

## PEP is Transforming Lives of Inmates and Executives

### Amy's Story

Going to prison? I don't think so....

Yes, PEP sounds like an amazing program and it seems clear that men are genuinely transforming themselves while working through all of the requirements. But go to the prison and meet with them face to face.... Um, maybe not. As a woman, I was extra nervous about the idea of walking into a MEN's correctional unit. We've all been the recipient of catcalls or suggestive looks or gestures – take a woman into an environment with only men, who have been separated from women for months and years? I worried that I would at best be the subject of stares and leers but possibly even unwelcome gestures or touches.

Still, my boss and coworker encouraged me and after working remotely as a Business Advisor, I just couldn't resist meeting "my advisee" in person. With trepidation, but trusting my friends, I signed up for "Pitch Day". MUCH TO MY SURPRISE, it was clear from the first moment I entered the muster room, that this was a group of serious men, intent on improving themselves and each other, and overflowing with RESPECT for each and every volunteer who entered into their world. One of the very first activities "Step to the Line" brings the Executives and program members into close proximity. Up and down the line hands reach across in greeting, thanks and recognition of a common bond. Any anxiety that lingered was immediately erased. As the day progressed I became more and more astounded and impressed at the courage, determination, wisdom and wit of every member of PEP. Walking out of the unit at the end of the day's event, I knew for certain that I would return.

Going to prison? YOU BET!!



### Larry's Story



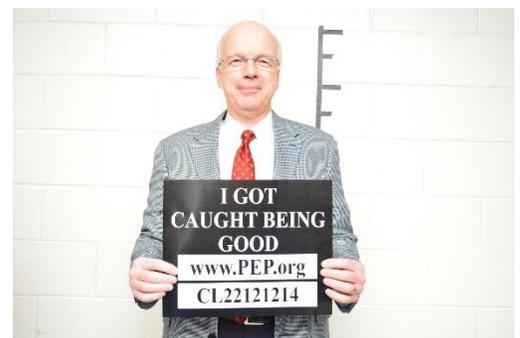
When Larry first entered PEP he had no idea there would be so much to study, so much homework and so many tests. Through the character development phase, he received a better understanding of himself. Larry's peers exposed behavior patterns he had been blind to, and PEP showed him how to correct those behaviors. Larry credits PEP with showing him how to be a better person for himself, his community and his God.

During the business training Larry was blown away by all of the knowledge, love and support PEP offered him. The friends, mentors, and colleagues gained through PEP's network of executive volunteers became instrumental in his transformation. He was amazed to meet so many kind-hearted and down-to-earth men and women who devote their time and energy to benefit a man they had never met --- it was extremely humbling. Larry's family and friends saw a huge change in him. Today Larry is alive and free and sober and, he knows he is loved. Larry is a brand new man!

### Pat's Story

You can run but you can't hide....from PEP.

I tried to run away from PEP for three years....too busy, a little apprehensive, and easy to put off. But, I couldn't get it off my mind. I finally gave up. Just like the guys in white, I found out that "going to prison" was the best thing that ever happened to me. In prison...I found courage, honesty, confession, humility, compassion, surrender, forgiveness, and more love than I found on the outside. And, it came from the real prisoners. Yes, the prisoners who were experiencing a new "freedom" through PEP. To a person, any executive volunteer will tell you that it's THEIR lives are enriched by the men in PEP. The men will tell you it's the other way around. Let's just say they are both right! Exactly why would you want to run from this?



For More Information Visit [www.PEP.org](http://www.PEP.org) or Call 832 767 0928

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### Gilberto's Story



Gilberto was on his third prison sentence when he found PEP. A former gang leader, he spent over five years of his 14-year sentence in "super segregation" - locked in a one-man cell, totally isolated for 23 hours out of every day. PEP taught him how to leverage this experience, along with his natural leadership abilities, to build a new life for himself. Upon release, PEP matched Gilberto with a mentor who became the father that he never had. The man helped him to not only find a job as the manager of a waste water utility service, but to become the father that his own son deserved. Gilberto is now married with three kids and is living in a housing community that he also manages in the evenings.

### Don's Story

Being a CPA, I was impressed with the PEP story as soon as I looked at the numbers. Recidivism down from 25% to 7%, 300 participants per year, \$20,000 per person... a savings of nearly \$1MM per year already, and scalable into even larger numbers. That is compelling! There is also the touchy-feely stuff – changing people's lives – a nice by-product, but for a numbers guy, secondary to the dramatic improvement in cost effectiveness.

Then we come to Day One... inside prison for the first time. Walking "between the lines" toward the PEP room. Thundering down the hallway is the loud, unintelligible, violent-sounding chant of 100+ men yelling at the tops of their lungs. What had I gotten myself into? Is this what a prison riot sounds like? And they are calmly leading us right into it? Take a breath, Don. Lots of these volunteers at your side are "repeat attenders". Surely, it can't be as dangerous as it sounds. All of a sudden, we cross the threshold and find ourselves running the gauntlet between two rows of mostly very large men, all of whom are smiling, looking us in the eye, calling us by name, and are high-fiving every single volunteer who enters the room. From there we go into ice-breaker mode with an exercise driving home the reality that it can be a very thin line separating inmate from volunteer. Prison events have blessed me with the opportunity to spend a lot of time with this group of remarkable, spirited men baring their souls and doing the hard work to learn about themselves, business, and how to take control of their own destinies. It has changed me. The numbers are secondary now. The root of this program is changing lives, and it is gratifying beyond measure to be a part of that.



### Jeff's Story



Jeff's life had hit rock bottom in 2005. He was living on the street, addicted to drugs and unable to hold a job. His addiction had driven him in and out of jail six times, and had led him to commit the robbery that landed him in prison. But Jeff now says that "going to prison was probably the best thing that could have happened to me."

The reason is that it brought him to PEP. A graduate of Class 8, Jeff learned the principles of effective leadership and how to apply them to his own life. Within a week of release, he landed a job doing contract work for a printing shop. Jeff had twelve years' experience in the industry, and began to see an opportunity for himself that was larger than just a job. Within a year, he had started his own printing shop. He employs a fellow PEP graduate, and is on track to break \$1MM in sales in 2016.