

Presented by:  **IRON LIGHT LABS**

FIRST WEEK OUT

In Association With:  **ATLAS
NETWORK**



LARRY WILLIAMS SPENT THE LAST 42 YEARS IN PRISON. WE FOLLOW HIS FIRST WEEK OF FREEDOM.

In 1979, Larry Williams entered prison and was released 42 years later.

FIRST WEEK OUT is a short documentary (21 minutes) that follows Larry's pivotal first week of freedom. Follow Larry in his first week out as he tries to make sense of his past, navigates life in a re-entry home, reunites with an old prison friend, applies for a job, meets with a new mentor, and forges a path forward.

Research has shown that the first week out of prison for formerly incarcerated men and women will define their future success or failure. After serving their sentences, it is vital for individuals to have an opportunity to become a functioning member of society.

Every week there are more than 10,000 people in America like Larry experiencing their first week out of prison. Within three years, two out of three won't make it and will end up back in prison. We wanted to tell Larry's story to encourage viewers to join the thousands of people and organizations across the country helping individuals like Larry beat the odds.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

By Charles Fritschner

To rebuke a murderer is simple. To recognize our common humanity with that man is a more dangerous and challenging idea.

With this film, I ask two questions. Are the formerly incarcerated able to find new life? How does the world feel after decades of confinement?

Homelessness, joblessness, guilt and grief: all are commonly experienced by returning citizens. These themes coalesced on our first day of production when we met Larry, a man who had very literally just been released from prison: his first week out.



The sound of spring wind, the attention of a stray cat, the unobstructed view of trees, Larry savors these things like a poet.

This film is a study of tension: between a man and his mistakes; between the tragedy of our lives and the poetic wonder of our world. It is also an examination of possibility. Will Larry find the support he desperately needs?



FEATURING

Larry Williams

Protagonist, he spent 42 years in prison on robbery and murder charges.

Lee Robbins

Re-Entry Expert, Motivational Speaker and Founder of Vital Signs Re-Entry Home. He spent three years in federal prison on financial crime charges. He now serves as a mentor and life-coach to men coming out of prison.

Dudley Arnold

Former resident of Vital Signs Re-Entry Home and one of their most successful alumni, he spent 30 years in prison on murder charges.

Tony Kitchens

Community reintegration specialist and board member of Georgia Center for Opportunity.

Thomas "Hutch" Hutchinson

Current house monitor at Vital Signs Re-Entry Home.



FILM CREW

A PRODUCTION BY

Iron Light Labs

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Atlas Network

DIRECTOR

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ORIGINAL MUSIC BY

Nate Zuercher



We empower purpose-driven people to change the world.



ABOUT IRON LIGHT LABS

We aim to change the way free-thinking people market their ideas, while also disrupting the entertainment industry and bringing powerful films to the forefront.





ATLAS
NETWORK

ABOUT ATLAS NETWORK

Atlas Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that aims to secure for all people the rights to economic and personal freedom through its global network of independent think tank partners. Its purpose is to unleash individual ingenuity to enrich humanity, achieved by providing grants, awards, and capacity-building trainings for local public policy organizations. Atlas Network's strategic model -- called *Coach, Compete, Celebrate!*™ -- harnesses insights from social psychology to drive innovation and real-world impact in its sector.

Georgia Center for Opportunity (GCO) is just one of the nearly 500 groups Atlas Network actively supports, and they are a leader in working with compassion to create opportunity for all—especially those leaving the criminal justice system. GCO's impressive work on prisoner re-entry qualified it as a finalist for Atlas Network's prestigious Templeton Freedom Award in 2017.



ABOUT GEORGIA CENTER FOR OPPORTUNITY

The Georgia Center for Opportunity works on poverty solutions that remove barriers to ensure that every person—regardless of race, past mistakes, or circumstances of birth—has access to a quality education, fulfilling work, and a healthy family life. In their work in local communities, they discovered the impact the penal system had on nearly every individual in underserved communities—if not directly, indirectly. Because of this understanding, GCO has spent the last decade working to address the barriers faced by returning citizens. They continue to do this work by partnering with local employers to employ the formerly incarcerated, working with state legislators to increase job opportunities, and working directly with the formerly incarcerated to connect them to work and services necessary upon re-entry into their communities.



ABOUT VITAL SIGNS

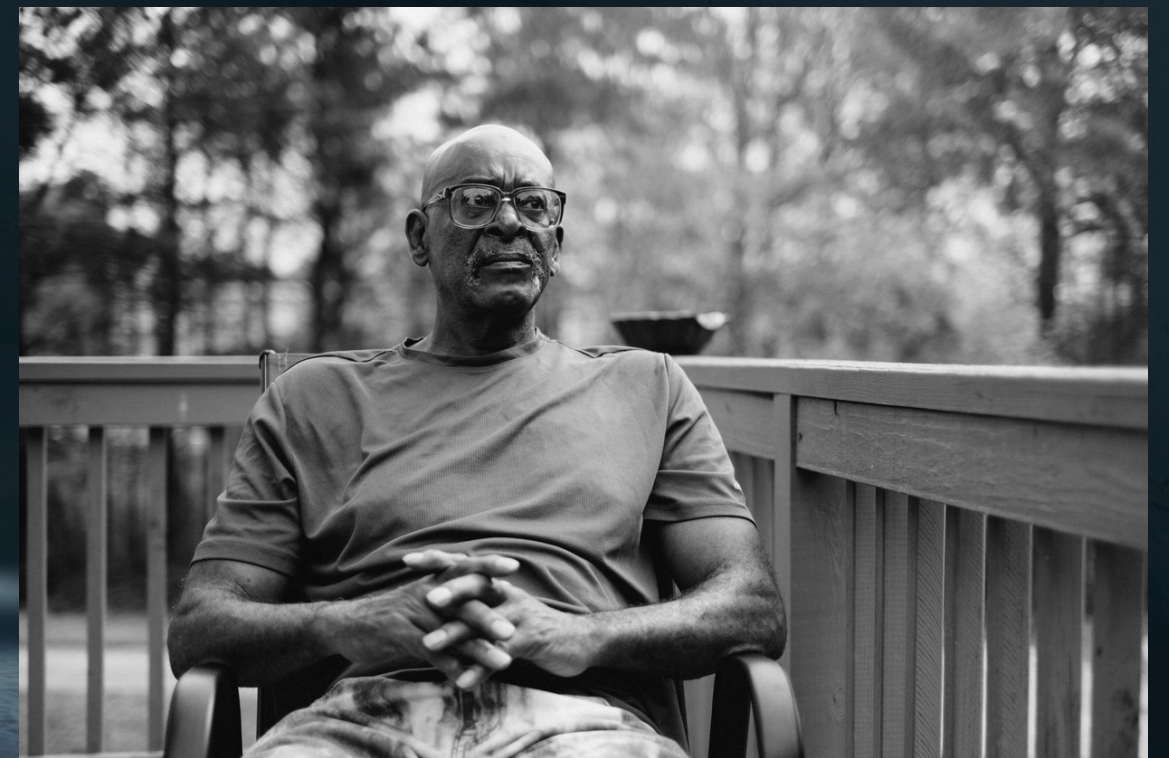


Vital Signs is a re-entry housing safe haven that brings essential resources to returning citizens such as food, housing, jobs, transportation, life coaching, education, and more. Vital Signs was founded by Lee Robbins in 2013.

The mission of Vital Signs Re-Entry is to safely restore those returning back into society with the purpose of providing the services they need to succeed in life. Vital Signs helps returning citizens know what to expect upon their release and how their chances for success can be maximized. Its goal is to reduce crime and prison recidivism by 50% in its community by a strategy of providing each returning citizen with a life coach to connect them with re-entry resources. Its life coaches help to hold them accountable to living a safe and successful re-entry. Through the years, Vital Signs Re-Entry has touched many men and their families through the generous support of their partners.



HIGH RES FILM IMAGES





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