

# The Inside-Out Center NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Number 1

April 2010

## THE SOURCE: Introducing the Origins of Inside-Out

We are excited to share with you the inaugural newsletter of The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program! This first issue provides an overview of the program; subsequent issues will highlight various facets and dimensions of Inside-Out and, of course, some of the amazing people who have become involved over the years. However, at this point, it is most appropriate to yield to the gentleman from Graterford, Paul, who set this all in motion a decade and a half ago. Here are his words.

*As a consequence of being a connoisseur of science fiction movies since my early youth, I often express ideas that cause some of my friends to call me crazy. I know, of course, that it's just their endearing way of saying that I have a vivid imagination. But I never imagined that one day I'd have a serendipitous moment that would manifest itself into a nationwide movement that's now on the verge of becoming global.*

*It all began in 1995, while I was serving a life sentence at the State Correctional Institution in Dallas, Pennsylvania. I was invited to sit on a panel with several other men serving life to discuss issues of crime and punishment with a group of Criminal Justice students from Temple University. The discussion was extremely stimulating and thought-provoking because of the students' questions, comments, and enthusiasm. Profoundly impressed by their genuine interest in hearing our thoughts on criminal justice issues and willingness to share their own, it occurred to me that a semester-*

*long class comprised of people in prison and college students would be a powerful experience for everyone involved.*

*At the end of the discussion, I approached the instructor and asked her what she thought about the idea. I'll never forget the twinkle in her eye when she told me that she thought it was amazing. I had no way of knowing at the time that I had planted the seed for what came to be called, "The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program: Exploring Issues of Crime and Justice Behind the Walls." That visionary instructor was Lori Pompa, Founder and Director of the Inside-Out program.*

*In 2002, I was privileged to participate in the first Inside-Out class held inside the Graterford, Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution, where I had been transferred. It was a soul-penetrating, multi-leveled educational experience that not only elevated my intellectual curiosity, but also inspired new hope for our capacity as human beings to engender a more humane and just society. By creating an osmotic learning environment that permeates the psychological walls of race, gender, age, and social status, the Inside-Out model functions as an incubator of unlimited possibilities for individual and collective transformation. I echo the sentiments expressed by so many of the thousands of inside and outside students who've taken the course, as well as college and university instructors: "Inside-Out changed my life!"*

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## Inside-Out Supporters

- The After Prison Initiative of the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation)
- The Brook J. Lenfest Foundation
- The Chace Granting Group
- The Douty Foundation
- The Patricia Kind Family Foundation
- The Phoebus Criminal Justice Initiative (Bread and Roses Community Fund)
- The Threshold Foundation (Restorative Justice Funding Circle)
- An Anonymous Foundation

## How to Donate to Inside-Out

Your gift to Inside-Out means that our exciting new initiatives will continue to take shape and bring an unforgettable, life-changing experience to inside and outside students involved in the program across the country and abroad.

*See last page*



## THE FACTS: A Snapshot of Where We Are

In keeping with spring, this has been a time of exciting growth for Inside-Out. For the number-crunchers among us, here are some stats – to quantify what already feels like a movement.

So far, 202 instructors have taken the training, from 121 colleges and universities in 35 states and abroad. Fifty-six academic institutions in 25 states have sponsored classes, in urban, rural and suburban settings, ranging from small liberal arts colleges to large research universities to city and community colleges. Sixty correctional institutions have housed these courses, equally various: men's and women's facilities, county jails, state prisons, federal prisons, juvenile lockups, community corrections centers, and Drug and Alcohol treatment facilities. At this point, more than 7,500 inside and outside students have taken courses, in a range of disciplines: African-American Studies, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Drama, Economics, English, Gender Studies, History, Humanities, Nursing (Public Health), Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religion, Social Work, Sociology, Speech, Theatre, Urban Studies, Women's Studies, Writing.

Summer 2010 will host our 16th, 17th and 18th Instructor Trainings. Our goals as we grow continue to be

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## Introducing the Origins of Inside-Out *continued*

I couldn't agree more. I have often told Paul how this profoundly simple – yet simply profound – idea completely changed *my* life and, as we have seen over the years, the lives of countless men and women throughout the country. But honestly, nothing of what Inside-Out has become or where it has gone has been predictable. After Paul's initial idea, it took about two years for the idea to come to fruition. The first Inside-Out class was piloted in the Philadelphia Prison System in September of 1997. And it unfolded exactly as originally envisioned: fifteen Temple students and the same number of men in the jail met each week for class, sitting in a circle, discussing all sorts of topics related to crime and justice – what prisons are for, why people commit crime, victims and victimization, and so much more. It was marked by the depth that comes from true dialogue. We were off and running.

The class continued to be offered over the next several years, and two other professors from Temple created their own courses. It was exciting to see it expand, but no one could have foreseen the sea change that would happen when we held our first class at Graterford in 2002. The class was as Paul described it above and the power of the experience propelled us to begin a national replication of the program, made possible by a



Class at Ohio's Lebanon Correctional Facility

fellowship from the Soros Foundation's Open Society Institute. Fast-forward to today. We now have 200+ instructors who have taken part in the Inside-Out training, with another 50 people registered to be trained this summer. More than 250 Inside-Out classes have been offered so far, involving at least 7,500 inside and outside students. **All of this from a chance idea at a serendipitous moment in a most unlikely setting.**

But numbers are only part of the story. They describe the breadth of the program. However, it is the depth that is even more remarkable. After 30 courses, 15 instructor trainings, and eight years of weekly meetings with a group inside Graterford Prison, called the Think Tank, I have watched this program – and those involved in it – take flight. I have watched prison spaces transform into places of liberation. I have watched men and women get more deeply in touch with who they are and with the immense possibilities that lie within. I have watched groups form their own unique identity and work to coalesce around shared values and concerns. I have watched this program grow – organically and with great care and consciousness – through the involvement of people across the country who have hope for a world that can operate differently. And, most importantly, I have watched as the walls between us – so dramatically manifest by the prison wall – ever-so-gradually become more permeable. **One person at a time. One brick at a time.** I watch, and what I see is nothing less than miraculous things happening in our midst.

- Paul Perry, Lori Pompa

## THE STRUCTURE: Introducing the National Steering Committee

Key to Inside-Out's infrastructure is our National Steering Committee, comprised of 18 of our strongest and most experienced instructors from around the country and from different disciplines, who strategize for the growth and development of the national program. March 2010 marked the third annual meeting of the Steering Committee, which resulted in a clear plan of action for nine subcommittees. The subcommittees will collaborate with the Graterford Think Tank over the upcoming year on issues crucial to the growth of the program. One group is looking at the meta-question of the goals and objectives of Inside-Out, another is examining issues of diversity, power, and privilege within the program. Other subcommittees are exploring instructor certification, course criteria, alumni networking, fundraising, international expansion, and assembling a book of basic information on the criminal justice system for use in courses that are not within the CJ discipline.

The work of the National Steering Committee is closely linked to the national expansion of the program. Regional centers have been established to respond to this expansion so that instructors have a local peer network and can coordinate course offerings and conferences. Steering Committee members act as point people in the regions that have strong cohorts of instructors: Massachusetts, the Midwest (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin), Pennsylvania (with a Philadelphia sub-region), West Virginia, Oregon, and the Mid-Atlantic Region (including Virginia, Delaware, Maryland). As the regional centers develop, they will gain the capacity for local Think Tanks, student alumni networks, and degree opportunities for incarcerated students. If you have ideas or questions or just want to establish contact (and build synergy), but aren't sure how to contact the Inside-Out point person closest to you, contact Erin Howley, Inside-Out Program Coordinator, at erin.h@temple.edu and she will help you get connected.

- Erin Howley

## A Snapshot of Where We Are *continued*

prompted by the instructors and students who comprise the Inside-Out community. They include: developing more Think Tanks around the country (at least three thrive today) and supporting their local work; extending college credit to an ever-greater percentage of inside students; developing an Alumni Association that will provide opportunities for ongoing involvement for inside and outside alums; international expansion; and Degrees of Freedom, a three-year, three-site initiative that will allow inside and recently-released students to use Inside-Out as a pathway to a college degree.

- Simone Weil Davis

## THE EVIDENCE: Introducing the National Research Committee

Since its first annual meeting in May 2008, the Inside-Out National Research Committee has led the effort to design and promote a research strategy to gather empirical data about the processes and impact of Inside-Out. The committee consists of 15 members who represent a wide variety of research interests, have the expertise required to develop a long-term strategy, and can build bridges with potential Inside-Out researchers. The work of the committee is enhanced through dialogue with the Graterford Think Tank.

The work of this committee and its seven active subcommittees over the past two years is impressive. They have determined priority research areas of interest and generated related research questions. A new pre- and post-test instrument, designed to explore the impact of Inside-Out on students, is under development. Others are designing and facilitating content analysis studies of student reflection papers. Having worked with the Think Tank to articulate research ethics that are unique to Inside-Out, its mission, goals and pedagogy, committee

members are creating an ethics document that will be made available to researchers. Committee members have also provided consultation on several research-focused funding opportunities, including one initiated by a community organization in D.C. working with women released from prison.

Inside-Out wants to create a research community based on collaboration and dialogue.

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## THE HEART: Introducing the Graterford Think Tank

It seems like yesterday. Though a simple cliché, it captures powerful aspects of the Think Tank at Graterford Prison: longevity and commitment. Since October 2002, 15 incarcerated men and 15 outside volunteers have been meeting continuously every Wednesday evening inside the prison. This fact alone speaks clearly and loudly to the durability and belief in Inside-Out.

The first Inside-Out class at Graterford had such a powerful impact on its participants that the thirty of us could not let this experience fade away and become just a memory. We had to keep the energy alive. We were full of enthusiasm, energy and ideas. Feeling the impact of the recently completed class, we were compelled to figure out a way to keep meeting to discuss criminal justice issues that affected each of us in a deeply personal way. Some members had offended, some were victims, all were deeply committed to helping raise awareness about the flaws within the criminal justice system. We believed that we could propose workable remedies to some of these glaring systemic defects. We were idealistic, but we had to keep the passion going, though we had no sense of where the weekly meetings would lead. We wanted to see if we could bring life to some of our brainstorming and ideas. The challenge was to put these academic theories into practice.

One important development in the early years was to hold workshops in order to exchange ideas and hopefully destroy myths about prison life by hosting members from

the community. Our workshops expose students, professors, community members, and activists to new perspectives on the criminal justice system. Often, participants experience shifts in thinking. The workshops operate like a mini Inside-Out class, giving participants an experience similar to the weekly course. And frankly, the workshops are just as meaningful for the Think Tank as they are for the visitors. We identify ways in which each of us, in our own small way, can be a force for positive change.

Soon, we came up with the idea to replicate the Inside-Out program nationwide. Currently, we host three week-long national trainings every year. To date, we have trained 202 professors from across the country and beyond. Inside-Out courses are now being taught in 56 universities across America. Where the program has gone is beyond anything that we ever could have imagined!

The Think Tank has also brought to life a set of subcommittees to further our mission and goals, focused on alumni, outreach, writing, and professional development. In addition, we encourage each locality where Inside-Out has a strong presence to establish a Think Tank tailored to local needs. Each prison and university has its own set of rules and regulations that allow for certain events to take place, so we encourage working creatively within the local constraints that exist.

Over the past eight years, we have met, talked, sometimes argued passionately, and discussed the world's problems. We have seen members

share, learn, grow, develop ideas into action, and even move on, as sometimes happens. Yet, all of us remain permanently affected by this remarkable experience. Everyone who has filtered through the Think Tank has become wiser, richer in experience, better organizers and communicators, and more compassionate as a result of this often wild ride.

- Stan Rosenthal



Graffiti and logo (see p. 5) by Fox, a former Inside-Out student and member of the Think Tank at SCI-Graterford

### National Research Committee *continued*

This web-based community will become a forum where researchers can receive support for their work, access research-related resources, collaborate with others interested in the program, and share their materials and insights with other researchers and the program. For more information about this community and Inside-Out research efforts, please visit the website. The research pages will be launched soon!

- Barb Toews

## THE FOUNDATION: Introducing the National Training Institute

Each year, 45 to 50 instructors from across the country participate in three separate week-long Inside-Out Instructor Training Institutes taking place during the summer. A centerpiece of The Inside-Out Center's programming, the institute is where future Inside-Out instructors first receive hands-on experience with the philosophy, parameters, and pedagogy of the program.

The week is often transformational for the 15 people from various backgrounds, experiences, and expertise who come together for the training. Through a series of workshops, projects, prison visits, and discussions with guest speakers, all facilitated in the manner of an actual Inside-Out course, potential instructors learn the ins and outs of Inside-Out. It is an opportunity for participants not only to learn, but also to ask questions and get a sense of what it feels like to teach an Inside-Out course. Camaraderie is built during meals and designated project time so that participants have the opportunity to work with and learn from each other. Since its inception in July 2004, the training is co-facilitated by Lori Pompa and another Inside-Out community member.

This year, three training institutes will be held, on June 7 to June 13, June 21 to June 27, and July 12 to July 18. During the week, participants take part in a variety of workshops and activities aimed at preparing them to teach an Inside-Out course. Participants are also asked to develop a project in collaboration with Think Tank members, who participate and mentor prospective



Inside-Out National Instructor Training Institute, May 2009

instructors during the week. The participation of the Think Tank has proven invaluable and, although the time together is short, the groups always quickly gel and engage in an exchange that underscores the impact and essence of the Inside-Out program.

Those who have been through an Inside-Out training understand its power and importance. Whether one is planning to teach a class on literature or an introduction to criminal justice, the training affords potential instructors an introduction to the methodology and values of the program. For many instructors who have never been exposed to a prison or to criminal justice issues, this introduction is critical to being able to teach an Inside-Out course. Even veterans of prison work find invaluable the week's insights into the particular challenges of mixing inside and outside students, and facilitating, rather than teaching, a class. The

training is a rewarding experience that leaves a memorable impression on everyone who takes part in it.

- Ella Turenne

*"There's no language adequate to describe what I'll take with me today. I'm glad they don't weigh us on the way out because I'd surely be arrested as a jailhouse smuggler, heavy as I am with hope, dreams, confusions, frustration, anger, love. I'm taking with me so much more than I brought. I can only hope I'm leaving a few things, too."*

*(Inside-Out Instructor)*



## THE RIPPLING: Recent and Upcoming Events

### Collective Transformation:

#### Building Just Communities from the Inside Out

#### ASC Pre-Conference Workshop at Graterford Prison

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program and the Lifers, Inc. Public Safety Initiative (PSI) co-hosted a day-long workshop at the State Correctional Institution at Graterford for participants of the American Society of Criminology conference convened in Philadelphia. The seminar was attended by 80 criminologists, criminal justice practitioners, and students from across the nation and beyond, along with 40 men incarcerated in Graterford, who are involved in either the Public Safety Initiative or the Inside-Out program. Through a process of dialogue and collaboration, the group explored themes of individual, collective, and social transformation.

The workshop was co-planned and facilitated by the Public Safety Initiative Steering Committee and members of the Inside-Out Think Tank, a group of incarcerated and college alumni of Inside-Out classes and Inside-Out instructors and staff. The Public Safety Initiative (PSI), a project of the Lifers' Inc. organization at Graterford Prison, aims to eradicate the crime and violence that participants once helped to perpetuate. PSI members work to achieve cognitive transformation through positive peer intervention, in order to equip men returning to the community with the skills necessary to help prevent youth from being drawn into the culture of street crime and to empower those currently involved in crime to give up those activities. The group also has crafted a multi-directional approach to building safer communities that includes transformed members working in partnership with community members, public officials, and other stakeholders.

The morning session of the workshop offered an introduction to the history and goals of the Inside-Out program. The afternoon focused on aspects of cognitive and collective transformation related to PSI's theory regarding ending the culture of street crime. Using a small group format modeled after Inside-Out classes, participants discussed PSI theory and application. In the last segment of the day, a panel of criminologists, including Rod Brunson (SIU Carbondale), Johnna Christian (Rutgers), Shadd Maruna (Queen's University, Belfast), Doug

Thompkins (John Jay College), and Chris Uggen (University of Minnesota), joined PSI members to respond to questions about PSI theory generated by workshop participants in the small groups. The event was a unique experience, with a focus on "transformation." Participants departed the event with renewed commitment to approaching criminal justice issues with a new vision.

- adapted from website article,  
with assistance from Richard Gerber

### French Delegation Meets with the Inside-Out Think Tank at Graterford

In October 2009, senior officials from the French Ministry of Justice (Prison Service) met with members of The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program's Think Tank at Graterford Prison. The delegation came to the United States for a tour of federal and state prisons to learn about approaches to religious and other programming within the U.S. prison system. The delegation visited the Hartford Seminary training program for chaplains and the Fort Dix federal prison in New Jersey, and attended several meetings in Washington, D.C. The officials accepted the opportunity to meet with the Think Tank to learn about Inside-Out's educational methodology and use of dialogue to explore issues of crime and justice.

This session began with a history of Inside-Out and a conversation with Graterford Superintendent Dave DiGuglielmo, followed by an engaging series of questions and answers between the Think Tank and the French delegation about the impact of the Inside-Out Program, as well as similarities and differences between the French and U.S. prison systems. Some of the most significant differences that came to light were training requirements for prison staff, access to educational programming, ethical codes, and prison structure. The delegates were struck by Think Tank members' critique of mass incarceration – a timely and significant issue, as France is weighing plans to make sentencing policies more restrictive. Members of the delegation expressed that their meeting with the Think Tank was very influential and that they are interested in beginning Inside-Out in France. The Hauts-de-Seine Prison in Paris may serve as an initial pilot site for programming modeled on Inside-Out in 2010-2011.

- Erin Howley

## Recent and Upcoming Events *continued*

### The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program Sponsors Inaugural Instructor Reunion at Graterford Prison for ASC Participants

On Saturday, November 7, 2009, Inside-Out instructors from around the country convened with Inside-Out Think Tank members for a day inside Graterford Prison. This gathering brought together a dozen incarcerated members of the Think Tank with nearly 20 instructors from 10 of the 15 trainings held since 2004.

The day included discussions about accomplishments and challenges of the program, the structure of the national organization, and a series of questions about the experience and pedagogy of Inside-Out as it has been carried out in various classes and disciplines throughout the nation. Key accomplishments identified by the instructors included the many classes taught across the country, book donations from publishers for classes, noteworthy student feedback about the experience, published articles, and the first Inside-Out conference, held in the Midwest in October 2008. Highlights also included the positive influence of Inside-Out on other groups and organizations within the hosting prisons, increased interest from academic departments and colleges in supporting higher education within prisons, expanded and diversified course offerings across the country, and the anticipation of classes taking place in other countries (e.g., Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, and Japan).

Instructors also identified challenges that have arisen in implementing Inside-Out courses: building connections and relationships between institutions, continuing the energy and options for further education after Inside-Out courses finish, attrition of inside students in classes held in jails, measuring the effects of the courses on individuals and systems, financial pressures and budget cuts within academic and correctional institutions, and fundraising for the national program. Participants identified avenues for addressing these issues, which have been given to the Inside-Out National Research and Steering Committees for review and possible implementation.

- Erin Howley



Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis - Graduation 2008  
Instructors: Susan Hyatt and Roger Jarjoura | Photo: Angela Herrmann

### Sister Helen Prejean and the Northwest Hub Meeting

On January 24-25, 2010, the University of Oregon hosted a regional meeting for Inside-Out instructors and other interested parties from the Northwest region. It was an opportunity for networking, planning, and brainstorming about new initiatives and projects in the area. The overall feeling of the meeting was one of great excitement: we are arriving at a critical mass of instructors and

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### Confined Minds: Incarceration-Education- Transformation A Conference in Michigan on Education in Prison

On April 23, 2010, Inside-Out instructors Lora Lempert and Paul Draus (both Sociology professors at University of Michigan Dearborn), will sponsor a day-long conference on education in prison at Detroit's Ryan Correctional Facility, called Confined Minds: Incarceration-Education-Transformation. Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Director Patricia Caruso and U.S. Representative John Conyers will be the keynote speakers. The day will feature expert panels on the topics of education and the revolving door of prison, education inside prison as a community benefit, the benefits of Inside-Out in prisons, and the overall benefits of education for institutions. Inside and outside alums, all members of the Theory Group, which is Michigan's homegrown Think Tank, will be participating in each of the panels. Those not directly involved in the panels will be presenting informational posters. Invited to the conference is an audience of MDOC personnel, criminal justice instructors, elected officials, and interested community leaders. We look forward to a glowing report.

## THE INVITATION: Making Future Newsletters Your Own

While the inaugural edition of the national Inside-Out newsletter focuses on the history and current status of the program, subsequent editions will center on representing the voices of Inside-Out participants nationwide. **To this end, we are soliciting 250-word articles and personal reflections that provide a synopsis of Inside-Out events and experiences from incarcerated and university students, corrections' administrators, and instructors.** We will also be reporting on exciting class projects from around the country, hearing from the Think Tanks, sharing latest developments of the Inside-Out Alumni Association, and presenting new program initiatives, such as our pilot project, Degrees of Freedom. Stay tuned!

We encourage you to submit potential articles, exciting class projects, and/or upcoming Inside-Out events to Erin Howley, National Inside-Out Program Coordinator (tua57933@temple.edu). Remember to periodically visit the Inside-Out website for updates at [www.insideoutcenter.org](http://www.insideoutcenter.org).

*Thanks to Simone Davis, Angela Harvey, Paul Solomon, and Ella Turenne – all members of the Newsletter Subcommittee of the Inside-Out National Steering Committee – for their work in organizing and editing this issue.*

### Sister Helen Prejean *continued*

participants, and are in the process of developing a wide variety of new initiatives, including a future Think Tank at Oregon State Penitentiary, a Degrees of Freedom launch site, a magazine publication of Inside and Outside student work, an enthusiastic alumni group, and a proposed future conference about prisons and peace.

Approximately twenty people were in attendance, including instructors from Oregon State University, Chemeketa Community College, and the University of Oregon, representatives from the Oregon Department of Corrections and a local prison advocacy group SPONSORS, and Inside-Out alumni. Lori Pompa, Inside-Out's national director, was able to join us, as well.

We also had the honor of hosting Sister Helen Prejean, anti-death penalty activist and author, at an Inside-Out breakfast. She was extremely excited about the implications of our efforts. She watched the Inside-Out mini-documentary

(<http://www.vimeo.com/5193052>) and read through a selection of writing by past students at the University of Oregon. After a fabulous discussion of the larger implications of divided communities that Inside-Out enables students to transcend, we discussed ideas for her future involvement with the Inside-Out program. She will be co-facilitating a creative writing Inside-Out course with Assistant National Director Melissa Crabbe in October 2010. She also expressed interest in maintaining contact with the program, and building bridges between her efforts at advocacy and education and the mission of Inside-Out.

In the coming years, the Northwest region will be a growing center for activity, including collaboration with our colleagues in Vancouver, British Columbia. David Frank, dean of the Honors College at the University of Oregon, has been increasingly visionary in this process, and we are constantly working on new initiatives and opportunities for collaboration.

- Katie Dwyer



Inside-Out class at Lebanon Correctional Facility, Instructor Christine Shimrock from Xavier University, Ohio.

### THE INSIDE-OUT CENTER

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# The Inside-Out Center

Promoting Transformative Education and Social Change

## How to Contribute to The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

Your gift to Inside-Out means that our exciting new initiatives will continue to take shape and bring an unforgettable, life-changing experience to inside and outside students involved in the program across the country and abroad. *Please help us with a gift today!*

Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of incarcerated people who join together with college students to create a unique and revolutionary model of learning. Inside-Out transforms the way students view themselves and the world. Over 7,500 inside and outside students across the country have successfully completed an Inside-Out course.

*Your support is critical and will allow us to continue to grow and expand this much-needed program!*

**Yes! I want to support The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program.**

### To Contribute

**You can make a secure online donation.**

Follow the directions on the website page at: <http://www.insideoutcenter.org/supporters.html>

Or you can donate by sending a check made out to **Temple University** (with Inside-Out in the note section) to the full address below. Your donation is tax deductible; we will provide you with a receipt and letter of thanks for your files.

**Thank you** from Lori and the Inside-Out Team

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