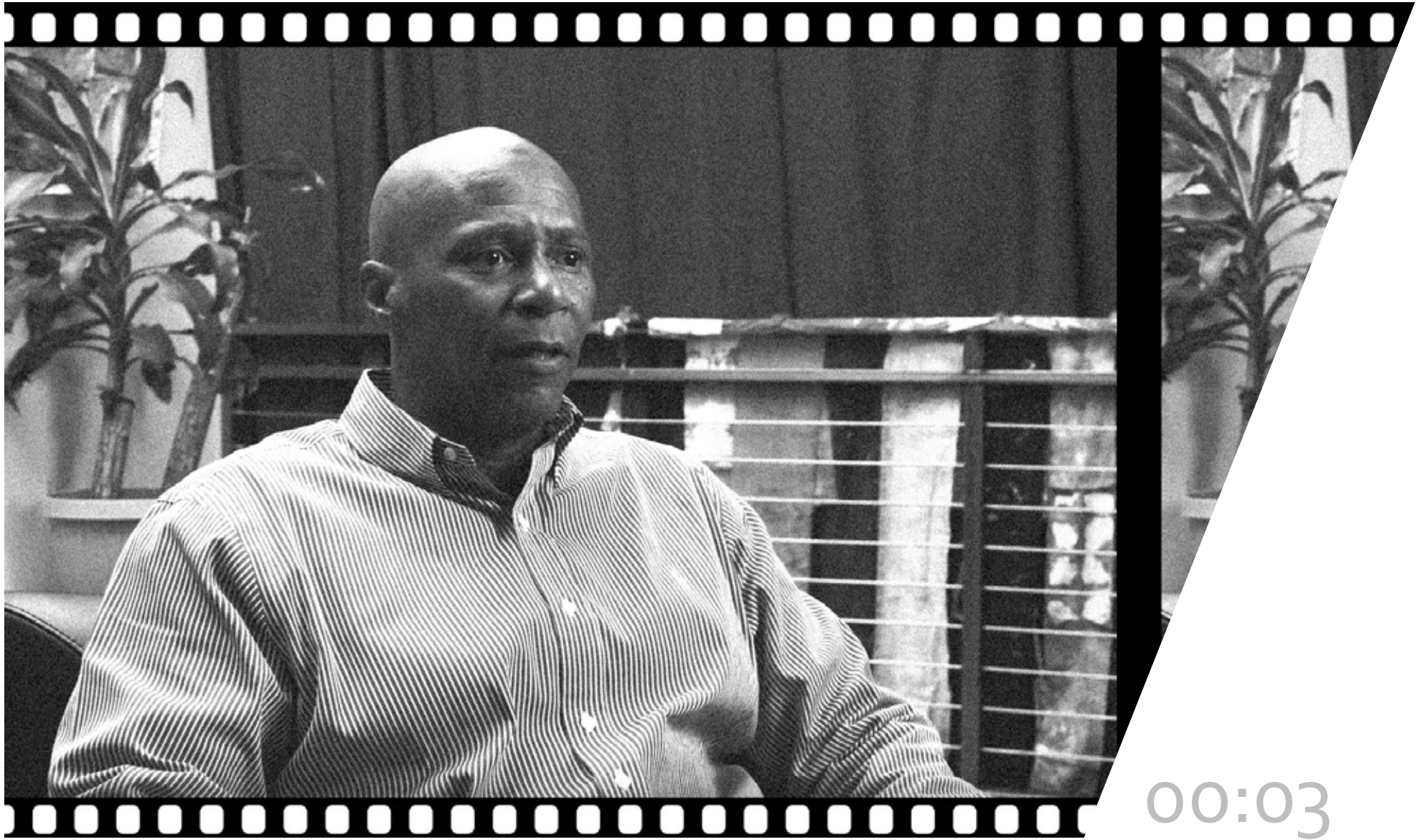


# VOICE

2020 / Special Supplement

This year, the Reentry Success Center produced its first 6-minute video, which answers a frequently asked question: *What is the Reentry Success Center?* In the future, staff hope to show it widely to prospective members and community partners.

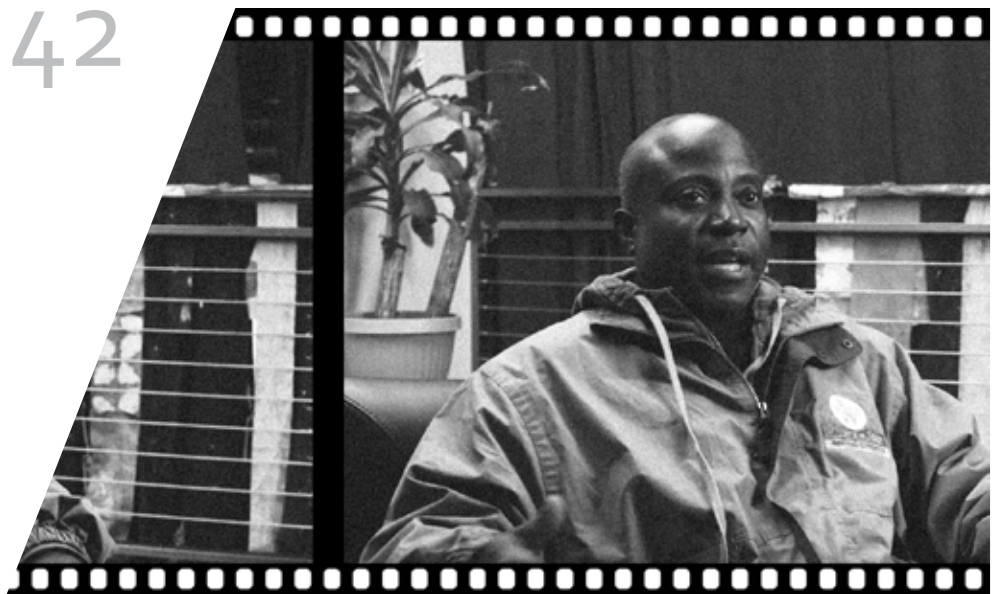


**PAT** The Reentry Success Center is a beacon of hope. We are a collective impact model in which we bring together all of the services within the county to one specific location. And we make it easier for people to access these services. One might feel, coming from incarceration, that they might not want to make a connection. Well, we have that welcoming effect as this hub—to where, once you walk in, you will connect with each service unit without having to look further.

## STEVEN

I was a product of the streets. I spent most of my time on the streets. So, when I came here, they [encouraged me to] take an Alpha class, taught me not just how to talk to people, but how to handle situations.

00:42







00:54

**TIFFANY** Some of the things we support are parole board support letters, retrieving birth certificates, state identification cards, resumes, job readiness, education and training, financial literacy, family services, public benefits, legal services, health and wellness. We're also just an overall positive support system for individuals who maybe lack family, friends, or a positive support system for them in understanding the goals or the change that they're trying to reach and make in their lives.

01:34

**MIKE** I see people come through the doors and they're just reserved—they're shut off, they're not opening up to receive anything—though they're coming to a place of trying to seek help. And, then, as you go through the program, you get to working with them, you start getting to know them and allow them to get to know you, then you start seeing how the transformations are just coming into fruition. They're smiling more, they're opening up more. Some don't even realize that y'all had a 20-30-minute conversation. Compared to where y'all would have a five-minute conversation a month or two ago, and now they're sharing so much with you. Now, they're bringing people in. Now, they're telling people how coaches are impacting their life or us as a unit are impacting their life. They're just speaking highly about the growth that they're starting to see in themselves. So those are the biggest excitements for me.



02:16

**SHAPELO**

To trust myself—you know—to trust myself. And to never doubt myself. People out there are willing to help you in your struggles—whatever it is that you need help on. You have to be open and receptive to it, not to think that everybody's out to get you or has got a bad intention.

03:21

## DENISE

I've been on a lot of roads, and I'm glad that I came on this road, because reentry to success will lead to some prosperity in my life. I'm just glad to be a part of this ceremony. Thank you to you all you graduates, 'cause you are supporting my life also.



## JASON

I started at the Bay Area Rescue Mission. I was homeless. I experienced what I needed to experience there. I learned a lot and I took advantage of the resources that are here. So I figured out a plan to help myself, because I believe that people more willing of themselves help people who are willing to help themselves. I took advantage of the resources [here], including reentry, social services, all these resources, and I applied them to myself and empowered myself.



03:35

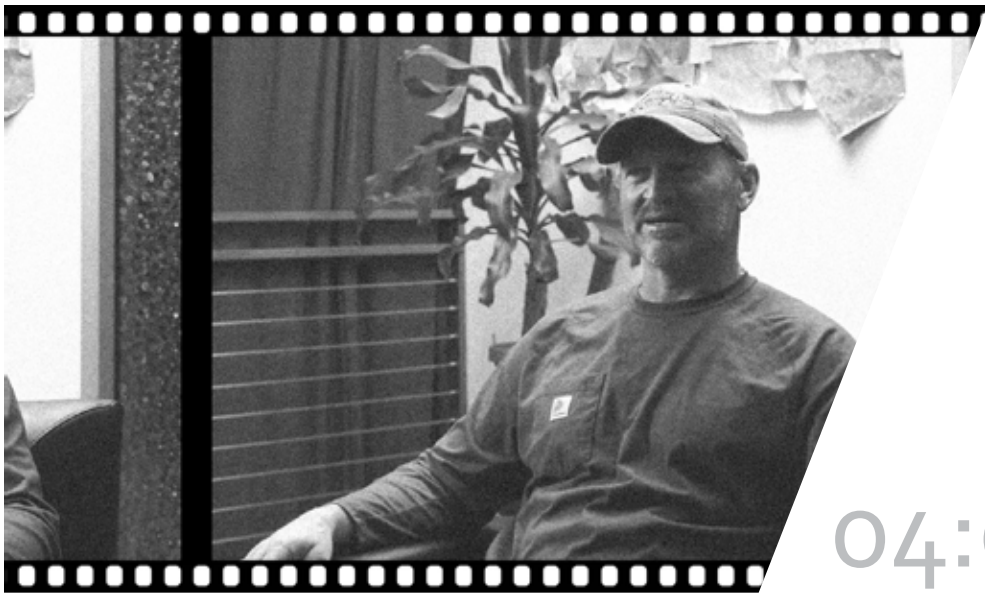
## ESTELA

If I can be that one person to make a change in a person's life, that is enough for me. Helping our members here really makes a big difference in my life. So that is why I enjoy what I do here at the Center.



03:49





04:06

## MARK

From having nothing and being scared to even walk down the street to starting to gain my confidence back, learning how to cope and communicate with others, and getting on the right path to getting a job—things like that. This Center is going to provide for me.

04:26

## ANA

With our County jails, I work specifically with West County Office of Education. I go twice a week to help with our orientations for this program. This program helps them get connected to services while they're inside, as opposed to working with them inside and just telling them, "Hey, you're gonna go to this place, you're gonna go to that place, and that's how it's going to go. Your release date has come, there you go." The difference is, when I go down there, I actually get to meet with them, go over their goals, let them know how we, as the Reentry Success Center, can help them accomplish their goals. What this does is that it exposes them to the services that they can get once they're outside while they're inside.



05:17

## PAT

I would like members to know that no matter where you are in life, today is the first day of the rest of your life. You can live it how you want to, which means that you have the choice to make it better. Actually, you have the decision to make it better. Choices are so many. Decisions are one. You have the decision to make your life better that day. The thing that I would like members to do is know that they have a community that has been there, done that, and that supports them through their journey.

Contra Costa Reentry VOICE is published quarterly by the following organizations:



Reentry Success Center  
912 Macdonald Avenue  
Richmond, CA 94801  
[reentrysuccess.org](http://reentrysuccess.org)



Reentry Network at HealthRight 360  
5119 Lone Tree Way  
Antioch, CA 94531  
[healthRIGHT360.org](http://healthRIGHT360.org)



Contra Costa County  
30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553  
[co.contra-costa.ca.us](http://co.contra-costa.ca.us)

The following icons are included in the sections and next to specific events as a visual aid, for readers who prefer to scan our content. We hope you find them useful.



Housing



Education



Benefits



Family



Health



Legal



Financial



Employment