

James Hooker

Board Member

Life After Conviction Inc. | Michigan City, Indiana

"A degree never made anyone valuable. Discipline, execution, and the decision to show up every day — that's what creates a life. That's what I teach, and that's what I live."

ABOUT

James Hooker served seven years in the Indiana correctional system. He came home three years ago without a college degree, without a safety net, and without an excuse. What he had was discipline, a commitment to execution, and a refusal to let his past determine his ceiling.

Within three years of his release, James rose to Purchasing Manager at NRP Jones LLC — a national manufacturing company with international reach — overseeing procurement operations, supplier relations, inventory strategy, and supply chain coordination. He did not wait for opportunity. He created it.

Today James is also the President of the Toastmasters International chapter in Michigan City, Indiana, where he mentors youth in leadership, communication, and public speaking — investing in the next generation with the same intentionality he applied to his own reintegration.

CURRENT ROLES

- **Board Member** — Life After Conviction Inc.

Brings operational expertise, lived experience, and community leadership to organizational governance and mission oversight.

- **Purchasing Manager** — NRP Jones LLC

Oversees procurement operations, supplier relations, inventory strategy, and supply chain coordination for a national manufacturing company with international reach.

- **President** — Toastmasters International, Michigan City Chapter

Leads the chapter's programming and development, with a specific focus on mentoring youth in communication, leadership, and professional presence.

CREDENTIALS & RECOGNITION

Purchasing Manager — NRP Jones LLC (3 yrs post-release)	President — Toastmasters International, Michigan City
Youth Mentor — Toastmasters Leadership Program	Board Member — Life After Conviction Inc.

CONNECTION TO THE MISSION

James Hooker's story answers the question every funder eventually asks: does reintegration actually work? Three years out of a seven-year sentence, he is managing supply chains for a national manufacturer and developing the next generation of leaders through Toastmasters. He did it without a degree, without inherited advantage, and without anyone handing him anything.

His presence on the Life After Conviction board is proof of concept. His operational background brings real-world business discipline to an organization that is building toward scale. And his work mentoring youth ensures that the mission does not stop at reintegration — it extends to prevention.

James Hooker did not just survive the system. He outperformed it — and now he is committed to making sure others have the structure and support to do the same.

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Life After Conviction Inc. | 501(c)(3) Nonprofit | From Conviction to Community.