



MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES

When you buy from MCE, you are not just buying a product, you are changing a life.

## Post Release Case Study

Maryland Correctional Enterprises Transforms Lives Through Successful Transition



## GOALS

- To improve the employability of offenders upon release
- Have a positive impact on reducing recidivism
- Provide valuable tools for those transitioning back into society
- Instill positive work ethics to promote lifelong success

## ABOUT MCE

Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) is the prison industry arm of the Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services (DPSCS). Our goal is to teach our inmate workforce the technical skills and work ethics needed to obtain employment after they are released. With business units located at correctional facilities across the state, we are able to provide customers with innovative, manufactured products and services at competitive pricing.

## TONY'S STORY

Tony Blackwell was incarcerated for nearly 45 years and during that time, he worked in Maryland Correctional Enterprises' (MCE) plants intermittently from 1982 until 2019—learning trades and valuable skills. Throughout his time, Tony worked at the Graphics Plant, Wood Plant and one of our Sewing Plants – acquiring skills such as printing, graphic arts and general office skills. With 12-13 years' experience working in our Graphics Plant, Tony was able to secure a job post release working at Uptown Press, a successful printing company in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area that has been a fixture in the community for over 60 years. He's working in free press as a Digital Copier Operator, operating four copiers and binderies. Immediately following release, Tony was able to obtain stability utilizing saved earnings from MCE until he was able to find gainful employment in a field he had already excelled in for many years.

01

"The skills I learned in the print shop helped me out a lot. I learned graphic design at MCE."

- Tony Blackwell, Digital Copier Operator, Uptown Press

02

"Tony Blackwell has always been a great employee at MCE. He always went the extra mile to get the job completed. He was always willing to lend a hand where needed. Wherever he lands a position on the street he will be a big asset and I for one would be glad to vouch for him."

- Jim Cluster, Regional Manager, MCE

### ACHIEVEMENTS TONY'S PROUD OF:

- Printing Skills
- Working with the Baltimore Braille Association to make braille books

### HIS ADVICE TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS:

"It depends on their mindset. Realize where they're at and where they came from. Get their spiritual life together. Focus on getting themselves together and moving from where they were."



## RESULTS



Tony gained 12-13 years' experience in graphics and printing



Tony was able to secure a job post release in a trade he learned and practiced during his incarceration

## TOTAL IMPACT

- 2,000 + inmate workers' lives' touched and over 2 million hours of training and employment throughout FY20
- 360 + C.A.R.E.S. graduates