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The NEW Reentry Council launches GivingFest to support returning community members and their families during the holiday season

RALEIGH, NC (October 20, 2021)—**The** NEW Reentry Council will host GivingFest to ensure holiday cheer for Nash, Edgecombe, and Wilson counties returning citizens and their families.

The road to successful reentry is not easy and is especially difficult for those experiencing poverty with limited social support. The ongoing pandemic has heightened existing barriers for returning citizens who may already face discrimination.

Through its GivingFest initiative, NEW Reentry will collect monetary and in-kind donations to provide food boxes and toys during the holiday season. The goal is to deliver 150 Thanksgiving meal boxes, and 150 Christmas meal boxes and children's toys to NEW Reentry clients.

"The last 20 months or so have been nothing short of devastating for many of our returning citizens," said Anita Lynch, program coordinator for Nash/Edgecombe counties, the NEW Reentry Council. "Many returning citizens are unemployed as we head into what should be the happiest time of the year. GivingFest is our way of ensuring that these families enjoy nutritious meals, smiles and hope this holiday season."

For more information, please visit: www.ncreentry.org/givingfest

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About the NEW Reentry Council

The NEW Reentry Council represents Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson counties, was established in 2013. Stakeholders represented on the local reentry council include nonprofit organizations, community-based service providers, faith-based organizations and fair-chance employers. This cross-representation of government and community stakeholders helps the local reentry council develop a comprehensive approach to addressing reentry issues. For more information about the NEW Reentry Council, please visit our website at <u>www.newreentry.org</u>