

The Way-Home Project

Transitional Housing & Re-entry Support

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to read about this effort. To understand why support is so urgently needed, I'd like to share my story and the background of **The Way-Home Project**.

Who I Am

My name is **Calvin Malone**. In 1992, while incarcerated at the Walla Walla State Penitentiary in Washington State, I founded a Buddhist/meditation group that grew into a strong spiritual community behind the walls. Some of these experiences are shared in my book, *Razor-Wire Dharma*.

After nearly 30 years of incarceration, I was unconditionally released to Olympia, Washington. I carried with me a clear determination: **to help my brothers and sisters coming out of prison find stability, dignity, and hope as they re-enter society.**

The Way-Home Project

Within six months of release, I partnered with a financially secure friend to launch what became **The Way-Home Project**. Together we obtained a house—affordable but in disrepair, with land overgrown by weeds and blackberry bushes.

I personally handled all the repairs, upgrades, and restoration of the property. My partner, who lived in another city, left the day-to-day operation entirely in my hands.

Over the past **four years**, The Way-Home Project has:

- Σ Assisted **14 individuals** facing acute housing insecurity after prison.
- Σ Helped residents secure essential documents (birth certificates, IDs, Social Security cards).
- Σ Provided transportation to jobs, training, and medical appointments.
- Σ Offered stability and a safe environment without any government funding.

Support came only from a handful of kind donors: a Buddhist priest in Switzerland, my community at the Olympia Zen Center, and a few others who believed in this mission.

Current Challenge

About a year ago, the property owner abruptly demanded we vacate so he could sell the home. As of today, **one resident remains here with me, and neither of us has an alternative.**

This struggle reflects a broader national crisis:

- Σ A local survey I conducted revealed that **nearly 70% of homeless men had previously been incarcerated.**
- Σ Many end up on the streets within weeks or months of release.
- Σ Consistent, wrap-around support is almost non-existent.

Had I been able to demonstrate **seven consecutive years** of operating a successful program, I would have qualified for a state grant large enough to purchase a permanent home for this work. Instead, the clock has run out on the property, and the men who could benefit most are again left without options.

Why This Matters

Formerly incarcerated people are among the most marginalized in America. Once released, few care what happens to them, yet they remain our neighbors, our fellow citizens, and people deserving of dignity.

Without support, desperation takes hold. With support, transformation is possible.

How You Can Help

I am reaching out with two requests:

1. **Resources & Guidance** – If you know of available housing, partnerships, or grant opportunities, your guidance could be invaluable.
2. **Donations** – Contributions to **The Buddhist Relief Mission** can directly sustain this work and help secure a permanent home for **The Way-Home Project**.

Every form of support makes a difference—whether through funding, connections, or simply spreading the word.

Closing

The Way-Home Project is rooted in compassion, resilience, and the belief that no one should be discarded after release. With your help, I can continue this work and give men returning from prison a real chance to rebuild their lives.

May you be well and happy.

With gratitude,

Calvin Malone

Founder, *The Way-Home Project*



Click [HERE](#) to read Calvin's explanation of the philosophy behind **The Way Home Project**.