

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

MOUNT ZION A.M.E. CHURCH, NYC



**THE 200TH SESSION
OF THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

APRIL 26– MAY 1, 2022

Follow Mt Zion online and stream services live



WWW.MOUNTZIONAMENYC.ORG

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	LEADERSHIP
4	OUR MISSION
5	BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
6	OUR PARTNERS
10	GALVANIZING AND MOBILIZING PEOPLE
11	RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY
12	UTILIZING ASSETS
13	LIBERATING MOUNT ZION
14	GET INVOLVED/CONTACT MT. ZION
15	SUPPORT COMMUNITY OUTREACH
16	PASTOR'S SUMMATION

LEADERSHIP

"RETHINKING CHURCH IN A CHANGING WORLD"

**MOVING FROM ORTHODOXY (MEANING "RIGHT BELIEF") TO ORTHOPRAXIS
(MEANING "RIGHT LIVING, RIGHT PRACTICES")**

RT. REV. JULIUS H. MCALLISTER, SR. PRESIDING PRELATE, FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
MOTHER JOAN MARLA MCALLISTER EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR, FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
THE REV. DR. KIM W. ANDERSON, PRESIDING ELDER, MANHATTAN DISTRICT
REV. KAHLIL G. JAMES, PASTOR
SIS. DEBORAH CLARK JAMES, PASTOR'S WIFE
DR. ALFREDA G. JOHNSON, ITINERANT ELDER
REV. VIVIAN NIXON, LOCAL ELDER
REV. LATRICIA MITCHELL, LOCAL DEACON

STEWARD BOARD

SIS. ALETHEA SMITH CHAIRPERSON, PRO TEM
SIS. ESTELLE LIVINGSTON
BRO. ROBERT YOUNG
SIS. STACEY LAWRENCE
SIS. MARY WILSON
SIS. DARLENE SMALLS
BRO. CLARENCE SARGEANT
SIS. WILLAMAE BROWN
SIS. SYLVIA GIBBONS **(TREASURER)**

ORGANIST CHOIR DIRECTOR

SIS. SUSETTA BROWN & REV. BERNARD CORBETT

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

SIS. DEBRA GERMAN

CHURCH SEXTON

BRO. NATHANIEL SMITH

PASTOR'S ARMOR-BEARER

BRO. ALEXANDER ANDERSON

FOOD PANTRY DIRECTOR

SIS. DONNA MAJOR

TRUSTEE BOARD

BRO. JULIAN PITTS CHAIRPERSON, PRO TEM
SIS. BESSIE COVINGTON
SIS. JOYCE WASHINGTON
SIS. JANNETT BRADLEY
BRO. JOHN COVINGTON
BRO. NATHANIEL SMITH
BRO. ALONZO JAMISON
BRO. JAMES MULBAH
SIS. DOLORES PITTS
BRO. CHARLES N. DOUR

TECH TEAM

BRO. JAMES MULBAH
BRO. CHARLES N. DOUR
PASTOR ISAAC SCOTT, ARTISTIC CONSULTANT



**1765 Madison Avenue, New
York, New York 10029,
United States**



**OFFICE: 212-369-6643
FAX: 212-369-3973**

OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO THE SPIRITUAL, INTELLECTUAL, PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS OF ALL PEOPLE BY SPREADING CHRIST'S LIBERATING GOSPEL THROUGH WORD AND DEED. AT EVERY LEVEL, THE A.M.E. CHURCH SHALL ENGAGE IN CARRYING OUT THE SPIRIT OF THE ORIGINAL FREE AFRICAN SOCIETY, OUT OF WHICH THE A.M.E. CHURCH EVOLVED; WHICH IS TO BRING SOULS TO CHRIST AND SERVE THE NEEDY THROUGH A CONTINUING PROGRAM OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL, FEEDING THE HUNGRY, CLOTHING THE NAKED, HOUSING THE HOMELESS, CHEERING THE FALLEN, PROVIDING JOBS FOR THE JOBLESS, ADMINISTERING TO THE NEEDS OF THOSE IN PRISONS, HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, ASYLUMS AND MENTAL INSTITUTIONS, SENIOR CITIZENS' HOMES; CARING FOR THE SICK, THE SHUT-IN, THE MENTALLY AND SOCIALLY DISTURBED, AND ENCOURAGING THRIFT AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT. MOUNT ZION'S MINISTRY OF BEING A CHURCH OF UNLIMITED LOVE COMPLIES WITH THE OVERALL MISSION OF THE A.M.E. CHURCH.

OUR MISSION STRATEGY

- BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
- GALVANIZING AND MOBILIZING PEOPLE
- RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY
- UTILIZING ASSETS
- LIBERATING MOUNT ZION FOR THE THRIVING OF THE COMMUNITY





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

**WE BELIEVE THAT OUR HEALING AND LIBERATION
IS IN OUR UNITY. WE FORM RELATIONSHIPS TO
BUILD OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE
CAPACITY TO BE CHANGE AGENTS.**

- 1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- 2. NETWORKING**
- 3. COMMUNITY DINNERS**

LOVE GOD, LOVE YOURSELF, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

OUR PARTNERS



THE CONFINED ARTS (TCA) IS A PROGRAM, LOCATED AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND MT. ZION THAT CULTIVATES AND SHOWCASES THE TALENTS AND CREATIVE VOICES OF ARTISTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY MASS INCARCERATION AND INTERSECTING SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES. TCA ENABLES ARTISTS TO EXPRESS THEIR VOICES THROUGH THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS, POETRY, AND MUSIC AS A MEANS TO ABOLISH INHUMANE NARRATIVES AND SOCIALLY DEGRADING STIGMAS THAT ARE USED TO DESCRIBE THE PAST EXPERIENCES AND LIMIT THE FUTURES OF INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION. THROUGH ARTISTRY, COLLABORATIVE ACTIVISM, RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, TCA EQUIPS ARTISTS TO INFLUENCE POLICY CHANGE, AND USE THEIR ARTISTRY AND KNOWLEDGE TO ADVOCATE FOR A WORLD ANCHORED ON EMPATHY AND SATURATED WITH HEALING AND PREVENTION-BASED POLICIES.



IN 2020 THE CONFINED ARTS PARTNERED WITH THE CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION AND CONSPIRING FOR GOOD TO MAP, GALVANIZE AND SUPPORT ARTISTS, ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, PROJECTS, AND PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON RACIAL JUSTICE, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM BY FORMING THE ARTS JUSTICE SAFETY COALITION. THIS COALITION IS MADE UP OF ARTS PROGRAMS AND PRACTITIONERS WORKING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM AND INTEGRATING SAFETY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND JUSTICE INTO THEIR WORK.

OUR PARTNERS

RITUAL 4 RETURN

RITUAL4RETURN (R4R) IS A 12-WEEK PROGRAM THAT GUIDES FORMERLY INCARCERATED MEN AND WOMEN THROUGH THE PROCESS OF CREATING AND PERFORMING A RITE OF PASSAGE. THE PROCESS HELPS PARTICIPANTS AS THEY TRANSITION FROM INCARCERATION TO FREEDOM. IT IS A DEMANDING JOURNEY. IT PUSHES PEOPLE INTELLECTUALLY, PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY AS THEY DEFINE AND THEN CROSS THE THRESHOLDS THAT MARK THE TRANSITION FROM OLD PATTERNS, BEHAVIORS, AND IDENTITIES INTO THE NEW LIFE THEY SEEK TO MANIFEST.

THIS PROGRAM IS FOR ANYONE WHO HAS EVER BEEN INCARCERATED. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW LONG YOU WERE IN OR HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN OUT. R4R IS A HEALING AND TRANSFORMATIVE TOOL FOR ANYONE WHO SEEKS TO MOVE ON FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES OF PRISON AND INTO A NEW LIFE.

rites of passage: what and why

RITUALS ARE REPEATED PRACTICES THAT HELP GIVE OUR LIFE MEANING. A RITE OF PASSAGE IS A SPECIFIC TYPE OF RITUAL MEANT TO FACILITATE A PERSON'S TRANSITION FROM ONE SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL IDENTITY TO ANOTHER. THESE TRANSITIONS CAN GO UP OR DOWN. WHEN A PERSON IS CONVICTED OF A CRIME AND SENTENCED TO PRISON, THEY UNDERGO A POWERFUL RITE OF PASSAGE. IT IS A RITE OF DEGRADATION. THEY ARE DEGRADED FROM THE STATUS OF "CITIZEN" TO THE STATUS OF "CONVICT," "PRISONER" OR "OUTCAST."

BUT WORDS LIKE CONVICT AND PRISONER ARE MORE THAN JUST LEGAL LABELS. THEY BECOME NEW SOCIAL IDENTITIES. THEY STICK TO A PERSON. THE BROADER PUBLIC DEFINES PEOPLE BY THE CRIMES THEY'VE COMMITTED, AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED MEN AND WOMEN CAN CARRY FEELINGS OF SHAME AND STIGMA FOR MANY YEARS AFTER THEY ARE RELEASED FROM PRISON. OFTEN THESE FEELINGS LAST THE REST OF THEIR LIVES...

FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY

FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY HAS BEEN WORKING TO END FOOD POVERTY IN OUR FIVE BOROUGHES SINCE 1983. AS THE CITY'S LARGEST HUNGER-RELIEF ORGANIZATION, WE EMPLOY A MULTIFACETED APPROACH CENTERED ON HELPING LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS OVERCOME THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES AND ACHIEVE GREATER INDEPENDENCE.

OUR PARTNERS

REENTRY THEATER OF HARLEM

REENTRY THEATER OF HARLEM (RTH) IS AN INDEPENDENT NONPROFIT PROGRAM, DEVELOPED WITH, BY AND FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE IN THE U.S. CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM. OUR MISSION IS TO EMPOWER AND SUPPORT PEOPLE IN SAFE AND CREATIVE SPACES AS THEY MAKE THE DIFFICULT TRANSITION FROM PRISON BACK TO SOCIETY AND BECOME POSITIVE CONTRIBUTORS TO THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

RTH UTILIZES ART, RITUALS, AND THEATRICAL RITES OF PASSAGE TO HELP INDIVIDUALS ADDRESS AND OVERCOME THE SHAME, STIGMA, AND TRAUMA OF INCARCERATION. ULTIMATELY, PARTICIPANTS DEVISE AND ENACT A THRESHOLD CROSSING TO FORMALLY MARK THE TRANSITION FROM PRISON BACK INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND INTO A NEW STAGE OF LIFE.

ALEX ANDERSON IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RTH. ALEX, A SURVIVOR OF MASS INCARCERATION, SPENT A TOTAL OF 15 YEARS IN NYS PRISONS. WHILE IN PRISON, ALEX EARNED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND, BEFORE COLLEGE IN PRISON PROGRAMS WERE DECIMATED, A BA FROM SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY. AFTER HIS RELEASE, ALEX WORKED TO MAKE AMENDS AND IMPROVE HIS COMMUNITY. HIS CAREER AS A SOCIAL WORKER HAS SPANNED MORE THAN TWO DECADES AND WAS FUELED BY A MSW FROM SILBERMAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, A NEW YORK STATE CERTIFICATE IN ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CERTIFICATE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE. IN 2009, ALEX PERFORMED HIS RITE OF PASSAGE AT JOHN JAY COLLEGE.

RTH IS A BOLD AND IMAGINATIVE APPROACH FOR CONFRONTING THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF MASS INCARCERATION. GROUNDED IN CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION AND DRAWING ON DECADES OF CRIMINOLOGICAL LITERATURE, RTH IS DEEPLY RESTORATIVE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES. IT IS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO ARE MOST IMPACTED BY MASS INCARCERATION IN WAYS THAT ALLOW THE MODEL TO MULTIPLY AND SCALE.

FOOD BANK FOR NEW YORK CITY

MISSION IS TO HELP MOBILIZE OUR COMMUNITIES TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS AND BUILD OPPORTUNITIES THAT IMPROVE THE LIVES OF LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

OUR PARTNERS

EMMAUS HOUSE OF HARLEM

EMMAUS HOUSE IS A SUPPORTIVE, HEALING, INCLUSIVE, FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE IN TRANSITION WHO EMPOWER THEMSELVES (AND OTHERS) TO BUILD A SOCIETY OF COMPASSION, OPPORTUNITY, EQUITY, AND JUSTICE. COLLECTIVELY WE NURTURE, HEAL, BUILD RESILIENCE, AND LIFT ONE ANOTHER UP TO OUR HIGHEST POTENTIAL. THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS, WE EDUCATE AND MOBILIZE THE LARGER COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF POVERTY AND INJUSTICE WHILE WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEACE AND SOCIAL CHANGE. WE STRIVE TO HEAL OURSELVES, OUR COMMUNITY, AND THE WORLD.

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE WORKS TOWARD A WORLD IN WHICH JUDAISM IS CENTRAL TO OUR LIVES AND IS A PROFOUND AND POSITIVE FORCE FOR HUMANITY. WE ARE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING AS WE PURSUE THAT GOAL. TOGETHER, WE LEARN, WORSHIP, SERVE, AND CONTINUALLY REDEFINE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH TODAY, BOTH WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY AND FAR BEYOND OUR WALLS.

IN DECEMBER 2020, WE WERE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE AND THE MULTIFAITH INITIATIVE TO END MASS INCARCERATION (EMI), THE MULTIFAITH INITIATIVE TO END MASS INCARCERATION LEVERAGES THE POWERS OF U.S. FAITH LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES TO EMPHATICALLY DEMAND AND ACT TO END MASS INCARCERATION.

STELLA ADLER STUDIO OF ACTING

THE STELLA ADLER STUDIO UPHOLDS A UNIQUE FOCUS IN AMERICAN ACTOR TRAINING. LIKE JACOB, STELLA AND HAROLD, THE STUDIO AFFIRMS THAT THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THEATER IS TO UPLIFT HUMANITY. A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT FOR STELLA IS NOT NECESSARILY ONE WHO BECOMES FAMOUS OR RICH, BUT ONE WHO CONNECTS TO THEIR DEEPER SELF AND TO OUR SHARED HUMANITY. THE SCHOOL IS A CULTURAL CENTER DETERMINED TO TRAIN ACTORS AND SUPPORT ARTISTS NOT DESPITE, BUT IN THE FACE OF A WORLD IN CRISIS. PROGRAMS LIKE THE OUTREACH DIVISION HELP TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS TO BECOME ACTORS LIKE STELLA AND THOSE IN THE GROUP THEATER: ACTORS WHO ARE SOCIALLY AND CONSCIOUSLY AWARE AND WHOSE AWARENESS CONTRIBUTES TO THEIR ABILITY TO ACT PASSIONATELY.



EXECUTING OUR CALL TO ACTION

GALVANIZING AND MOBILIZING PEOPLE

WE'VE CONSISTENTLY GROWN OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY SINCE 1998, ALL THANKS TO THE MINISTRY OF MOUNT ZION A.M.E. CHURCH AND THE HELPING HANDS OF OUR COMMUNITY! IN 2022 WE BROUGHT COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER FOR:

1. FOCUS GROUPS ON FOSTERING PUBLIC SAFETY BY IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCES
2. ARTISTIC TESTIMONIES
3. HYBRID VIRTUAL MEETINGS

LOVE GOD, LOVE YOURSELF, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



CREATING INFORMED SOLUTIONS

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

**WE CONDUCT COMMUNITY- CENTERED RESEARCH, WHICH IS DIRECTLY USEFUL
TO IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES, POLICY MAKERS,
ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, NONPROFITS AND BEYOND. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**

- 1. ARTS JUSTICE SAFETY COALITION**
- 2. RITUAL 4 RETURN**
- 3. REENTRY THEATER OF HARLEM**
- 4. CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE**

LOVE GOD, LOVE YOURSELF, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



ADDRESSING COMMUNITY NEED THROUGH FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

UTILIZING ASSETS

STEWARD & TRUSTEE BOARDS PROJECTS 21 -22

1. **HARDWOOD FLOORS IN SANCTUARY SANDED AND REFINISHED.**
2. **NEW CARPET IN SANCTUARY AND LOWER-LEVEL OFFICES.**
3. **THE LOWER-LEVEL OFFICES, KITCHEN, AND FELLOWSHIP HALL WERE PAINTED.**
4. **BOILER OUTER JACKET AND RELEASE VALVE REPLACED.**
5. **NEW WATER HEATER INSTALLED.**
6. **THE SOUND SYSTEM WAS UPGRADED**
7. **ROOF RESEALED.**

LOVE GOD, LOVE YOURSELF, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



**DISCIPLESHIP AND
SHARED-LEADERSHIP**

LIBERATING MOUNT ZION

**WE BELIEVE THAT WHEN WE ARE FREED FROM THE STRONGHOLDS OF IN OUR OWN
LIVED-EXPERIENCES, WE WILL BE EQUIPPED TO HELP OTHERS HEAL AND LOSE CHAINS
IN THEIR OWN LIVES.**

- 1. WE ARE READING THE BOOK FREEDOM'S PROPHET: BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN, THE
A.M.E. CHURCH, AND THE BLACK FOUNDING FATHERS BY RICHARD S. NEWMAN**

LOVE GOD, LOVE YOURSELF, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

CONTACT MT ZION



++++
++++
++++

WEBSITE

...

MT ZION WEBSITE:
www.mountzionamenyc.org/

OUTREACH MINISTRY WEBSITE:
www.anotherchoicenyc.org/

GET INVOLVED

**READY TO BE A
CHANGE AGENT?**

*Come join the
team!*

Gain on-the-ground experience with collective advocacy by working with people who are directly impacted by the criminal legal system. Develop leadership tools for facilitating and developing representational advocacy and aesthetics

ADDRESS

1765 MADISON AVE
NEW YORK, NY 10029

++++
++++
++++
++++

**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA**



++++
++++
++++



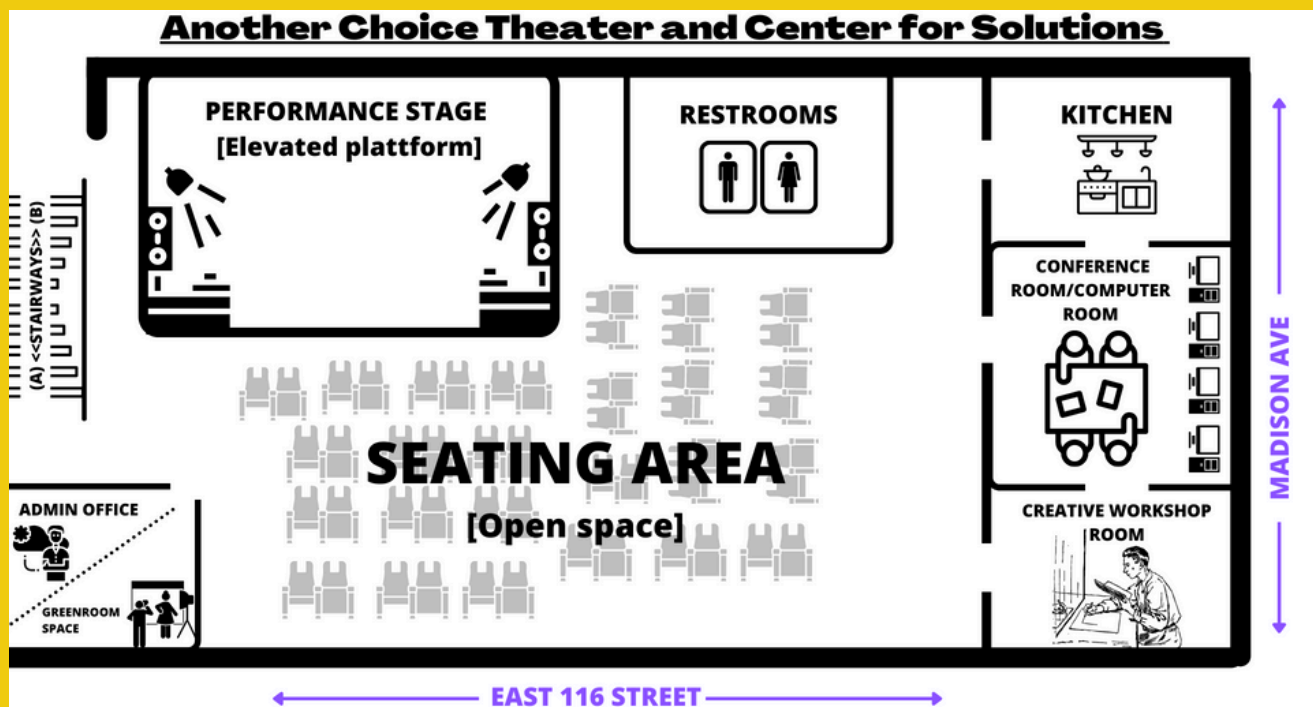
LOVE GOD, LOVE YOURSELF, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

HELP SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

OUR MISSION AS A CHURCH IN EAST HARLEM IS TO MINISTER TO THE SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL, AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND BEYOND. OUR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO FOSTER PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS INSPIRED BY PROVERBS 25:8-9 NKJV. WE BELIEVE THAT OFFERING EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES AND EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE TOWARD BETTER OUTCOMES WILL REDUCE THE NATION'S RELIANCE ON CRIMINAL LEGAL SOLUTIONS AND RACIALIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT AS IT EXISTS TODAY.

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS WE "RECLAIM THE 2ND FLOOR SPACE" BY CREATING ANOTHER CHOICE THEATER AND CENTER FOR SOLUTIONS. YOUR DONATION WILL HELP US TO EXECUTE OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY, WHICH IS TO UTILIZE THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF STRATEGIC ARTS ENGAGEMENT TO ADDRESS AND OFFSET THE OFTEN-INTERLACING DILEMMAS OF POVERTY, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RE-ENTRY, AND RECIDIVISM.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE ANY HELP YOU CAN PROVIDE. TO DONATE TO OUR WORK, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MOUNTZIONAMENYC.ORG/TITHE%2FDONATE AND CLICK THE DONATE TODAY BOTTON AND SELECT ANOTHER CHOICE LOCATED ON THE GIVE TO DROP DOWN BOX. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND PARTICIPATION.



This document was designed by Quarterly Films, which is a culturally sensitive, socially concerned, artist-led media and design group created by Isaac's Quarterly LLC, a socially concerned faith-based company founded by multimedia visual artist Pastor Isaac Scott to provide culturally representative aesthetics.

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.ISAACSQUARTERLY.COM