

It's Never Too Late: What Life Looks Like After Incarceration



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COMMUNITY PARTNER

The Gaudenzia Philly House Women's Program is a **halfway house** that has a contract with the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** and aims to provide a successful transition from prison back into society.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

The Gaudenzia Philly House Women's Program aims to provide a **successful transition** from prison back into society by assisting with **job searches, healthcare**, and ultimately a **home plan**. The women have the opportunity to meet individually with a counselor and participate in groups which center around **life skills, emotional well-being, substance use disorder, and mental health**.



Art helps a resident process her emotions

TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

The student intern worked with individuals who are reentering society from prison. The intern supported these individuals by **actively listening** to their needs/stories, and providing them with **access to different resources**. In addition, the intern helped connect residents to medical care and accompanied them to medical appointments to help **advocate** for their healthcare needs. Furthermore, the intern had the opportunity to lead groups, in which they talked about **cardiovascular health, oral health, and emotional well being**.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ JOYS

- Challenges**
- ❖ Limited opportunities for those with a criminal record
 - ❖ Lots of rules and regulations that hindered wellness ideas (some residents were prohibited from going to the park)
 - ❖ Women did not want to be there, led to non-adherence

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CROSS THE
YELLOW LINE
WITHOUT
STAFF
PERMISSION

- Accomplishments/Joys**
- ❖ Witnessed growth from many women
 - ❖ Empowered women to take charge of their healthcare
 - ❖ Had the opportunity to be a positive influence and support to those struggling

REFLECTION

Rachel Quinn: "My experience at the Gaudenzia Philly House Women's Program opened my eyes to the **inequities** individuals face when **reintegrating into society from prison**. Through BTG, I was able to work with a population that does not get the proper care, support, or attention from our society. Despite serving their time, these women are given **permanent labels** that affect their ability to receive proper health care, employment, and housing needs. After working with these women and listening to their life stories, I learned how **systemic inequities** and **challenging life circumstances** often contributed to the mistakes they made, which ultimately resulted in their incarceration. My main takeaway is that no matter what someone did in the past, they are **deserving of support** and a **chance for growth**."