

RESTORING

voting rights

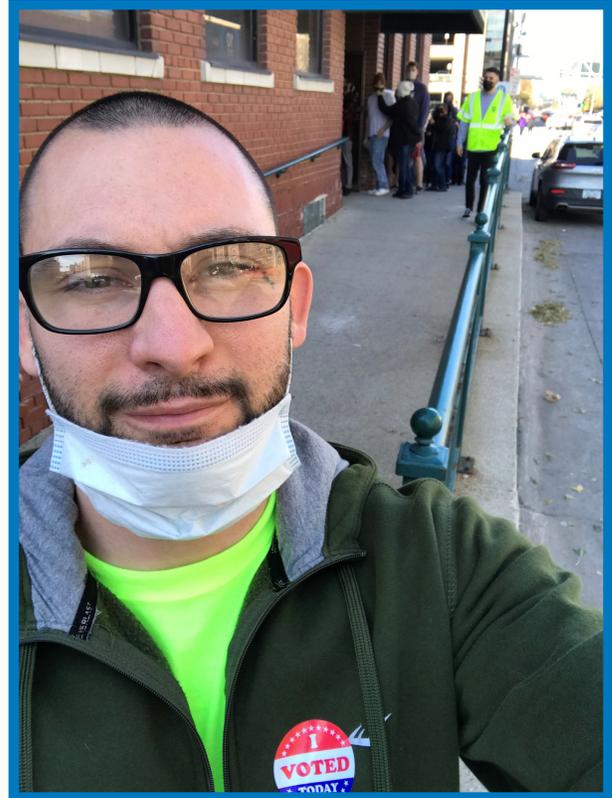
In August Governor Kim Reynolds signed Executive Order 7 to restore the voting rights of those who have been convicted of a felony and have completed their sentence on or before August 5, 2020. Returning citizens who are no longer on parole, probation, or serving special sentences now have the opportunity to have their voting rights restored.

After attending a virtual re-entry meeting with local Des Moines partners, Stephen Sheridan, St. Vincent de Paul's Southside Food Pantry Coordinator, learned of the Executive Order and that he was eligible to register to vote.

After completing the Voter Registration paperwork, Stephen received his Voter ID card in the mail for this year's upcoming election. 2020 will be the first election Stephen has voted in and he voted early at his polling location.

In Stephen's time with St. Vincent de Paul, he has completed his Bachelor's Degree from Grand View University and has become actively involved in the Immersion re-entry program as a mentor to those who have been formally incarcerated.

His hard work and dedication to our mission is a motivation to all staff and clients he works with.



OFFERING

restorative justice



"I THINK IT IS A GOOD PROGRAM MANY OF US FACE ISSUES WITH DEALING WITH CONFLICTS AND EMOTIONS. THIS PROGRAM INTRODUCED WAYS TO APPROACH THESE ISSUES IN A HEALTHY WAY." –PW

"I NOW HAVE BETTER AND MORE EFFECTIVE LISTENING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS. I AM ABLE TO EXPRESS MY NEEDS AND CONCERNS TO MY PARTNER." -DB

"THIS PROGRAM HAS HELPED ME TO BE MORE PATIENT WITH MY SON THAT IS IN THE PROGRAM. I LEARNED HOW TO TALK WITH HIM AND UNDERSTAND THINGS AND HOW TO LISTEN TO HIM." – MG

St. Vincent de Paul offers a Healthy Relationships course to both clients and their loved ones at Bridges of Iowa. Bridges of Iowa is a local organization who strives to help those involved with the criminal justice system become reintegrated into society after drug-related charges.

Giving clients and their loved ones the same communication tools can be extremely beneficial in the building of a healthy relationship.

During programming St. Vincent de Paul staff discusses goal setting, avoiding blame, listening, changing behaviors, conflicts and disagreements and apologies and forgiveness with the participants.

Incarceration and involvement in the criminal justice system can put a strain on relationships. The Healthy Relationships course builds a stronger connection between clients and their family members, while offering participants a safe space to verbalize their feelings.

