

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sandy Lenox, 9 years ago I was a stay-at-home Mother of my 3 little girls. I was going through a divorce, my now ex-husband was extremely abusive to our children and I. When we separated, he controlled me financially. I had no help & soon got into another abusive relationship with a man that introduced meth into my life. My life quickly spiraled. I lost my children, housing & ended up homeless. The man I was with was getting more and more abusive, to the point that I was in fear for my life. When I got arrested, it was the first time I had been free in so many years. I came to prison determined to gain training to leave and make something out of my life. I got into this program after program, but they weren't offering any solid skills to take outside of prison. Nothing that would lead to a career.

Then one day I heard of UPACT Oregon. At first, I didn't believe what people were saying about it. That I could do the 12-week program & start a career the day I get out of prison. I had been let down too many times. A friend finally convinced me to sign up. Then I went to an orientation. Everything that the Coordinator, Anna Martin, spoke of gave me butterflies in my stomach. It was the first time in 4 years of prison that I had a real genuine hope for my future. I'm currently in the program. It's more than I could've ever hoped for. This program is going to give me the career I've been so desperately searching for. A way to support myself on my own & never be trapped by an abuser again. I will be able to pay for my own housing for my children & I. We will be Safe. I have a real chance now to have an amazing future. I went to orientation for the 8th cohort last night. I sat next to my new friend that has been very eager to do the UPACT program. She asks me questions about the program daily. She doesn't get out until 2028, the last cohort is at the end of 2026. When she was told she wouldn't be able to participate unless the program got funded again, she was Crushed. I watched her face as she was told, it was heart breaking. We need this program to continue. Please!

UPACT also needs space at Coffee Creek to run the program. The supplies are scattered all over. It would be so beneficial to have a building to continue running the program.

Sincerely,

Sandy Lenox