

TURN90

A NEW DIRECTION AFTER PRISON

2023 | ANNUAL REPORT

Turn90 creates an opportunity for success after prison where one doesn't currently exist. We use the power of peer mentorship, employment in our social enterprises, cognitive skills training, and supportive services to create an immersive program experience.

In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.
— Albert Einstein



A photograph of three men in an outdoor setting, possibly a courtyard or walkway. The man in the center is wearing a black t-shirt with the Turn90 logo and glasses on his head. He is fist-bumping the man on the right, who is wearing a white t-shirt with the Turn90 logo. The man on the left is wearing a grey t-shirt and a grey cap. The background shows a metal fence and some greenery.

LEADING THE WAY

We are a small but mighty group, committed to going the distance in the face of adversity, who believe deeply that all people deserve a chance to start over.

Men who were once program graduates are leading the way. These men are not hired only to mentor and inspire. They are delivering the most critical services. Men who were once in Turn90's classes are now teaching them. Men who worked in Turn90's social enterprises are now running them.

Our graduate-staff members prove that people closest to social problems are integral to the solutions. Their voices at the table constantly remind us of the many gifts and talents locked behind prison walls, and what we find when we are willing to make the investment.



TERRANCE

Terrance was born into a criminal lifestyle. His early memories include retrieving drugs stashed underneath cars for family members. All but one of his uncles were in and out of prison. When he was nine his mother was sent to prison for manslaughter and his dad died. Terrance was raised by his grandmother, a former bootlegger who ran an illegal lottery. She taught him how to pour liquor and write numbers.

In seventh grade, Terrance was arrested for the first time. He was 14. A few years later he received his first major narcotics charge and was sentenced to five years in federal prison. As soon as he was released he started dealing drugs again. "All I knew was how to hustle, how to survive," Terrance says. "I thought I would live a life of crime until I died."

In 2019, Terrance had just been released from his second five-year stretch in prison for drug charges. He decided he wanted to try something different, but he had never legally worked. Terrance remembers giving

himself two days to find a legitimate job. "I could tell myself I tried," he says, fully expecting that he would fall back into the only life he'd known how to live. And getting out of that life wasn't easy.

I ride around and I'm like, look at where you are now. I'm not on top of the world, but it feels like it.

While waiting in line at a job fair, Terrance remembers an announcement telling anyone with a felony to get out of the line. Later he went into a workforce development agency and was put unassisted in front of a computer. He felt frustrated and left. After his two days of job searching, Terrance was ready to give up. But a friend encouraged him to call Turn90. He came in for an interview and was told "You're perfect for the job." He started the next day.

Each morning Terrance engaged in a 90 minute class, working alongside other men facing similar problems. Together they practiced brainstorming, thinking differently, problem-solving and setting boundaries. "That was the first time I had ever slowed down and really thought about my thinking and beliefs," Terrance recalls, "the skills I learned in the class were the most impactful part of the program." In the afternoon, Terrance worked in the Turn90 Print Shop. Slowly he felt himself changing and was eventually ready for the next step in his journey. He transitioned to a permanent job at Urban Electric, where he worked for 18 months before returning to Turn90 as a staff member. In 2022 he was promoted and moved to Columbia, SC to run Turn90's second location.

Terrance's story is profound in its own right. But even more powerful is seeing him reach back and bring others with him. People like Malik.

Now, Ferrell says that when he drives around Columbia he appreciates the city. He likes the elevated highways that give him the feeling that he is cruising above the trees and the river far below.

"I ride around and I'm like, 'Look at where you are now.'" Ferrell said. "I'm not on top of the world, but it feels like it."

Terrance Ferrell never wanted to come back to Columbia, SC. His memory of the capital city was of holidays spent with his grandmother visiting relatives at prisons up and down Broad River Road. Soon, Ferrell would come to know those prisons from the inside. But after two decades in and out of jail and prison, Columbia is the setting of Ferrell's new chapter. It's also the home for the second location of Turn90, the nonprofit that Ferrell credits with turning his life around and where he's now the Columbia Center Director. "It's about the best thing that ever happened to me," said Ferrell, who runs the nonprofit's production line.

Malik grew up on the outskirts of downtown Charlotte. The people who filled his life were in and off the streets, including his father, who struggled with addiction and spent time in prison for drug-related charges. Malik's older half-brother, a talented barber, was also entrenched in a criminal lifestyle.

By age 12, an older boy, already heavily involved in crime, took a liking to Malik. "He took me under his wing," Malik says. "He showed me everything about buying and selling drugs. He sold me my first gun."



During my intake, I remember being told that I had a high chance of going back to prison. Hearing that motivated me to really try.

Malik's mother kicked him out of the house when he was fifteen. He dropped out of high school in the 10th grade. His life spiraled out of control.

For years Malik sold drugs, carried guns and robbed other drug dealers. With friends dying around him and after a year in jail, Malik was starting to see how toxic his lifestyle was, but he wasn't ready to change, not even after the birth of his daughter in 2007.

Instead, things got worse. Malik spent five years in prison as an accessory to murder, agreeing to a plea deal that protected his half-brother. He still wasn't ready to change. Within six months of his release,



he was set up in an undercover sting operation and served six years for a federal drug sentence. While he was in prison, he lost almost everything.

The half-brother he went to prison to protect was shot and killed. The murder went unsolved. Malik's biological father, with whom he shared a close, unbreakable bond through all the ups and downs, passed away in 2020. So did his stepfather.

The losses became too much. "I realized I have to do something different in order to get a different result and live a different life," says Malik. "I have to put something different up here [pointing to his temple] to display something different to the world."

After his second prison release, chance sent him to Columbia instead of Charlotte. It was there he was introduced to Turn90, and Terrance. "At first I was just looking for a way to get out of the halfway house," Malik remembers, "but during my intake, I remember being told that I had a high chance of going back to prison. Hearing that motivated me to really try."

In summer of 2022, Malik was hired to the Turn90 permanent team as the Charleston Print Shop Manager. After excelling on the job for 18 months, Malik moved back to Columbia to work alongside Terrance and lead a team now following in his footsteps. People like Mark.

Mark joined Turn90 in January 2023 after spending 40 years in prison.

He was born and raised in Washington, DC. His biological father was a heroin user, in and out of prison regularly. But his mother and stepfather were solid parental figures, and he had a stable home life. "I was attracted to the criminal lifestyle at a young age," Mark says, "My parents did not condone me drinking and smoking weed. They had rules and I didn't want to follow them."



At 15, he ran away for an entire summer. At 16, he linked up with an older man in the neighborhood to rob a restaurant. A gun went off in the botched robbery, which killed one person and paralyzed another. In 1977, Mark was sentenced to 20 years to life in an adult prison. Three years into his sentence, he escaped, robbed a bank in Florida and was caught. At 19, he was sentenced to another 20 years in federal prison. He was finally released in 2007.

For a few years he almost got it right. Mark got a job at Wild Wings restaurant and was doing okay until he felt pressure to make more money to support a girlfriend. "It wasn't the lure of the streets anymore," Mark said,

"I felt like I needed to get out of a financial situation and I did what I knew how to do." A post office robbery sent him back to prison for another 10 years.


2020 was a hard year to be released from prison. Covid made working difficult. Even when he did find a job, it was always through a temp agency. An incorrect birthdate on his social security records made obtaining permanent work and housing nearly impossible. He had periods of homelessness. He had trouble adjusting to life after prison and was fired twice for physical altercations at work. Mark remembers being ready to give up. He went to the historic Gervais Street Bridge in Columbia, SC to jump off.

With the help of a crisis intervention team, Mark did not attempt suicide that night. He was

connected to a stabilization team, who required that he seek support. A Turn90 flyer in the probation office caught Mark's attention and he called for employment - and for help. He still remembers walking into the Turn90 classroom and seeing all the skills on the wall. "I felt like Turn90 was exactly what I needed, when I needed it," Mark said, "Especially the skills of stop and think, understanding the feelings of others, and responding to authority. Those are things I didn't do in my past. But I need them in my new life so I can be a productive member of society."

In May, Mark officially joined the permanent Turn90 team as a Production Lead. For the first time in his life he has a job and recently moved into his own apartment. His hopes for the future? Advance at Turn90 and help the next man on his journey.



A photograph showing two men in a workshop setting. One man in a red t-shirt is leaning over a table, working on a screen printing project. The other man in a green t-shirt is assisting him. In the background, another man in a grey shirt is visible. The workshop has various equipment and materials, including a stack of green fabric and a sign that says "RAGS".

Turn90 exists to level the playing field for men who have experienced a lifetime of disadvantage. Each person is hired full-time, including those who have never worked and have lengthy and serious criminal histories. Hiring a diverse workforce is not simply a business strategy, it is our core identity.

1 in 5

Never legally worked before T90

1 in 3

Do not have a GED or HS Diploma

77%

Were first arrested as a youth

Half were arrested more than 7 times



Engagement

111

Men employed

914

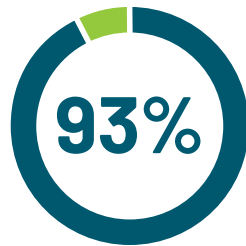
Hours of
one-on-one support

629

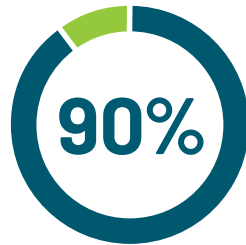
Cognitive behavioral
classes



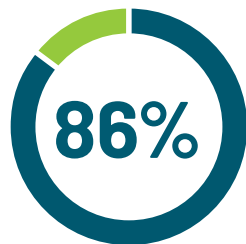
Outcomes



Improved emotion
regulation skills



Manage difficult
situations better



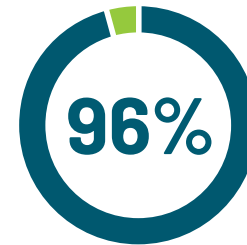
Lead a more
productive life



Impact

34

Transitioned to
permanent employment

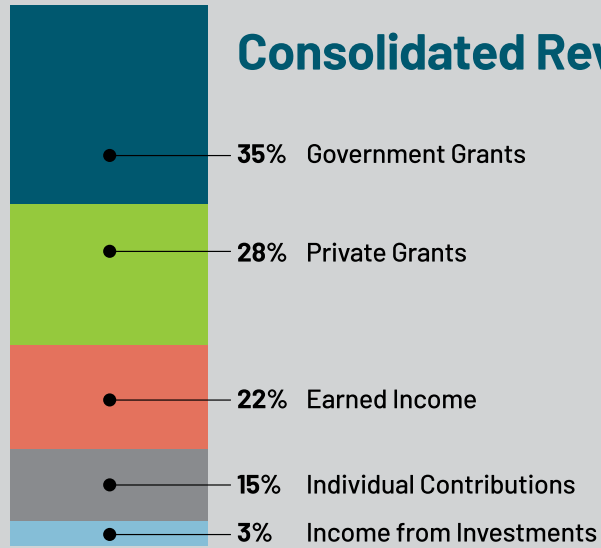


Had no
new arrests

TURN90

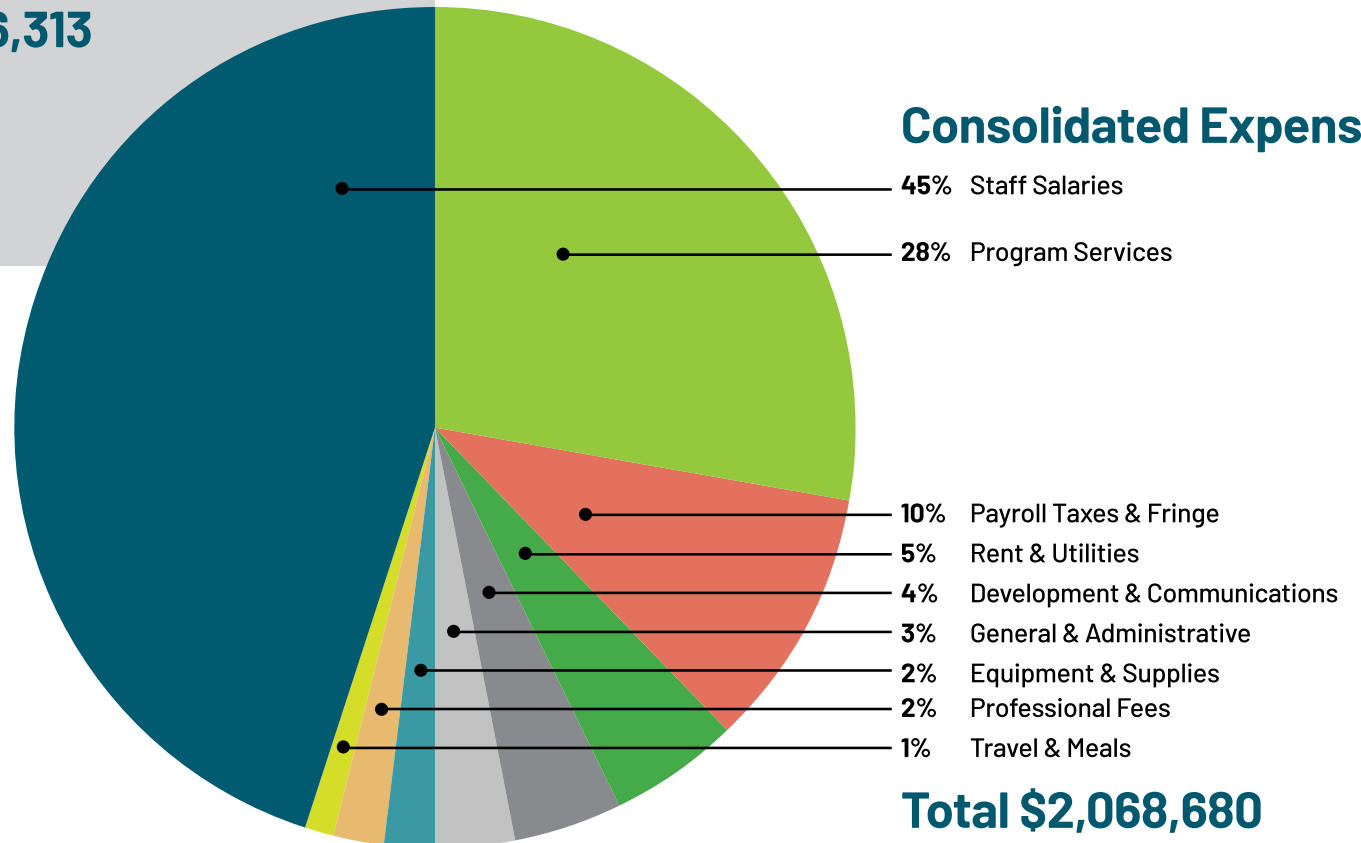
2023 Financials

Consolidated Revenues



Total \$2,396,313

Consolidated Expenses



Total \$2,068,680

WHAT'S AHEAD

The Turn90 Documentary

Next year brings a once in a lifetime opportunity to share the Turn90 story. Our forthcoming documentary, produced by Susie Films and SCETV, highlights the program's grassroots beginnings, replication challenges, and aspirations to become a nationally recognized evidence-based program. Through the narratives of Turn90 men, viewers witness the raw struggles, triumphs, and complexities inherent in rejoining society after incarceration. Interspersed with these intimate portraits are insightful interviews with public officials and business leaders. The film provides a 360-degree examination of the multifaceted issues surrounding reentry and what it really takes to create opportunities for success after prison.

The movie premiere is anticipated for Summer 2024. Film release on PBS is expected Fall of 2024.



Lieber Prison Initiative

We believe everyone leaving prison should have support. Building skills to deal with life differently during incarceration and receiving help during the critical weeks and months after release plays a big part in successful reentry. That is why we are beyond excited to join forces with the South Carolina Department of Corrections on a new initiative at Lieber Prison. This innovative program represents a bold step forward in addressing the challenges faced by individuals transitioning home from incarceration. Cognitive skills training, education, and employment during the last 24 months of a person's sentence is combined with post-release support via community partners and Turn90 reentry centers. By investing in the potential of incarcerated individuals and offering them the support they need to thrive, we create a more just and equitable future for everyone.

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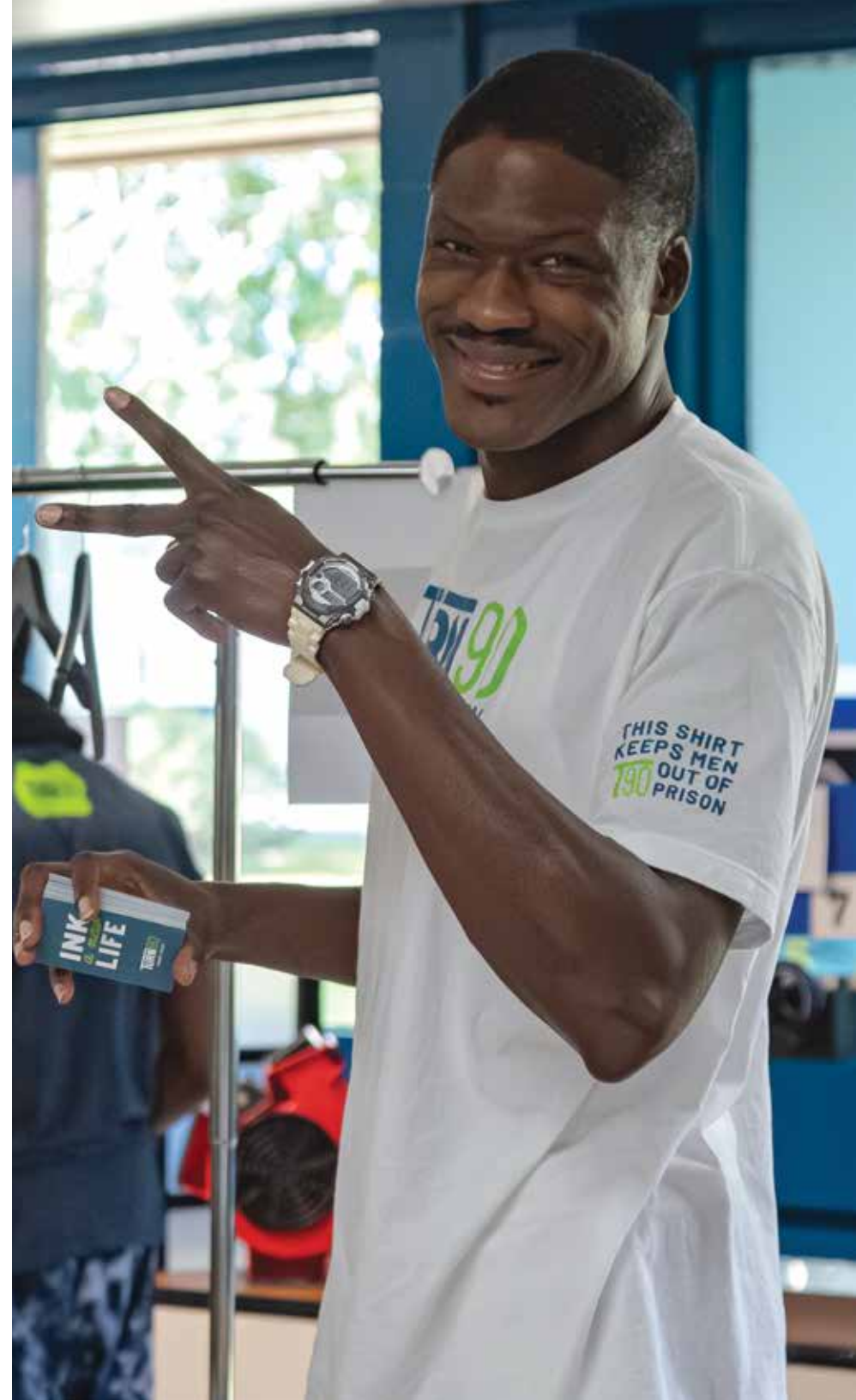
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Turn90 has given me a whole new support system and a bunch of new skills, like learning to manage my frustration. After 10 years in prison, I need help to stay on the right path. – Earl

\$1,000 - \$4,999 continued

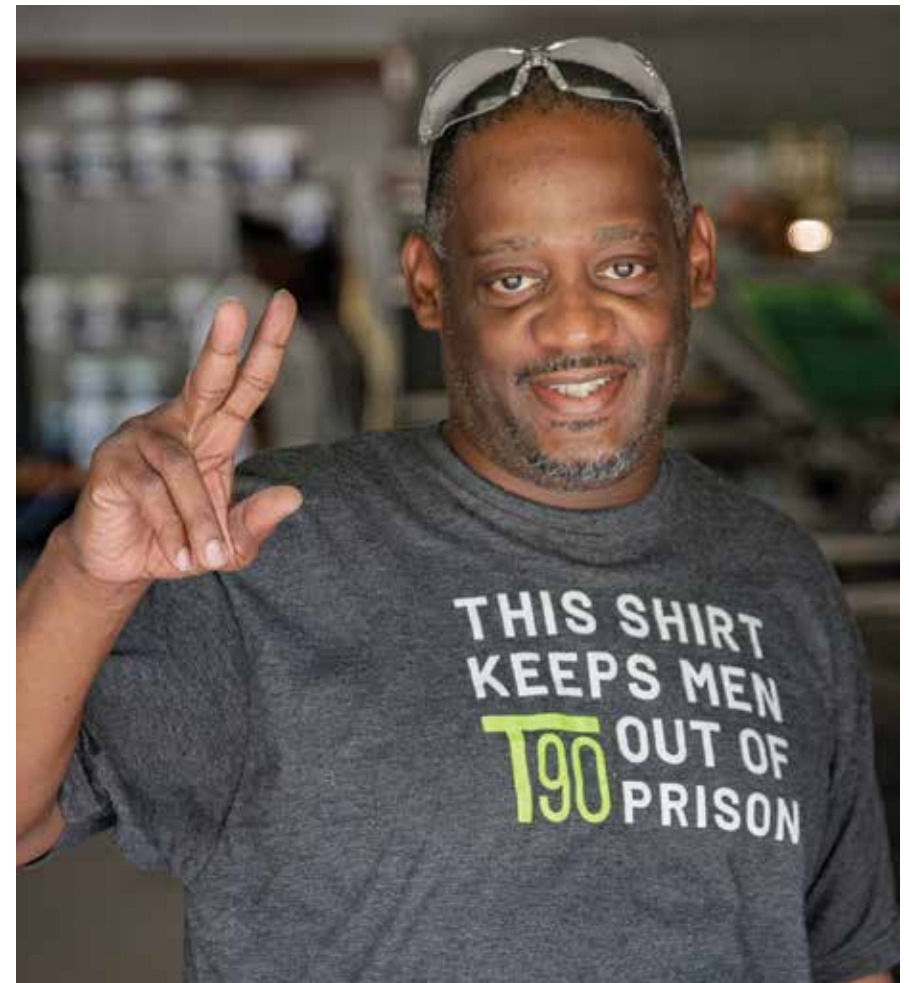
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Growing Our Impact

Together we can do so much more.

VISIT Turn90 in Charleston or Columbia to meet the team and see the classroom and job training in action.

VOLUNTEER We are looking for awesome tutors to work directly with residents of our new Lieber prison program.

ORDER custom screen-printing or embroidery and provide job training and a second chance to a person leaving prison.

PARTNER with us. Outsource work to our new business Turn90 Logistics, invite us to speak at your next event, or host us for onsite mobile screen-printing.

HIRE our graduates. Become a second-chance employer and create a more diverse, productive, and loyal workforce.

For more ways to get involved, email us at development@turnninetty.com.



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TURN90

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