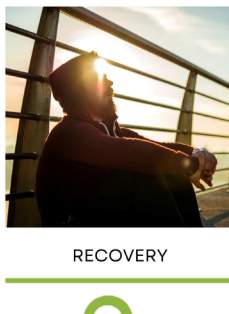
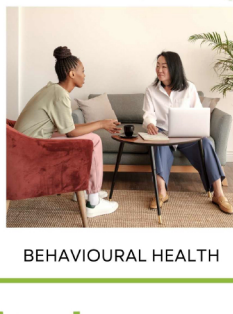


November 2023

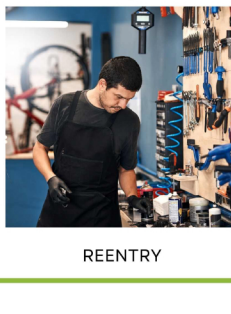
Connect | Empower | Restore



RECOVERY



BEHAVIOURAL HEALTH



REENTRY



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

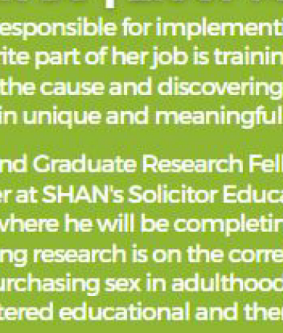
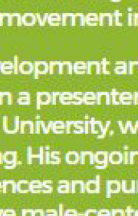
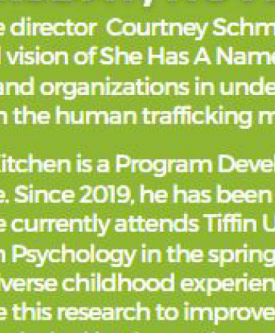
relink.org NEWSLETTER

Restore: Educate

Upcoming Webinar: Human Trafficking John Schools

Join us for part 3 of a 3 part Human Trafficking Series on Thursday November 30th, at 2:00. We will have a presentation by She Has A Name, an organization that exists to fight human trafficking through education and care for all those impacted. Our host will be Christi Bartman from Eyes Up Appalachia.

JOHN SCHOOLS: WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THEIR SUCCESS PREVENTING RECIDIVISM



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 2:00PM EST

As executive director Courtney Schmackers is responsible for implementing the mission and vision of She Has A Name. Her favorite part of her job is training individuals and organizations in understanding the cause and discovering how they can join the human trafficking movement in unique and meaningful ways.

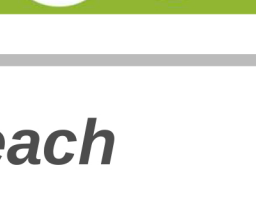
C. Stewart Kitchen is a Program Development and Graduate Research Fellow for She Has A Name. Since 2019, he has been a presenter at SHAN's Solicitor Education Program. He currently attends Tiffin University, where he will be completing a Master of Science in Psychology in the spring. His ongoing research is on the correlation between adverse childhood experiences and purchasing sex in adulthood, and he hopes to use this research to improve male-centered educational and therapeutic practices in criminal justice settings.

We will be offering 1 CEU for social work to participants.

[Click Here to Register for the Webinar](#)

MAHONING VALLEY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE - ENDING DEMAND: TARGETING TRAFFICKERS AND BUYERS IN ONLINE ADVERTISING

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE WEBINAR](#)



Connect: Outreach

Two fun Recovery Events Coming up in the Akon Area

Here at Relink.org we are always concerned with the need for affordable housing. We have many resources along these lines and year to date, "housing" is always our number one overall search category. The graph below shows how these inquiries for resources have increased since the beginning of the year.



As housing prices continue to rise, it has become harder and harder for people to find affordable housing. The fear is, and the reality is becoming, that more and more people are becoming homeless. Individuals with prior involvement with the criminal justice system are particularly vulnerable to becoming homeless. Here in the Cleveland area, the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry is proactively working on this problem and just this week released their Eight Point Plan for Housing Justice in Cuyahoga County. Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), was Dr. Richard Cho, their senior policy advisor. Dr. Cho discussed the different barriers to housing for people who have been incarcerated, reentering society and seeking a place to live. He also discussed a newly proposed rule for the office of HUD: That no person shall be denied HUD assistance because of a criminal record. He further elaborated on this in that HUD should look only at an individual as a whole, and consider only that individual's recent and relevant record, as it pertains to health and safety.

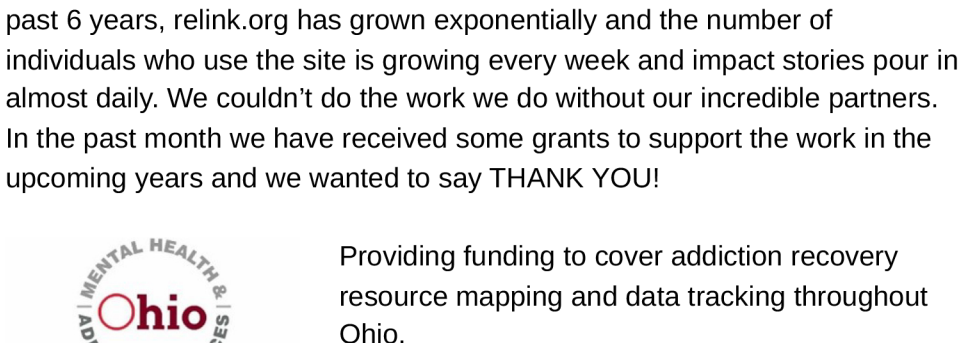
Representatives from the Eight Point Plan Steering Committee went over the new housing justice plan. In the most recent year, over 23,000 individuals were released from jail or prison into Cuyahoga County. According to the steering committee's 2019 needs assessment in Cuyahoga County, 710 individuals per year need supportive housing, an additional 1,312 households need affordable housing with some support, and finally, 4,500 households need system-wide improvements to free up access to different housing options such as, less constricting background requirements and the chance to build assets through home ownership.

Additionally:

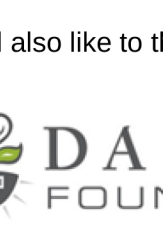
- 1 out of 5 people who leave a US prison will become homeless, and a person with a criminal record is 10 times more likely to be homeless than one without a record.
- In Cuyahoga County, 48% of people booked into county jail have a record in the Homeless Management Information System.
- Cuyahoga County represents 25% of all incarcerations in the state of Ohio

The main objectives of this plan are to level the playing field for those coming out of incarceration, reduce the cycle of incarceration, homelessness, and hospital visits that people with behavioral health challenges endure, help to stabilize returning citizens and thus reduce the rate of recidivism, help reduce the gap in affordable housing that is available to folks regardless of their justice histories, and help build assets so that future generations are able to pursue their educational and career goals.

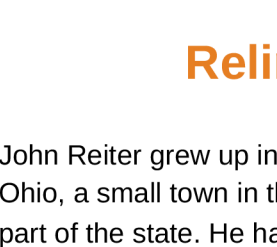
Now it is more important than ever for folks to have knowledge of Relink.org. With over 15,000 resources in 70 categories, (including those mentioned above), covering all 88 counties in Ohio, people can go to our free website needs.relink.org, and find the help they need. For folks with justice histories, who need housing resources, they can go to needs.relink.org/category/re-entry.



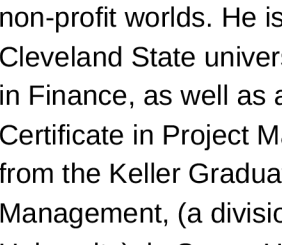
We believe strongly in the power of partnership and collaboration. Over the past 6 years, relink.org has grown exponentially and the number of individuals who use the site is growing every week and impact stories pour in almost daily. We couldn't do the work we do without our incredible partners. In the past month we have received some grants to support the work in the upcoming years and we wanted to say THANK YOU!



Providing funding to cover addiction recovery resource mapping and data tracking throughout Ohio.

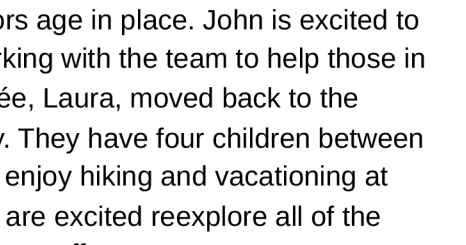
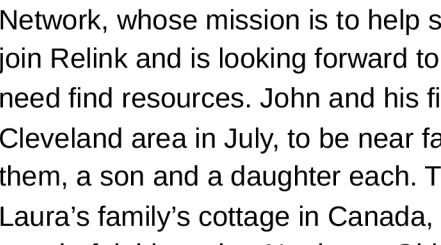


Providing funding to support mapping, collaboration, and data collection in Summit Co.



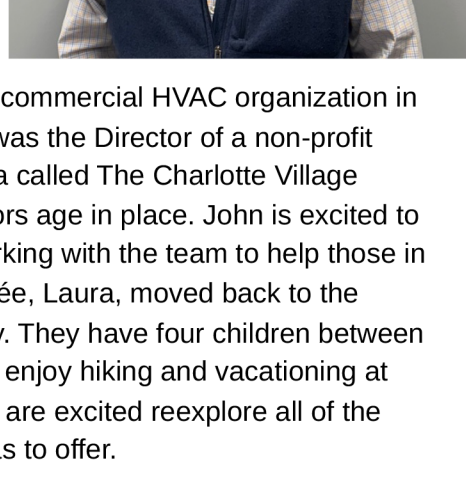
Providing funding to launch a faith-based collaborative of community service organizations in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties.

We'd also like to thank some of our ongoing sponsors:



Relink Continues to Grow

John Reiter grew up in Chardon, Ohio, a small town in the Northeast part of the state. He has a background in both the for-profit and non-profit worlds. He is a graduate of Cleveland State university with a BA in Finance, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Project Management from the Keller Graduate School of Management, (a division of DeVry University), in Seven Hills, Ohio.

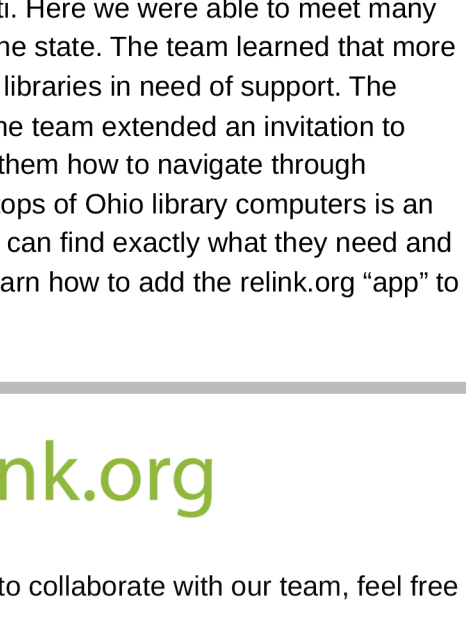


His work includes cost accounting for a commercial HVAC organization in Solon, Ohio. Prior to joining Relink, he was the Director of a non-profit organization in Charlotte, North Carolina called The Charlotte Village Network, whose mission is to help seniors age in place. John is excited to join Relink and is looking forward to working with the team to help those in need find resources. John and his fiancée, Laura, moved back to the Cleveland area in July, to be near family. They have four children between them, a son and a daughter each. They enjoy hiking and vacationing at Laura's family's cottage in Canada, and are excited to explore all of the wonderful things that Northeast Ohio has to offer.

Empower: Learn and Grow

Helping Librarians Serve the Community

We don't always think of librarians as front-line community workers, but they are. Libraries are the place where people can access free internet and get out of the elements when the weather is extreme. More and more libraries are adding social workers and reentry programs to help meet the needs of their community. The team at relink.org has been actively reaching out to libraries throughout Ohio to let them know about the free online relink.org tool and the way it can help librarians quickly connect people to local community resources.



Last month our team had the opportunity to attend the OLC (Ohio Library Council) annual conference in Cincinnati. Here we were able to meet many librarians and support staff throughout the state. The team learned that more and more people in need are coming to libraries in need of support. The benefits of relink.org were shared and the team extended an invitation to meet with other staff members to show them how to navigate through relink.org. Adding relink.org to the desktops of Ohio library computers is an easy and free way to ensure individuals can find exactly what they need and save time for very busy librarians. To learn how to add the relink.org "app" to your phone or desktop, click here.

relink.org

If you have any questions or would like to collaborate with our team, feel free to email us at info@relink.org.

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