

PASSAGES

A PROGRAM OF ALTERNATIVES

BILLINGS

CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

The Culinary Arts Program (CAP) at Passages provides women in the correctional system with comprehensive culinary training, employment support, and the tools to rebuild their lives after incarceration.

HOW CAP WORKS

Comprehensive Training

- With 15 participants enrolled at a time, they gain culinary fundamentals, including knife skills, sauce preparation, and food safety.
- Training includes earning Pre-Apprenticeship Certification, ServSafe Certification, and a food handler's license.

Structure

Program Duration is 18 months:

- 6 months as culinary students.
- 6 months as kitchen workers for in-house food service.
- 6 months in pre-release for community work release and job preparation.

Hands-On Experience

- Participants prepare over 1,000 meals daily for Alpha House and Passages.
- They also cater community events, including the Strawberry Festival and Family Tree Center fundraisers.

Employment Focus

- Job placement assistance connects participants with local restaurants, bakeries, and catering companies.
- Graduates earn above minimum wage and often secure positions with opportunities for advancement.

WHY CAP MATTERS

The Culinary Arts Program (CAP) reduces recidivism, promotes financial independence, and supplies skilled workers to the local economy. By equipping graduates for successful reintegration, CAP builds safer, self-sufficient communities. Sustained funding ensures vital training, certifications, and strong employer partnerships continue to thrive.

"CAP graduates are sought after by local employers due to their hands-on training and certifications, which set them ahead in the job market."

-Travis Dickinson,
Chef and CAP Trainer

91
Graduates
since
2009



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HISET EDUCATION PROGRAM

Empowering Women Through Education

The HiSET Program at Passages, in partnership with School District 2, provides women in the justice system with the opportunity to earn their high school equivalency diploma. This life-changing program equips participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to rebuild their lives, secure meaningful employment, and reintegrate into their communities.

"This program is so important to me. I hope I can get my HiSET and be successful in the future with all the knowledge and growth moving forward."

-Amber,
Program Participant



WHY IT MATTERS

- **Addressing Educational Gaps:** The program tackles the lack of high school diplomas, a common barrier for justice-involved women.
- **Promoting Self-Sufficiency:** HiSET graduates gain tools for sustainable employment and personal growth.
- **Reducing Recidivism:** Education is a proven strategy for lowering the likelihood of re-offending.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Purpose:** Offers a pathway for residents to complete their high school education through GED and HiSET learning.
- **Structure:** On-site classes tailored to individual skill levels, making education accessible to all participants.
- **Support:** A full-time educator provides personalized instruction and fosters a positive learning environment.

"I feel like I actually accomplished something for the first time in my life."

-Rebecca,
Program Participant

76
Graduates
since
2021



"I've learned that I can do anything I put my mind into and that hard work does pay off."

-Jolene,
Program Participant



KEY OUTCOMES

- **Improved Employment Opportunities:** Graduates are better equipped to secure stable jobs and support their families.
- **Breaking Educational Barriers:** Ensures no eligible participant is turned away from the program, with flexible class schedules to accommodate work commitments.
- **Community Impact:** Education reduces recidivism and empowers women to become self-sufficient contributors to society.

"I had dropped out in 8th grade, and I learned that I truly am smart. I wish I would have stayed in school, but now I want to go to college and become an addictions counselor."

-Tanya,
Program Participant

