On February 2, 2014, an old gym with a squeaky wooden floor and wobbly plastic chairs became a comfortable place to discuss uncomfortable topics.

That was the beginning of Success Stories.

Success Stories gave us the opportunity to know and question beliefs about ourselves and realize that we’re more alike than not. We’ve built a bond and brotherhood, and now the vision of bringing Success Stories to the outside world has become a reality. Success Stories has expanded into seven other facilities, schools, jails and reentry programs; and the expansion continues.

It’s because of everyone that has participated and graduated that we are able to say, “this truly works”. We are empowered by being our authentic selves and staying true to everything that we find important.

It’s through US and OUR STORIES that we become stronger. This is why Success Stories’ participants and graduates stand out. This is why we decided to create the Success Stories Alumni Program to continue to support and encourage one another even after graduation.

This is how we build a community of people who stay committed to their top five. Staying connected with one another is key and this newsletter will help us do that.