

Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair White, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

My name is Edna Robinson. I am a former Transitional Control Client of The Salvation Army Harbor Light Complex. I went to prison for Involuntary Manslaughter and was sentenced to 6 years. I went to The Salvation Army the last 6 months of my sentence. During my time on Transitional Control, I was able to take advantage of the many programs available to me. Having the time to build relationships with family, reconnect with church and obtain employment would have been extremely difficult without this opportunity.

While at Salvation Army, I was able to take responsibility and learn from my mistakes and work on limiting all negativity in my life. I learned to accept what I can't change or control.

My journey at The Salvation Army began on Transitional Control. I was able to volunteer and received a small stipend from working in the maintenance department. One of the programs that moved me forward was Towards Employment. I successfully completed several programs. My initial plan was to become a chef. The first step was to obtain the SERV SAFE certification which I did. I had a change of heart and was referred and was able to work a fulltime job at a factory until my time was completed. After the transitional program was completed, living with family was not an option. I discovered this when I was able to experience using the electronic monitoring program. Even if you have loving and caring family, going into a permanent living situation with them is not always the best.

Because of my volunteer cleaning duties and work ethic, when transitional control was done, Harbor Light had an opening in the maintenance department which I accepted. I was hired full time in December 2017.

The experience of asking and getting approval to spend my own money groomed me for learning how to manage my money. Because of that experience, I was able to save money. I opened a checking and savings account. I found my own apartment, bought a brand-new car, and furnished my apartment. One of the things that you get for going through the program violation free is a furniture voucher which helped with furnishing my apartment. It may not seem like a lot, but this experience has been best for me. Without programs like this, you could not have a job, save money, and be as prepared as the transitional control program helped me

to be. I am proud to say, I am still employed at the Salvation Army Harbor Light and I thank God I was able to take advantage of a program like this.