Every day of this most difficult year our work has contributed to changing this reality for individuals, families, and communities in California and South Carolina. As COVID-19 broke out in the U.S. and spread inside prisons and jails, we joined coalitions in both states to fight for the release of people whose voices are silenced by the prison walls that surround them, and we filed a lawsuit in a South Carolina jail, demanding protections for the extremely vulnerable people inside whose health and safety is at risk.

As we saw that thousands of people with records and their families lost jobs, housing, and access to health care, we quickly rolled out virtual programming, clinics, and services and opened a Family Support Fund to anyone with a record in need of cash for basic necessities. This money went to food, groceries, diapers, and medicine; it went to emergency shelters and housing costs. It helped keep people alive and safe.

Through this report, you will learn more about Root & Rebound's work through the eyes of our clients Andrew, Van, and Monica, and their families. These three amazing people represent the thousands we are honored to support, who are trying, against all odds, to live lives of dignity in a world that often denies them even the most basic opportunity. As you read their stories, we hope you can feel the impact of the work we do—work that you make possible.

Thank you for joining us in this work and for your continued support and partnership. Our work for Justice, Liberation, and Healing has never been more important. As we face collective truths together, let's stay focused on the reason why we are engaging in this deep learning and understanding: to bring about change.

Onward,

Katherine Katcher
Executive Director
Root & Rebound