

REENTRY STARTS *INSIDE*

2025 Spring Appeal

Dear Friend,

Reentry, the transition from incarceration to life in the community, doesn't begin the day someone walks out of prison. It starts inside a correctional facility when a young person receives the encouragement they need to imagine a different future.

Your support allows UTEC staff to meet young people like Nate while they're still incarcerated. **(Please read Nate's note to you on the back of this letter!)** Because of you, our Reentry and Streetworker teams were there for him inside the facility, on the day he came home, when he needed housing, and when he needed someone to believe in him.

Real change doesn't happen overnight. It happens with consistent connection made possible by people like you who stick around long enough to see it through.

Today, Nate is building a future rooted in stability, accountability, and hope. He obtained transitional housing through UTEC's new housing initiative, found a passion for policy and advocacy work, and is committed to being a positive force in his community. You helped make that possible, and we want Nate to hear loud and clear that we believe in him.

Will you make a gift today to support young adults like Nate? Your donation starts the reentry journey where it matters most—inside—and helps young people at every step of their transition from incarceration to the community.

Please scan the QR code below or return the enclosed envelope to make a gift before June 30th. With your support, we can show up for each young adult who needs someone to believe in them.

Thank you for being part of this work and for staying in it with us.

With gratitude,



Gregg Croteau, MSW
CEO



UTEC Reentry Manager Viengsamay "Paul" Chaleunphong meets with young adults at the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction. Our Reentry team works within correctional facilities across Massachusetts to help young people prepare for a successful return home—because reentry starts inside.

Reentry starts inside. YOU make that possible.

When reentry is supported by dedicated staff and impactful services, it's more likely to be successful. That means safer communities and more opportunity for young people.



Please donate by June 30th!

To donate online, scan the QR code with your mobile device or visit www.utecinc.org/donate.

A NOTE FROM NATE

Dear Friend of UTEC,

My name is Nate, and I'm a young adult at UTEC. I've lived in Lowell my whole life and I want to share a bit about my journey with you.

Being involved in the streets got me incarcerated. I was gang-involved and thought it was the way to survive. Money came easy and respect felt instant, but you start to lose yourself in that life. You don't always realize the harm you're causing until it's too late. I spent two years on house arrest before being incarcerated for another two years.

Believe it or not, I've always been strong academically. School was always something I wanted to do but didn't get to do until I was incarcerated. I was nearly two years into my studies at Merrimack College when I was released. It was time to return home, and I had a choice: fall back into the streets or try something different.

That's when UTEC stepped in. While I was incarcerated, I met James and Paul, two UTEC staff members. They came in twice a week to run programs with us. **I figured they'd come and go like others. But they didn't. They stuck with me.** They kept showing up, kept chipping away at the walls I had up, and kept believing in me even when I wasn't ready to believe in myself.

When I got out, Paul was there to pick me up and he made sure I had everything I needed, including clothes and hygiene supplies. Linda, a UTEC Streetworker, stayed on me too. She made sure that between the push and pull of the streets and being on the right path, I eventually enrolled at UTEC. Since then, I also got access to transitional housing through UTEC. I feel incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity so I can focus on building a future for myself.

As a single dad, I now understand that the choices I made in the past were not right. My children keep me going. I am committed to them, myself, my community, and to making sure harm isn't inflicted, especially not by my actions. I know firsthand that programs like UTEC save lives. Without them, too many young people like me don't get the second chance they need.

Thank you for your time. **I hope you continue to support UTEC because I'm standing here today as proof that it works.**

Sincerely,
Nate



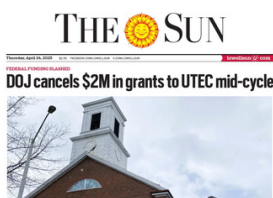
Nate proudly accepts his certificate for completing UTEC's Transformational Beginnings orientation program last year. Today, he is active in UTEC's organizing and advocacy work.



Nate shares a special moment with his two daughters. As a single dad and young adult at UTEC, Nate is building a future rooted in accountability, love, and community.

We never give up on a young adult.

To donate online, visit www.utecinc.org/donate.



UTEC in the News:

The Department of Justice recently cut \$2 million in grant funding that supported UTEC's proven violence intervention and reentry programs, part of broader cuts affecting similar organizations nationwide. Scan the QR code to read more in the *Lowell Sun*.

