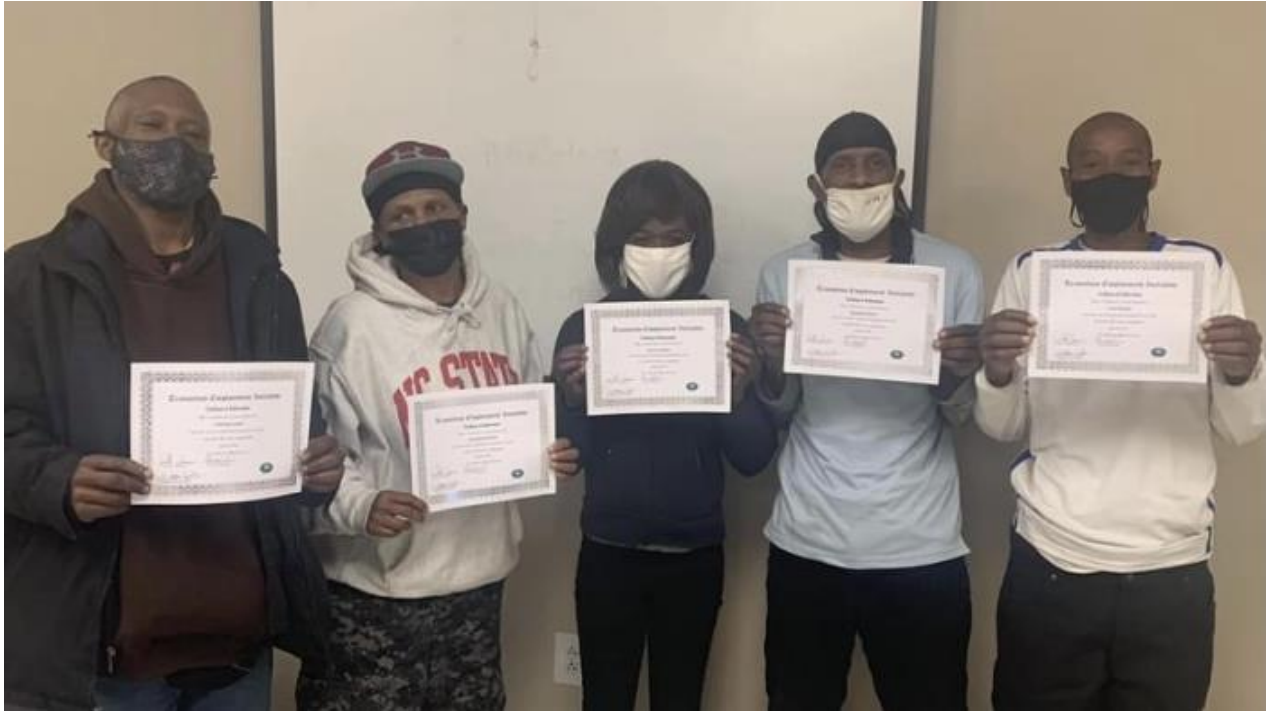


SHIP COMMUNITY OUTREACH RESTARTS TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Program is designed to help gang-affiliated individuals get started in the workforce

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CHAPEL HILL, N.C. – March 22, 2021– Earlier this year, Ship Community Outreach restarted its Transitional Employment Initiative (TEI), an eight-week job readiness and personal enrichment program, following a multi-year hiatus.

Originally launched in 2008, TEI is primarily intended to help gang-affiliated individuals gain the life skills, discipline, and confidence needed to become marketable and productive employees and citizens. It was placed on hold in 2014 but has been relaunched to provide support during the pandemic and beyond. Ship is a non-profit organization with a unique calling to serve underserved populations in Southeast Raleigh.

“The pandemic has been hard on all of us, but it’s made it especially difficult for those from gang-impacted areas to transition from unemployment to employment,” said Pastor Chris Jones, founder of Ship. “We knew that we needed to do something to help, and the TEI program has shown that it can work.”

TEI uses a curriculum from Raleigh-based non-profit Jobs for Life, called Powered for Life. This curriculum is geared to teach skills so participants can become hard-working and motivated employees. The program provides a stipend for those who attend the class, brings in people from companies like PNC Bank to talk to participants, and organizes tours of nearby colleges.

In addition to TEI, Ship has several other initiatives that help the underserved population in Wake County and combat poverty, crime and food insecurity. One of these initiatives is the Galley Grocery, a subsidized grocery store that provides low cost, healthy food, with a free weightlifting yard next door called the Ship Yard. Like all Ship programs, TEI includes a faith-based component, intended to bring participants closer to Christ.

Five participants will graduate from the program this year, leaving with new- found skills and confidence. “The program will fill a gap of helping people better understand what it takes to succeed,” said Pastor Chris.