

# Advocacy in Action



special edition: co-written by students at john carroll university | May 2022

## 2022 Reentry Week



*Chopping for Change Students at  
The City Club*

Cuyahoga County's annual Reentry Awareness Week took place from April 23 - 30. Throughout this week, events were hosted across the county to bring awareness to existing reentry service, highlight areas where more support for returning citizens is needed and identify important policy change that would ease the transition of returning citizens from incarceration to community.

As part of Reentry Week, LMM was proud to feature Ms. Susan Burton, founder of the Los Angeles-established reentry project – A New Way of Life (ANWOL), and author of *Becoming Ms. Burton* as part of the second Charles R. See Forum on Reentry. During the forum, which took place at The City Club of Cleveland, Ms. Burton shared the trauma that led her to addiction, her six stints in prison, how she found sobriety, and what led her to begin her LA-based, reentry-focused nonprofit, A New Way of Life (ANWOL). Throughout her career, Ms. Burton has

pushed for reforms that reduced the mass incarceration of African-Americans, prison overcrowding, and the struggle of getting your life back after being released from prison. Her nonprofit organization provides a plethora of support for those trying to change their lives after incarceration.

Joining Ms. Burton at the Charles R. See Forum was Malika Kidd, LMM's Program Director of Workforce Development, and Dr. Roxanne Coey, Assistant Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Topics covered by these three impressive speakers included the need for compassion and empathy for returning citizens, the importance of supportive employers, and the need to ban the box on housing applications. Currently, individuals can be denied rental housing because they have a criminal record. Even a misdemeanor offense can lead to a denial. If you were unable to view the forum live, check it out here and read this longer blog post by LMM Advocacy Director Margie Glick.

In addition to the Charles R. See Forum, LMM hosted the first ever People's Reentry Assembly on Saturday, April 30th. The Assembly was planned by the Greater Cleveland Reentry Leadership Coalition's Advocacy and Policy Committee which Margie co-chairs with Maria Smith of Legal Aid of Greater Cleveland. The purpose of the assembly was to uplift voices by sharing stories and experiences from those who were involved with the criminal justice system, identify the key challenges faced post release and brainstorm possible policy solutions. The event was for individuals with direct experience with the criminal justice system and those indirectly impacted. More than 45 people attended the program and engaged in breakout session that focused on fair chance housing, affordable housing and a renter's bill of rights. To learn more about the Reentry Assembly, read this blog post.



*LMM Staff*



*Panel featuring moderator Rachel Dissell,  
ODRC's Roxanne Coey, and LMM's Malika Kidd*

# A Letter from John Carroll University Students

Thank you so much for reading this edition of LMM's Advocacy in Action Newsletter! This edition is brought to you by students at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. For the past several months, we have worked hard to bridge our coursework in EN 250: Writing and the Professions with the various causes LMM advocates for. Read more about us below!

The purpose of this project was to learn how to write newsletters and make them look professional. Additionally, this project taught us necessary skills to work effectively as a group in order to accomplish a common goal. Working with LMM has given us the opportunity to gain writing, speaking, and professional experience while working with a real organization in Cleveland. We are all very grateful for LMM for allowing us to learn more about the organization and practice our newfound writing skills within this newsletter.

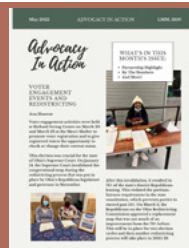
Going forward, we plan to take the skills we have learned from this project and apply them to not only other classes, but also to our everyday lives and professional lives.

- Aiden Keenan '22 is majoring in Political Science and Communications with a concentration in Advocacy. He is also pursuing a minor in Peace, Justice, and Human Rights. Aiden chose to take Writing and the Professions to expand his ability to professionally communicate in the workplace.
- Alissa Van Dress '25 is studying Business and Professional Writing. As a Cleveland native, Alissa has vowed to advocate for social justice issues and to open others' eyes to the issues as LMM has done for her. She is thankful to have the opportunity to advocate for youth homelessness on a respected platform.
- Allison Foos '25 is majoring in Sociology and Criminology with a concentration of Social Work, Community, and Health. She is also pursuing a minor in professional writing and psychology. Allison chose to take Writing and the Professions as an introductory course to her professional writing minor.
- Ava Hoover '25 is majoring in Peace, Justice, and Human Rights. She is also pursuing minors in Political Science and Sociology. Ava chose Writing and the Professions to fulfill her John Carroll Core requirement for a writing course.
- Brody Arrundale '23 pursuing an English: Professional Writing major. Outside of his coursework, Brody has participated in a variety of activities and organizations. He feels extremely fortunate to have this professional experience working with LMM.
- Carly DeArmit '23 is majoring in Communications and Integrated Marketing. She participates in a variety of activities outside of classes and has written newsletters prior to LMM's. Creating this newsletter has been a profound experience for Carly and one she is very grateful for.
- Nasya Stevenson '23 is majoring in English. She enrolled in Writing and the Professions to learn more about the relationship between communication and professions.
- Sophia Giallanza '25 is majoring in Professional Writing. She has previous experience working on different organizations' newsletters and is excited about this partnership with LMM. Furthermore, Sophia is very grateful for this experience and for the opportunity to be a part of an organization that advocates for change in Cleveland.

This issue of the *Advocacy in Action* newsletter was a merging of two newsletters produced by JCU students in the Writing and the Professions course. Each newsletter has its own voice and style. Check them out here!



[Read JCU Edition #1](#)



[Read JCU Edition #2](#)

## POLICY CORNER

### Youth Drop-In Shelters & Housing Policies in Cleveland

According to the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, in Cleveland, Ohio, there are approximately 23,000 people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. In terms of youth experiencing homelessness, Cleveland Public Schools alone reported 2,744 students experiencing homelessness in 2017.

Of these statistics, homelessness in Cuyahoga County disproportionately affects Black Americans who make up about 70 percent of shelter use. Forty percent of Cleveland's youth experiencing homelessness are also a part of the LGBTQ community. Along with these stats, Cleveland's past and present housing policies are rooted in systemic racism that targets marginalized communities.

These statistics demonstrate that there is a strong need for policies to combat this crisis. As of right now, Cuyahoga County does not have any Youth Drop In Shelters. This puts many children and teens at risk of homelessness and without basic access to health and wellness.

To address this problem, LMM, in partnership with two core partners, A Place 4 Me and Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, is working to launch the first Youth Drop in Center in the city. The initiative aims to prevent and end homelessness for young people under the age of 24 through youth leadership, systems change, and direct service. Other cities in Ohio that have successful drop in centers including Star House in Columbus, Lighthouse Youth Services Shakely Center in Cincinnati, Daybreak in Dayton, and Kaleidoscope Youth Center in Columbus. Star House shows that after visiting their drop-in center, 90% of youth find it easier to get enough to eat, 89% find it easier to obtain clothing, 78% find it easier to obtain medical care, and 96% find it easier to meet their hygiene needs. Youth drop-in centers have been very successful in helping youth experiencing homelessness in Ohio.

You may still be asking: what exactly is a Youth Drop in Shelter? A Youth Drop in Center differs from a shelter because there is no overnight bed capacity. Visitors will use the facility to enjoy a meal, do laundry, and seek respite. LMM's Youth Drop in Center will be available for youth and young adults ages 16 to 24. Recognizing that 25% of young adults experiencing housing instability are parents – the shelter will welcome guests and their children.

Guests of the center will have access to food in the kitchen, clothing and personal hygiene items, be able to wash clothes in the laundry room, take a shower, and access living room and dining room amenities, as well as a library and a small computer lab. The anticipated location of the Youth Drop in Shelter is in Ohio City. The location is safe, in proximity to public transit, residential and walkable, and has access to amenities like libraries, shops, and cafes.

Through this effort, the hope is to provide relief and increase stability, health, and wellness for youth in Cleveland who may be struggling.

Have questions about the Youth Drop in Center? Contact [Maria Foschia](#).

## Featured Advocacy Partner : John Carroll University



Founded in 1886, John Carroll University's mission is to inspire individuals to excel in learning, leadership, and service in the Cleveland area and beyond.

In fostering its commitment to service, John Carroll's Center for Service and Social Action (CSSA) aims to uphold that vision of social justice and service-based learning. CSSA is centered around Catholic Social Teaching and is devoted to a faith that does justice. John Carroll students can participate in a wide variety of service opportunities through CSSA.

Students at John Carroll have been actively involved with LMM for years. They volunteer at a Current Events workshop and poetry class which take place at the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside, and engage through coursework like this class. This Summer, Morgan Edwards will be LMM's "Summer in the City" intern, working with the advocacy department to advance its mission.

Ultimately, John Carroll inspires individuals to be men and women for and with others. This stands true for the mission of CSSA and students in EN 250: Writing and the Professions, who have helped develop this edition of the newsletter. Collectively, this project has empowered the students and allowed them to live up to the mission John Carroll was founded on and of which it remains proud.



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## Our Mission:

To promote shalom (peace, well-being) and justice (right relationships) through a Christian ministry of service and advocacy with those who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting.

## Link with LMM



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[www.lutheranmetro.org](http://www.lutheranmetro.org)



Latest news at  
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## By the Numbers: Female Incarceration Rates in the U.S. [\(source\)](#)

*The number of incarcerated women has grown five-fold between 1980 and 2020. These statistics help to tell the story of who is most impacted by this increase.*

**1.7x**

The rate at which African American women were incarcerated compared to white women in 2019

**1.3x**

The rate at which Latinx women were incarcerated compared to white women in 2019

**41%**

The percentage in which the amount of incarcerated white women increased from 2000 to 2019

**60%**

The percentage in which the amount of incarcerated African American women increased in 2000 to 2019

**5%**

The percentage in which the amount of incarcerated Latinx women increased in 2000 to 2019

## In The News: Post-Election Reminders & The Issue of Gerrymandering

Ohio has held one primary on May 3rd, but due to issues with redistricting, a second “special election” is scheduled for August 2nd. At that time, voters will be able to select their members of the Ohio General Assembly. A general election will take place on November 8th.

The need for two elections is unusual, but par for the course on what has turned into a nine-month saga to draw constitutional maps for Ohio’s Congressional and General Assembly districts. You may recall an article in the August 2021 Advocacy in Action that talked about two new constitutional amendments that were passed with the goal of creating more fair districts. Concerningly, since that article was published, Ohio’s Redistricting Commission has set forth four maps each of which has been declared unconstitutional by the Ohio’s Supreme Court.

Recently a trio of federal judges ruled 2-1 that if the commission could not reach a final plan by May 28, that they would declare a past unconstitutional map be put in place for Ohio Senate and Ohio House districts. LMM will continue to spread awareness of the threat that violates civil rights and undermines American democracy. There is significance to learning about this issue and what we can do to stop the injustice that affects every citizen. The best way to counteract this problem is to stay educated. LMM believes that, together, we can minimize the unfair tallying by researching this issue and learning how to use your voice to address inequity.

## What We’re Reading

- *Becoming Ms. Burton*, Susan Burton & Cari Lynn
- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, Michael Desmond
- *Faces at the Bottom of The Well*, Derrick Bell
- *Heavy*, Kiese Laymon
- *The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison
- *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*, Beverly Daniel Tatum