



# Monroe DRC Update



APRIL 2020

## WELCOME

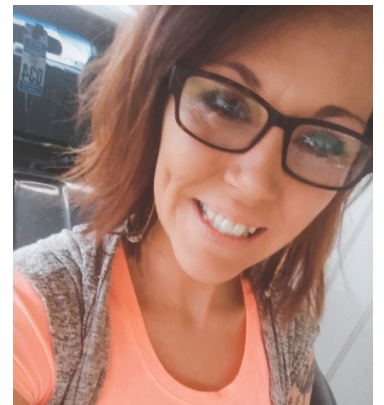


**Marc Reimer**  
Program Manager

During the current COVID-19 crisis, the Monroe DRC has been quick to adjust our safety practices and communication methods for the well-being of all participants and staff. Instead of coming into the center, participants call in daily and speak to their case managers, who keep a log to record who they contacted each day and what services were provided. Evidence-based practices are still administered to participants by way of Carey Guide worksheets, and those who need them are provided with issue-based roleplay exercises. DRC staff has also been referring participants to community resources for essential services they might need at this time. Other adjustments here at the DRC include a shift in hours: staff works in the office for five hours and works from home for three hours every day. To ensure continuity of service, our staff has been using Google Voice technology to connect with one another. The DRC has also continued to be active in the community during this time, including by donating PPE masks to the local Salvation Army Homeless Shelter. We will continue to provide a top level of service to our participants as this global crisis continues, while following health and safety guidelines issued by the CDC and local government officials. Thanks for reading our April update, and please stay safe!

## SPOTLIGHT ON... LISA J.

"I didn't really know what to expect when I first came to the program. I just know that I was willing to do whatever they wanted me to do. I was ready for a change," said Lisa J., who was referred to the DRC in December 2019 after her arrest for drug and firearm possession. "I was tired of going back and forth to jail, and I was tired of relapsing." During the DRC program, Lisa said the MRT and Living in Balance classes taught her the most. "Those really helped me because I wanted my brain to be retrained. I had been to rehab many times, and with an outpatient program like this, you're able to deal with triggers out in the world and then come back to the program. It's a whole different level of accountability," she said. Now in phase two, Lisa lives with her children at her mother's house and works as a server at a local restaurant, Logan's Roadhouse. To participants just coming into the program, her advice is to take it seriously. "It's a revolving door getting in and out of jail, but there is so much more to life," said Lisa. "The DRC is there to help. Just work the program and the program will work for you."



## DID YOU KNOW?



*By Wendy Dressler, GEO Care Research Analyst*

Criminal justice researchers have spent decades asking: Why do offenders stop offending? At GEO Reentry we ask: How can we successfully assist citizens to reintegrate back to the community? **Desistance theory** attempts to explain both questions, arguing that with the proper tools, an offender can become a reformed person. The "desister" must choose to initiate change and be motivated by something in his or her life. The individual must state that they want to "stop offending," and they "feel like they can stop offending." Researchers\* identified three types of offenders: 1) Confident, the individual wants to stop offending, feels that they can stop offending, and their supervising officer agrees; 2) Optimistic, the individual wants to stop offending, feels they can, but their supervising officer disagrees; and Pessimistic, the individual does not want to stop offending. Desistance from crime is a gradual process of change and is evident by a reduction in offense severity and frequency. Therefore, it is crucial to reward individuals for every small step they make toward change.

\*Burnett, R. (1992). *The Dynamics of Recidivism*, Centre for Criminological Research, University of Oxford, England.