting done directly on the wall and it comes from the Latin word muras, which means wall. Murals are not like other paintings; they have a different purpose, and also have a different effect on individuals who see it. This mural describes a community in its re-building stages emphasizing ideas that promote self-growth, celebrating the accomplishments as a whole, and creating one local voice through a vivid visual-enhancement of art. This art embodies the positive change and impact North Star has made on this neighborhood and the re-entry community.



To receive a copy of  
**Going Home  
to Stay**

contact First Call for Help at 216.436.2000  
or go online and download a copy

at: [www.211cleveland.org/pdfs/communityreentry.pdf](http://www.211cleveland.org/pdfs/communityreentry.pdf)

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