



SOTERIA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

³⁵ FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN, ³⁶ I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME, I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.

ST. MATTHEW 25: 35-36





Dear Faithful Funders, Supporters, and Volunteers,

With great pleasure I am honored to present to you our 2022 Annual Report. Soteria has pioneered the state in reentry for those released from prison or jail. We have taken a unique approach by combining our efforts with community development. We take much pride in our faith-based foundation and stand on the pillars of housing, employment, education, advocacy and affirmation. These pillars help propel individuals to become successful citizens as they climb the economic mobility ladder.

2022 was another record-breaking financial year for us. We continue to build on the philosophy of Glenn Martin that “those closest to the problem are closest to the solution, but farthest from the power and resources.” Our aim is to get people back into society so that they can restore value back to family and community. We could not do this work without the support of you and your financial and physical contributions. So, to this we say thank you!

We had many wins in 2022. One of our greatest accomplishments was the opening our 16 bed transitional house for women. We had several foundations and churches step up to make sure this vision was a reality. We were able to build capacity by hiring a case manager for our men’s program and a program manager for the women’s facility. We also completed renovation of our Soteria at Work woodshop in January of 2022. Its sad to say, but on July 13th our shop was destroyed by fire. This was a devastating blow to the men we train and to our community. This shop was an asset to our program. We are still in the process of rebuilding and hope to purchase a building soon in the West Village of Greenville. Thank you all for your support and prayers.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Blassingame", enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval.

Jerry Blassingame
Founder & CEO



SOTERIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

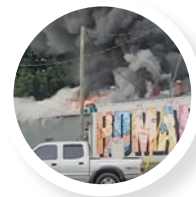
With a passion for reaching individuals whose lives have been impacted by crime,

Soteria CDC provides previously incarcerated individuals with wrap-around services for 6 - 12 months, including housing, education, employment, affirmation, & advocacy to empower smooth transitions back into society.

2022 significantly impacted Soteria CDC with both blessings and challenges. On July 13, our Soteria at Work woodshop, where we use woodworking to teach job skills to men enrolled in our program, caught fire and burned everything. We have been fundraising to

replace our workshop, and we look forward to opening our new shop in 2023.

Just after the fire, we celebrated the work and future of Soteria by opening a new 16-bed Soteria House for Women where we now extend Soteria's services to women who would otherwise be homeless after incarceration.



OUR VISION:

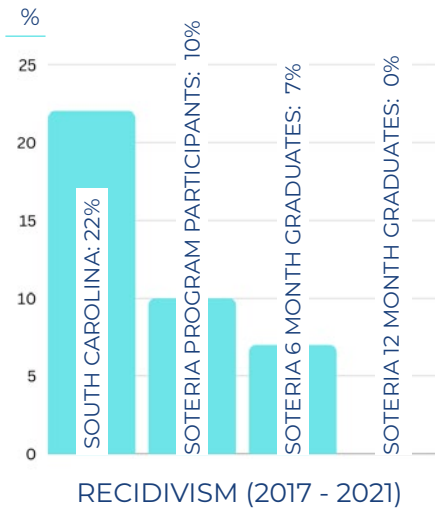
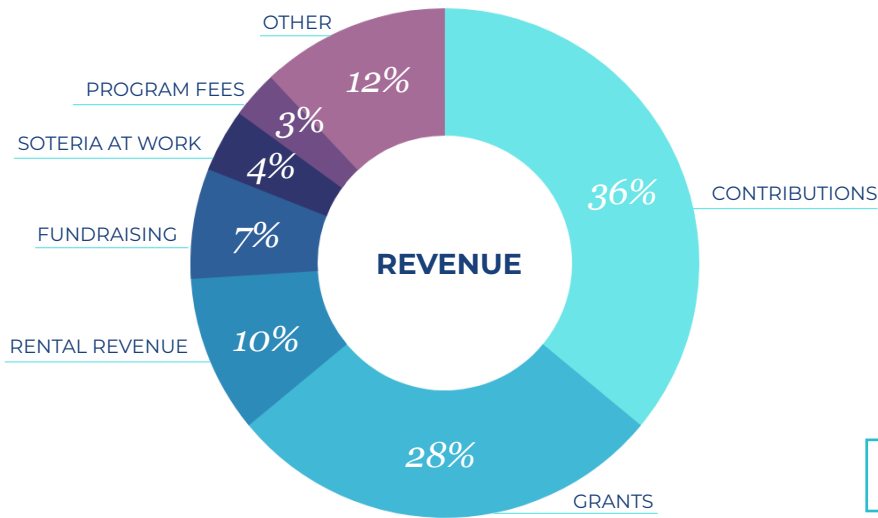
Soteria CDC will be a model for successful faith-based initiatives, by aligning government, churches, non-profit organizations, and industry and community leaders in order to empower long-term positive change.

TOOLS OF COMMUN

HOUSING

EDUCATION

EMPLO



SERVED: 500

- 38 in our AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS
- 46 in SOTERIA HOUSE
- 416 WALK-INS



9 OF OUR 11 EMPLOYEES ARE **PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED**

OUR MISSION:

Soteria CDC advocates for economic & social justice for those & their families impacted by the criminal justice system. We work to create opportunities for previously incarcerated individuals to reenter society through transitional housing, life skills, & job training.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EMPLOYMENT

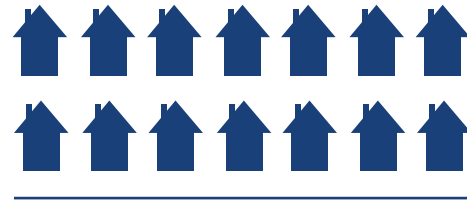
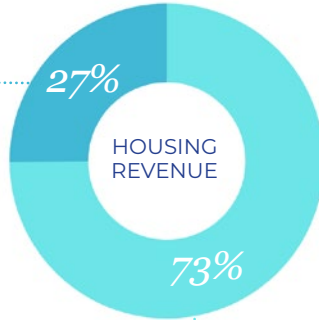
AFFIRMATION

ADVOCACY

HOUSING



\$41,797
ANNUAL PROGRAM FEES



16 WOMEN, 9 MEN, 13 CHILDREN

\$115,082
ANNUAL RENTAL INCOME

SOTERIA HOUSE

Soteria House for Men and Soteria House for Women each provide a home for up to 16 individuals. The first 30 days in our program is free of charge while we take interns to doctor appointments, probation and parole meetings, and the DMV to obtain ID's. This is also when we develop short and long term goals. Based on those goals, we offer job placement for employment which begins after those first 30 days of getting settled and focused. Once employed, interns contribute to the cost of housing, food, and transportation in the form of Program Fees.

Soteria House for Women opened in the summer of 2022, and grew to 7 residents by December. We expect to meet full capacity in 2023.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

To further our commitment to community development, Soteria provides affordable housing units for low-moderate income families. We have (6) 2-Bedroom and (8) 3-Bedroom residences for rent, currently giving homes to 38 individuals, of which 17 are children.

SOTERIA HOUSE FOR MEN: *Serves up to 16 men for 6-12 months*

SOTERIA HOUSE FOR WOMEN: *Serves up to 16 women for 6-12 months*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENTALS: *Serve 14 families*



FUTURE PLANS:

A generous friend of Soteria donated four 2 bedroom, 1 bath homes in need of renovations to our organization that we will call "Soteria Second Chance Housing".

Our Soteria at Work crew will renovate the homes over the Spring and Summer of 2023 so that we can offer an additional 4 homes to Soteria graduates and their families by the end of the year.

2023 RENOVATIONS WILL ADD:

4

NEW HOUSING OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CRIMINAL BACKGROUNDS

8

BEDROOMS

16

NEW TENANTS

AFFORDABLE RENTAL DEMOGRAPHICS:

GENDER	RACE	AGE	ANNUAL INCOME	EMPLOYED
16 : MEN 22 : WOMEN	29 : AFRICAN AMERICAN 9 : CAUCASIAN	17 : 0-17 YRS 9 : 18-34 YRS 9 : 35-54 YRS 3 : 55+ YRS	38% : UNDER \$25K 56% : \$25K - \$44,999 6% : \$45K - \$64,999	94% RETIRED 6%

SOTERIA HOUSE DEMOGRAPHICS:

GENDER	RACE	AGE	ANNUAL INCOME	EMPLOYED
28 : MEN 18 : WOMEN	16 : AFRICAN AMERICAN 29 : CAUCASIAN 1 : ASIAN	18 : AGE 18-34 26 : AGE 35-54 2 : AGE 55+	98% : UNDER \$25K 2% : \$25K - \$44,999	100%



\$500

Soteria's cost per month per intern housing, clothes, food, transportation

EDUCATION



EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

Soteria CDC surrounds individuals with the necessary resources to build a foundation for success, and education is a critical component of that foundation.

We require 102 hours of weekly **financial literacy classes** to graduate our 12 month Reentry Program. During that time, we help interns improve their credit scores and also offer a 2 to 1 savings matching program that can be used on a vehicle, higher education, small business, or a home.

Relapse Prevention Classes help men and women struggling with addiction so that they do not fall back into destructive cycles of behavior.

We also help interns reach **educational goals** from literacy to GEDs to degrees from higher education. In 2022, we helped individuals learn to read and write, to pursue certification in driving fork lifts, to graduate culinary school at Greenville Tech, to work toward obtaining a CDL as well as certifications in Cosmetology.

2022

COMPLETED IN PHASE 1

6 MONTHS

144 HOURS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

64 HOURS OF RELAPSE PREVENTION

104 HOURS OF BIBLE STUDY

COMPLETED IN PHASE 2

12 MONTHS

204 HOURS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

84 HOURS OF RELAPSE PREVENTION

104 HOURS OF BIBLE STUDY

ROUGHLY 15.6% OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND 51.7% OF NON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN GREENVILLE COUNTY LIVE IN POVERTY (*City Data 2019*).

EMPLOYMENT

SKILL BUILDING

Soteria CDC empowers men and women with criminal backgrounds to take control of their futures. Once time has been served, a crime should not prevent individuals from going after the careers of their choice.

To show the importance of job skills and to help our interns succeed in their jobs, we employ men during their first 30 days at our Social Enterprise, Soteria At Work, where we teach deconstruction and woodworking skills. After their first 30 days are complete, if they would like to pursue a career in woodworking, we will hire them onto the Soteria At Work staff where they will both build furniture and teach new interns job skills.

JOB PLACEMENT

For men and women who are not interested in working with our social enterprise beyond their first 30 days, Soteria connects interns with jobs in the community that align with their long term goals. Our network of employers either already have a policy in place to give second chances to men and women or they work closely with Soteria to start giving second chances. If you are interested in employing men and women working to thrive after incarceration, give us a call.

100%

SOTERIA PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
PLACED IN JOBS AFTER FIRST 30 DAYS

80%

WALK-INS WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS
PLACED IN JOBS



THE FIRE

On July 13, 2022, a fire started in the dumpster just outside of our Soteria At Work loading dock. It spread to our wooden rollup door and then reached the spray insulation which accelerated the flames. We lost everything. Since then, we have been looking to rebuild a workshop space so that we can continue teaching woodworking skills to help men thrive after incarceration.

AFFIRMATION

POWER OF POSITIVITY

We match each of our interns with a **mentor** to guide and coach them through the challenges of reentry.

Our weekly **Bible Studies** and **Daily Devotions** supported by **journaling** requirements teach our interns to process their lives and their futures on spiritual and emotional levels. The belief in a higher power that frees prisoners, feeds the hungry, and loves unconditionally creates hope, opportunity, and motivation to live into the life that Christ places before us.

AFFIRMATION IMPROVES



BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES



SOCIAL OUTCOMES



WORK ACHIEVEMENT

2022 SOTERIA PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED:

HOURS OF BIBLE STUDY

104

JOURNAL SESSIONS

730

DAILY DEVOTIONS

365



MENTEES:

- *Improve their self-confidence*
- *Improve their attitudes*
- *Increase their interest in staying in the program*
- *Improve relationships with peers and families*

MENTORS:

- *Improve their morale*
- *Learn more about themselves*
- *Improve their own values*
- *Get a fresh perspective on their lives*
- *Feel more satisfied*

ADVOCACY

We advocate for the rights of people who have been harmed and marginalized by mass incarceration, seeking to increase access to justice and opportunity for people with records, and to fight poverty and create second chances.

THE REALITY



25% of individuals with convictions in SC are eligible for expungement



Soteria helped individuals seeking expungement for 116 charges in 2022. Of those, 15 charges were expunged.

EXPUNGEMENT OUTCOMES

- + BETTER HOUSING
- + BETTER JOBS
- + BETTER EDUCATION

THE COST

The average expungement costs

\$310 per charge



VISION

WHAT DOES A COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE WHERE EVERYONE IS CREATED EQUAL?

A community where those impacted by our legal system are forgiven and provided the tools necessary to climb the economic mobility ladder?

THAT COMMUNITY IS SOTERIA.

We bring hope.
Our future is bright.

SOTERIA

Where hope for the future begins



TO LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH ALL THE
WONDERFUL THINGS GOING ON AT SOTERIA, VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

soteriacdc.org // [@soteriacdc](https://www.instagram.com/soteriacdc)



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