Weld Seattle Launches Weld Together to Welcome Home Early Released Inmates and Facilitate Successful Reintegration into a Post-COVID-19 King County

Weld Seattle and Partners to Distribute Basic Needs Kits via their (Under Construction) Reentry Resource Center at 1426 S Jackson Street to Early Released King County Inmates starting Thursday.

SEATTLE, WA—May 20th, 2020—Department of Corrections began early release of system impacted individuals out of coronavirus concerns last month. Weld Seattle is linking arms (at an acceptable social distance) with a family of other community stakeholders to give these folks a safe Welcome Home.

“Providing resources and assistance to individuals reintegrating back into their home communities is critical to success,” said Assistant Secretary for Reentry Danielle Armbruster. “For individuals who are transitioning during this new era, it can be even more challenging. We’re excited for this new partnership to further build on our holistic approach to a human-centered reentry system.”

Formerly incarcerated individuals will receive a kit filled with hygiene items, clothing gift cards, and household goods out of Weld’s soon to be Collaborative Reentry Resource Center named 1426 near Seattle’s International District. In addition, individuals will have the opportunity to be connected with services including food assistance, housing, legal resources, and employment opportunities such as orientation into the Weld Works Employment Program.

“The IF Project is honored to be part of this historic partnership with WELD, Department of Corrections, Seattle Police Department, King County, and other community organizations, coordinating efforts to ensure smooth reentry transitions for our formerly incarcerated neighbors. Such a huge task cannot be done without vast engineering and the 1426 Project is providing exactly what is needed at this time in our history,” the IF Project’s Executive Director Andrea Anderson explains.

Weld Together is accepting donations of hygiene items, gift cards, and household goods starting today. Only new items will be accepted, and curb side drop off is required. Donation hours can be found by going to weldseattle.org/weldtogether. Monetary gifts can be made at weldseattle.org/donate or by emailing donate@weldseattle.org. An Amazon wish list is also available for direct purchase of needed items here: amzn.to/2VLm59L.

"The Seattle Police Department is grateful to be part of Weld Together,” said SPD Sergeant Heidi Tuttle. "With Seattle’s newly re-launched Community Service Officer program, we have CSO’s with extensive knowledge of community services and resources. CSO’s are committed to excellence in delivering services while treating people with dignity, respect, and empathy."

Formerly incarcerated individuals can receive their Weld Together Welcome Home kit at designated times listed at weldseattle.org/together. Social distancing rules will be honored, and strict building capacity guidelines will be enforced.

“In Seattle we take care of one another,” Carolyn Presnell, 1426 Building Director encourages. “That has never been more evident than during this pandemic. A bar of soap and clean sheets are powerful. They can diminish fear. And right now, we need more of that.”

Construction begins this year on 1426, a new collaborative reentry resource center that will provide connection to housing, employment, mental health, and recovery resources for system-impacted individuals. Weld Seattle is a nonprofit organization that equips people with resources conducive to recovery and successful reintegration.

The IF Project is a collaboration of law enforcement, current and previously incarcerated adults, and community partners focused on intervention, prevention, and reduction in incarceration and recidivism.

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