December 14, 2021

Dear Community,

It is an honor as the new Executive Director of Root & Rebound to share our enclosed annual report. Our mission, to fight for justice and restore power and resources to the people and communities most impacted by mass incarceration, is my life’s work, since I know from personal experience how difficult the road to reentry is after incarceration.

As the pandemic enters its second year, we continue to develop new strategies to tackle the policies and practices that negatively affect our clients and their families.  In a year when the issues of systemic injustice, racial inequity, and discrimination due to justice involvement were exacerbated by COVID-19, your support to help R&R reach our end of the year goal of $200,000 is crucial.

With offices in both California and South Carolina, Root & Rebound has worked tirelessly since its founding to provide direct legal representation, advocacy, and educational materials for those we serve and for the wider community.

**For example, since our inception we:**

* Launched the first and only free reentry and criminal records legal hotlines in the country;
* Launched an in-prison reentry educational program inside two California prisons;
* Passed the most progressive Ban the Box in higher education legislation in the country giving more people with criminal records access to private and public higher education.

**In 2021 alone we:**

* Provided direct legal services to over 1,700 people;
* Conducted our second in-depth Direct Services Survey of clients;
* Led seven impact litigation lawsuits.

After seven years working on the staff at Root & Rebound, it is a privilege to now lead the organization into the future. I hope you will join me in supporting its future and make a donation to our campaign. You can do so either online or by sending your donation via the enclosed remit envelope.

Thank you for believing in and supporting our work. On behalf of our clients, the communities we serve, and the Root & Rebound team, Happy Holidays!



Carmen Garcia