

"CREATING a GROUP LIKE THIS, FIRST and FOREMOST, TAKES A LOT of TRUST and VULNERABILITY."

COME IN WITH an OPEN MIND BE READY to LEARN and POSSIBLY HAVE HARD CONVERSATIONS

SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE HUMANS LIKE THIS HELPING to GET the MESSAGE OUT TO OUR COMMUNITIES ABOUT PREGNANT PEOPLE IN PRISON."



- Alicia

"THE KNOWLEDGE and CONNECTIONS I'VE GAINED HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE IN BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY. I'VE LEARNED ABOUT NEW APPROACHES & WHY THINGS WERE DONE A CERTAIN WAY IN the PAST. BY COMBINING OUR KNOWLEDGE and EXPERIENCES, WE'VE CREATED a POWERFUL RESOURCE."

- Victoria



"ULTIMATELY, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NOT ONLY HELPS INDIVIDUALS REINTEGRATE BUT ALSO TRANSFORMS COMMUNITIES INTO SPACES of EMPATHY, SUPPORT and JUSTICE. IT REMINDS US THAT WE ALL PLAY A ROLE IN SHAPING the FUTURE of THOSE IMPACTED by INCARCERATION."



- Cheri

"I BELIEVE the CRC HAS EMPOWERED ME- IT HAS ALLOWED the OPPORTUNITY to BE PART of THE RESEARCH AS OPPOSED to A SUBJECT."



- Brittany

"OUR LIVED EXPERIENCES SHOULD BE CENTERED IN MEANINGFUL DECISION-MAKING, NOT JUST REFERENCED FOR CREDIBILITY OR TO HELP FUND AN ORGANIZATION THAT GIVES ME NOTHING IN RETURN."



- Sam

"WHEN COMMUNITY MEMBERS- ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOSE VOICES HAVE LONG BEEN SILENCED by SYSTEMIC INJUSTICES- ARE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, IT REAFFIRMS THAT OUR KNOWLEDGE and EXPERTISE ARE VALID and INVALUABLE."



- Kristil

"A TRULY ENGAGED PROCESS MEANS NOT JUST ASKING FOR INPUT BUT SHOWING HOW IT INFORMS FUTURE DECISIONS."



- Lea

"ONCE A PROJECT COMES to an END, THERE ARE MANY FEELINGS that GO ALONG WITH IT. THE JOY and EXCITEMENT of KNOWING THAT YOU MADE AN IMPACT and WERE ABLE to WORK WITH SO MANY AMAZING INDIVIDUALS. ALSO the SADNESS of KNOWING IT HAS COME to COMPLETION."

Community Reflections and Project Testimonials

Alicia

"Creating a group like this, first and foremost, takes a lot of trust and vulnerability. Come in with an open mind, be ready to learn and possibly have hard conversations. So grateful to have humans like this helping to get the message out to our communities about pregnant people in prison."

Victoria

"The knowledge and connections I've gained have been invaluable in building a stronger community. I've learned about new approaches & why things were done a certain way in the past. By combining our knowledge and experiences, we've created a powerful resource."

Cheri

"Ultimately, community engagement not only helps individuals reintegrate but also transforms communities into spaces of empathy, support and justice. It reminds us that we all play a role in shaping the future of those impacted by incarceration."

Brittany

"I believe the CRC has empowered me—it has allowed the opportunity to be part of the research as opposed to a subject."

Rea

"A truly engaged process means not just asking for input but showing how it informs future decisions. Our lived experiences should be centered in meaningful decision-making, not just referenced for credibility or to help fund an organization that gives me nothing in return."

Sam

"Once a project comes to an end, there are many feelings that go along with it. The joy and excitement of knowing that you made an impact and were able to work with so many amazing individuals. Also the sadness of knowing it has come to completion."

Kristie

"When community members—especially those whose voices have long been silenced by systemic injustices—are compensated for their contributions, it reaffirms that our knowledge and expertise are valid and invaluable."

Illustration by Sara Yukimoto-Saltman.