

UWEZO INTERNATIONAL

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

May 2017

Uwezo is fortunate to minister to people incarcerated at St. Croix County Jail. Throughout this newsletter are testimonies from a few inmates we received last year. Thank you so much for your support. It is because of your partnership we are blessed to reach out to those incarcerated at St. Croix County Jail and to others in our community who are struggling with addictions and to their families.

I have issues: alcohol and drug abuse; shame; guilt; insecurity; and feeling like a failure in life. The Bible and Uwezo teach I can get a new start in life, like a clean slate and a new life. The Uwezo class on Tuesday mornings has given me something I thought I'd never have again—hope. Uwezo has helped me more than I can believe—they have given me a new life and hope by being kind, loving and helpful.

The Uwezo volunteers are Christians—followers of Jesus Christ—who live just like Jesus as described in the Bible, with love, kindness, forgiveness, service and humility. I learned when I accepted Jesus as my Savior, I became what the Bible says, “born again.” I learned, too, being born again, all my sins are forgiven by God—all of them, even the worst ones.

With knowledge of having a new start and hope, I no longer carry shame, guilt, insecurity and feelings of failure. Now, too, I know I can beat addiction and not use chemicals to medicate the pain I had.”

Inmate, St. Croix County Jail 2016

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK FOR REGULAR UPDATES

Uwezo posts regular updates on Facebook. We encourage you to become a Fan of Uwezo International on Facebook to stay more up-to-date on the amazing work God is doing through Uwezo!



TESTIMONY

LIVING WITH ADDICTION

“I first heard of Uwezo in 2006 in jail. They reached out to my wife, to help her in any way she needed. The people were so alive and happy. I wanted what they had: to be free and content in the Lord.

My wife and I started going to weekly fellowship, and Uwezo helped us find a church home. Our marriage was good, and our kids were awesome. By attending Uwezo meetings and finding a church home, I started to live in peace, knowing Jesus was on my side.

I have an issue with getting close and trusting others, but I started to open up and trusting people around me. Church and Uwezo were a help: they showed genuine compassion towards anyone willing to receive it.

I know and believe God had His hand on our family. God taught us a lot about grace and acceptance. My family prospered.

I thought I could go on in life and be fine with missing a church or Uwezo. I never thought twice about “going back,” because “I can do it on my own.” Looking back at that thinking, I realize it was a mistake. I regressed to old behaviors and went through some wicked trials and tribulations.

Flash forward to 2016. I’m back in county jail after my third prison stay [or stint]. I am divorced but have four beautiful and amazing children.

Life took 10 years to come full circle.

I’m doing Uwezo and church programming to keep me focused on my walk with the Lord.

Uwezo is a big part of my life and will continue to be. They challenge me, by asking me to plan for a future—staying sober, I may add. I would be a mess, if I didn’t have in my life God and the fellowship of Uwezo.

My plan is to stick with Uwezo—and no slipping out of meetings.”

Inmate at St. Croix County Jail 2016

“I KNOW AND BELIEVE GOD HAD HIS HAND ON OUR FAMILY. GOD TAUGHT US A LOT ABOUT GRACE AND ACCEPTANCE. MY FAMILY PROSPERED.”

I can't say enough good about Uwezo. I have attended Uwezo sessions in Hudson at St Croix County Jail, including those on Tuesday nights.

I am a true Christian believer, mainly because of Uwezo volunteers, who don't just sound like Christ, they live like Christ. Every volunteer of Uwezo truly represents Christ. Just like Christ, they perfectly love us, forgive us, and never judge us. They inspire me and make being a follower of Jesus interesting—fun.

On a one-on-one basis, I have spoken with more than five of them. The volunteers were understanding of my issues and very helpful with scripture-based help. They are all very humble and loving, kind, and carry themselves very professionally.

The volunteers are very forgiving of us when we fail and mess up again—they only keep encouraging us, want us to keep trying and to remember we are forgiven. To me and others who have had struggles in life, Uwezo gives hope.

We all need second chances in life. Uwezo teaches us we can be forgiven of our shortcomings. Uwezo shows us, with Christ in our lives, we do get a second chance in life, and we don't need to be perfect.

Inmate, St. Croix County Jail 2016

“I AM A TRUE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER, MAINLY BECAUSE OF UWEZO VOLUNTEERS, WHO DON'T JUST SOUND LIKE CHRIST, THEY LIVE LIKE CHRIST.”

SUPPORT UWEZO AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOUR CHECKBOOK

through shopping at Family Fresh....



Shop at Family Fresh and support Uwezo by:

1. Purchasing Family Fresh gift cards from Uwezo--Uwezo will receive 5% back from each card sold!
2. Donating your Family Fresh receipts. For every \$150,000 in Family Fresh receipts Uwezo collects, Family Fresh donates \$1,000 to our organization!!!!!! See enclosed envelope to send Uwezo your receipts!
3. Donating "Our Family" UPC barcodes--Uwezo will receive \$25 for each bundle of 500 UPC barcodes.



SPOTLIGHT

on UWEZO VOLUNTEER Opportunities

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CURRICULUM ORGANIZER—Short Term Position We are so grateful to now have a Children's Ministry Coordinator for Uwezo! We are in the process of strengthening our ministry to the infants by selecting a curriculum and seeking out support for musical instruments, Christian books, art supplies and additional items specific to infants. Please notify Uwezo if you have any items to donate towards this ministry. Currently, Uwezo is looking for a volunteer to help do the prep work that goes to the curriculum that we have selected.

RECOVERY AND FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY Uwezo provides a recovery and family support ministry each Tuesday evening from 6:00-8:00. This is a ministry for the whole family. We are looking for volunteers to help in our men's ministry, women's ministry and children's ministry on these Tuesday evenings.

We Thank God for the response to our last newsletter as we now have two people assisting with the Prison Correspondence Coordinator position, and one person stepped up to volunteer in our jail ministry. We are still looking for more volunteers for our jail ministries and for someone to create a Prison Resource Packet. THANK YOU!

Visit Uwezointernational.com for a list of additional volunteer opportunities offered through Uwezo. Please contact Uwezo for more information.

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