



FROM THE director

Dear CIC Family,

It was a huge blessing to see so many people at our “Going In, Staying In” event and training last week. It always warms my heart to be with you in person and celebrate this precious ministry, and learn and grow in our service together. We try to include one GSI a year where we invite formerly incarcerated people to share, and one where we invite representatives of the sheriff’s department or similar to share, to make sure we have a rounded understanding of the people we work with and for. Recordings of previous trainings are available on our website so make sure to check them out.

One focus of our training was helping our existing volunteers stay in jail! Please read our “tip of the month” to get ideas about how to stay compliant and avoid clearance suspensions, and our handbook that lists most of the procedures and policy is always available on our website [\[HERE\]](#).

We want you all to stay in jail as long as possible - thank you for working with us to make that

With gratitude and blessings,



GOING IN STAYING IN recap

GISI FALL 2026

A heartfelt thank you to Foothill Covenant Church for so warmly welcoming and hosting our Fall GISI Training. We are especially grateful for your hospitality and for providing such a wonderful space for our CIC community to gather, learn, and connect.

WHAT WE PLANT OUTLIVES US

Chaplain Mohammad Shabbir opened our time together with a beautiful devotional, "What We Plant Outlives Us."

[\[Watch Chaplain Shabbir's Devotional\]](#)

HEARING FROM LIVED EXPERIENCE

A highlight of the morning was hearing from Victrine and Norberto, two individuals formerly incarcerated in Santa Clara County. They shared openly about what life inside jail was like, the impact chaplains had during their incarceration, and their experiences since returning to the community. Their stories offered our volunteers an important perspective on the people we serve and a powerful reminder of the difference that presence, compassion, and connection can make.

[\[Watch Chaplain Lidia's conversation with Victrine & Norberto\]](#)

LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER

Our veteran volunteers joined Chaplain Angel, Chaplain Liz, and CIC staff for an interactive discussion of real-life scenarios that can arise while serving inside our facilities. Together, they explored how to navigate challenging situations while maintaining appropriate boundaries and continuing to offer compassionate spiritual care.

[*\[Link to Scenario Handout\]*](#)

Chaplain Angel later continued the conversation with Victrine and Norberto, diving deeper into their experiences and the role chaplains played during their time inside.

[*\[Watch the Conversation with Chaplain Angel, Norberto & Victrine\]*](#)

At the same time, Chaplain Kate and Chaplain Lidia led our newest volunteers through training designed to prepare them for their first experiences serving inside the facilities.

Videos from the training are available in the links above and can also be found anytime in the Training Video Library on our website.

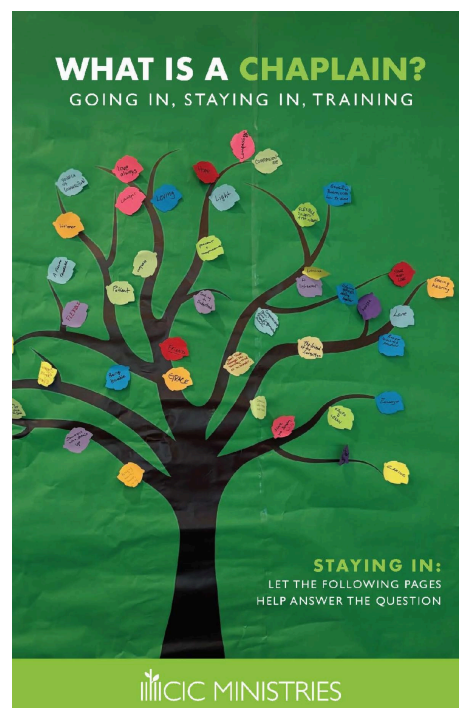




TIP OF THE month

CONTRABAND UPDATE

Most of us know that NO HARDBACK or LEATHER books can be given out in the facilities. However did you know that in the adult facilities NO PLEATHER (plastic leather-like) items are allowed? If an IP is found with this they can be subject to disciplinary action so please respect this boundary.



WHAT IS A CHAPLAIN?

At “Going In Staying In” we gave everyone a copy of the beautiful booklet which includes reflections and encouragement from many of you, written in a workshop during our Spring GISI. For those of you who missed it, or want to share it with others you can find it on our website or download with the link below.

[What is a Chaplain Booklet](#)

UPCOMING training

TRAUMA INFORMED TRAINING *Jail Ministry Training*

Next TI Training:

**Empowerment, Voice & Choice
with Chaplain Angel & Chaplain Seth**

Tuesday, 10/13 7PM via Zoom

Individuals who are incarcerated can often feel at a loss when they don't understand how the system inside works—where to turn, what resources are available, or even what questions to ask.

In this Trauma-Informed (TI) workshop, we'll explore common requests and needs that arise inside our facilities and provide practical information to help volunteers respond with greater understanding and confidence. By better understanding how the system works, we can help those we serve identify resources, advocate for themselves, and take meaningful next steps.

[10/13/26 TI Training Sign-Up](#)

TI Training:

**The Basics
with Chaplain Liz**

Tuesday, 11/10 7PM via Zoom

Join us for our final Trauma-Informed Chaplaincy training of 2026. Whether you're a new volunteer learning the basics or a longtime volunteer looking for a refresher, Chaplain Liz will revisit the core principles of trauma-

informed care in a jail setting and practical ways we can support healing and resilience.

Bring your questions! Experienced volunteers are also encouraged to bring examples, stories, or situations you've encountered inside the jail. Together, we'll connect the basics of trauma-informed chaplaincy to the real-life moments we face in our ministry.

New volunteers, veterans, and everyone in between are welcome!

11/10/26 TI Training Sign-Up

GOING IN STAYING IN

Jail Ministry Training

Saturday, May 15, 2027
9:00am (check in) - 11:30am
SAVE THE DATE

Location:
St. Andrew's - Saratoga

VOLUNTEER
resources



211
United Way Bay Area

Get Connected.
211 Connects Bay Area Residents With Health & Human Service Programs in Their Local Community.

WHAT IS 211?
211 is a free, easy-to-remember phone number that connects callers with health and human services in their community. 211 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and in over 150 languages. All calls are confidential.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Call:** You can dial 211 and speak with a friendly, knowledgeable Specialist.
- Click:** You can visit the web at 211bayarea.org and click on any county.
- Text:** You can text your zip code to 898211 and a live Specialist will promptly reply.

WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THROUGH 211?
211 is a comprehensive database of information on health and human service programs throughout the Bay Area, which includes but not limited to:

- Food Assistance
- Utility Assistance
- Housing and Shelter
- Legal Assistance
- Child Care
- Emergency Services
- Mental Health and Counseling
- State and City Services
- Senior Services
- Disaster Response and Relief

During emergency or disaster situations, 211 provides critical public information, such as shelter locations, water distribution, sandbags, evacuations, road closures, utility outages, local assistance center locations, public health warnings, and more.

UNITED WAY BAY AREA United Way
211 Bay Area is a program of United Way Bay Area

Can't dial 211?
Call us toll free 800-273-6222 / TTY 415-808-4440

211 BAY AREA

Chaplain Noelia shared [211 Bay Area](#) as a valuable and trusted referral resource for individuals looking for re-entry resources. By simply dialing 211, callers can connect with someone who can help identify resources based on their individual needs. The service is free, confidential, available 24/7, and offered in more than 150 languages.

211 can connect people with resources for food assistance, housing and shelter, utilities, legal assistance, mental health and counseling, employment support, child care, senior services, emergency assistance, and much more.

[Download the Printable Handout](#)

DONATIONS needed

Our Chaplain team provides care, encouragement, and support to those inside facilities and those recently released. To help them continue this important work, we've created an Amazon Wish List featuring items requested by the chaplains themselves. If you are interested in donating, please see the link below:

[View the Chaplain Wish List](#)

2026 FOOD RESOURCE GUIDE

As food assistance programs continue to evolve and the cost of living remains high, many individuals and families in our community may need extra support accessing food.

We're happy to share that the Food Resource Booklet in both English and Spanish created by our partner Donna Araiza from St. Jude's in Cupertino has been recently updated. The guide includes current information on local organizations and programs offering free or low-cost food assistance throughout Santa Clara County.

We encourage you to share this updated resource widely—with fellow volunteers, neighbors, and anyone in your community who may benefit.

Food Resources
Encontrar Comida



VOLUNTEER wisdom

Our volunteers are constantly learning - from trainings, from one another, and from the people they serve.

If you've come across a book, article, podcast, scripture, or practical insight that has strengthened your ministry, we'd love for you to share it. Your experience could encourage someone else.

Email your recommendation (with a short note about why it mattered to you) to nora@cicministries.org.





Try email marketing for free today!