

Good Turn Labor

ANNUAL REPORT

Never Give Up (NGU)
Transitional Living Program

2025

Letter From the Executive Director

As I reflect on our first year of impact, I want to begin with a simple but heartfelt message: thank you. Whether you are a community partner, a donor, a volunteer, a returning supporter, or someone learning about our work for the first time—your belief in second chances makes everything we do possible. Real change, especially the kind that transforms lives and communities, cannot happen alone. Your presence and your commitment matter deeply.

For me, this work has always been personal. After spending years working inside the criminal justice system, I witnessed countless people fall through cracks that should never have existed. I also saw what was possible when someone finally received the support they needed long before. Those moments shaped me. They are why I believe so strongly in the power of reentry done right—and why I refuse to give up on people who want to rebuild their lives.

That belief led to the creation of the Never Give Up (NGU) Transitional Living Program, operated through our nonprofit, Good Turn Labor. We built NGU because too many people are released from prison with nowhere to go, no one to rely on, and no real chance to succeed.

Every year in Nebraska, approximately 2,000 people are released from state prisons. Their sentences may end, but their challenges are only beginning. Many return home to housing instability, employment discrimination, untreated mental health concerns, addiction, stigma, fractured family ties, and patterns of thinking shaped by survival instead of stability. Without meaningful support, far too many end up cycling right back into the system they fought hard to leave.

We are not willing to accept that.

NGU exists to interrupt that cycle.

Our program provides a sober, highly structured, and deeply supportive environment for men returning to the community—men who are approved for parole or community supervision, ready for accountability, and committed enough to complete our application and interview process. This is not a drop-in program. NGU is a place for individuals who are genuinely motivated to move forward.

At NGU, we combine compassion with structure because true change requires both.

I have watched men walk through our doors with nothing but a trash bag to their name—and walk out months later with a job, a savings account, and a plan for their future. I've seen fathers rebuild relationships with their children. I've watched men become mentors to others who are still trying to believe they deserve another chance.

That is what Never Give Up means. It's not just the name of a program—it's a mindset, a community, and a movement built on the belief that transformation is possible.



As we close our first year and look forward to the next, I want to thank you again. Thank you for caring. Thank you for standing up with us. Thank you for believing in the potential of every person who walks through our doors.

If you've ever believed that people can change...

If you've ever wondered how to strengthen your community...

If you've ever said, "Someone should do something about this"—I want you to know: you are that someone. Together, we are doing something. Together, we are changing lives. And together—we will never give up.

Thank you for your support, your faith, and your partnership.

Mission, Staff, & Board Members

➔ Mission

NGU helps formerly incarcerated men transition back into society with stability, structure, and support. We believe every returning citizen deserves a real chance to succeed—and that strong community reentry strengthens families, neighborhoods, and public safety for all.

➔ NGU Staff

- Julie Micek - Executive Director
- Shane Reilly - Director
- Jimmy King - Assistant Director
- Brian Hafley - Case Manager
- Susan Marquiss - Executive Assistant



➔ Good Turn Labor Board of Directors

Rosalyn Cotton - President
Timothy Freeburg - Vice President
John Velasquez
Greg Key
Jenny Meyerson

Gabe Wilcox
Greg Daughtery
Gaylene Armstrong
Mark Batts

Never Give Up Fundraiser Event

- On November 4, 2025, Good Turn Labor hosted the Never Give Up Fundraiser Event, an evening rooted in hope, resilience, and the belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to rebuild their life.
- The event supported Never Give Up, a transitional living program committed to helping men successfully reenter the community after incarceration.
- More than 100 guests gathered in solidarity, including community partners, advocates, and supporters who share a commitment to second chances.
- Through meaningful connection, powerful storytelling, and a shared vision for change, the evening highlighted what is possible when compassion meets action.
- Thanks to the generosity of attendees and donors, the fundraiser raised \$25,000 to directly support the Never Give Up program.
- The success of the 2025 fundraiser reflects the strength of our community and the growing momentum behind reentry support services.
- Building on this success, Good Turn Labor is proud to announce plans for another Never Give Up Fundraiser in 2026.
- We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, and believed in this mission. Together, we are proving that when people are supported, empowered, and encouraged to never give up, lives — and communities — are transformed.



Budget & Year 2



➔ Monthly Budget Overview

Category	Amount	Description
Housing, Facilities, Rent	\$21,076	Rent, Utilities,
Furnishings/Maintenance	\$2,216	Hardware/Discount Store
Staff, Supplies, Technology	\$32,265	Program Director, Support Staff, Supplies, Technology
Food & Basic Needs	\$4,135	Food, Clothing, Phones
Community Events/Outings	\$935	Client Activities
Transportation	\$3,140	Gas, Insurance, Vehicle Maintenance, UBER
TOTAL	\$63,767	

Looking Forward – Year 2

- Implement NGU Homes construction program
- Grow behavioral health services
- Increase family reunification supports
- Strengthen long-term alumni engagement
- Continue to strengthen community partnership and involvement

Program Offerings

➔ Housing & Basic Needs

Safe, sober housing and essentials—food, clothing, transportation, and a phone—so participants can rebuild, not just survive.

➔ Intensive Outpatient Programming (IOP)

Structured in-house groups focused on recovery, relapse prevention, and healthy decision-making.

➔ Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

Evidence-based therapy to manage emotions, stress, and relationships.

➔ Individual Counseling

One-on-one support for trauma, mental health, addiction, and personal growth.

➔ Alcoholics Anonymous & Narcotics Anonymous

Peer-led 12-step meetings offering community, support, and accountability.

➔ Financial Literacy Classes

Budgeting, savings, credit repair, and long-term financial stability.

➔ Community & Family Reconnection

Prosocial outings, mentoring, and family visits to rebuild trust and strengthen ties.

➔ Employment Support

Job readiness, job search help, skill-building, and workplace preparation.

➔ Life Essentials Assistance

Help obtaining ID, Social Security card, Medicaid, EBT, and other basic needs.

➔ Faith-Based Opportunities

Church attendance, mentorship, and volunteer involvement for those who desire it.

Thank You

➔ Your Support Makes This Possible

- The NGU Transitional Living Program is funded through Good Turn Labor, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
- Your donations help men rebuild their lives, reconnect with their families, and return to society with purpose and stability.

➔ Social Media & Website

 <https://nevergiveupomaha.org>

 [n.g.u.transitional_living](https://www.instagram.com/n.g.u.transitional_living)



➔ Our Sponsors

- We are deeply grateful for our partners who make the Never Give Up Transitional Living Program possible through their generosity and belief in second chances.

Omaha Community Foundation

William & Ruth Scott Family Foundation

Don Scott Foundation

John L. Scott Foundation

The Sherwood Foundation

Lozier Foundation