

Gatekeepers article

Gatekeepers was created in 2014 for inmates and ex-offenders, including veterans, entirely by ex-offenders who have experienced what it is like to re-enter society after having been incarcerated. Gatekeepers' approaches re-entry from a unique and compassionate perspective called the **Business of Living**. This program is designed to help inmates identify and overcome those challenges to re-entry that might prevent them from being who they want to be. They have to accept the challenge for their own self-learning and be brave enough to make some necessary changes to the way they have been thinking and living. The **Business of Living** program focuses on four areas of their life: occupational, educational, personal, and spiritual. It is important that they understand that these four areas are intertwined and that they need to work on all four of the areas for a successful life.

The **Business of Living** works to motivate, empower, and encourage ex-offenders. Gatekeepers has helped hundreds of men and women prepare their personal re-entry plan using the **Business of Living** Workbook. This same Workbook was digitized and videos were added so that in March 2022 it could be put on tablets that are issued to inmates. Currently, the Gatekeepers **Business of Living** Workbook is on tablets in over 250 correctional institutions around the nation! With the help of donors and through grant funds from partners like United Way, the State of Maryland, and recently the American Idea Foundation, Gatekeepers will continue to go inside prisons and jails and help current inmates get ready to come home for good!

Gatekeepers is partnering with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to deploy the digital version of the Business of Living onto tablets that are currently being distributed to inmates around the State of Maryland. Gatekeepers is actively looking for volunteers around the State to be Coaches (aka mentors) to assist inmates in local correctional facilities and ex-offenders who have been recently released prepare and implement their personal re-entry plan. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gatekeepers at info@gatekeepersmd.org.

North Point Veterans Home article

The North Point Veterans Program (NPVP) is a transitional housing program funded by the Veterans Administration to address the needs of homeless veterans who are impacted by unemployment, mental health, and/or substance abuse issues. NPVP serves homeless veterans with a specific diagnosis related to substance use disorder and/or mental health diagnosis.

The NPVP is one of the first steps towards becoming a healthy, joyful, successful person, who is able to function independently within the community. It is a step that will help stop the cycle of pain, anger and self-destructive behavior that goes along with substance abuse, mental health concerns, unemployment, and homelessness. The NPVP focuses on supporting veterans to obtain and maintain: veteran stability; long term full-time employment; education; increased self-determination; positive social relationships; access to entitlement programs; and prevention and/or stabilization of mental health and substance abuse issues.

Each veteran gets their own bedroom. Veterans are required to abide by the rules of the NPVP as outlined in the veteran handbook. If you are interested in applying for the NPVP or have any questions, please email Paige Romoser at paige.romoser@sheppardpratt.org for the NPVP handbook and the application.