

FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

FBI JOURNAL

Faith-Based Initiative

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency



Volume 4 Issue 1

May 2011

A New Contract Year Faith-Based Initiative

By Sondra Hunt, Special Assistant

The Community Justice Programs Faith Based Initiative Solicitation for 2011 was awarded to:

Cluster A

(Wards 7 and 8)

Covenant Full Potential of Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ

Cluster B

(Wards 5 and 6)

Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church

Cluster C

(Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4.)

Israel Manor, Inc. of Israel Baptist Church

The Cluster Coordinator's for the three Clusters are dedicated to helping re-entrants receive all of the support and assistance needed for a successful return to their communities. (see page 2 for Cluster Coordinators' contact information)

Spring Edition

"Called to Serve"

Faith-Leader's Conference on Working with Victims of Crime

(see page 1-2)

Saturday, May 14, 2011



Mark Your Calendar



**Community Re-entry and Expungement Summit—
Thursday June 2, 2011 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.**

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

801 Mount Vernon Place NW 20001 (see page 11)



Called to Serve Victims of Crime Conference

**Contee AME Zion Church
903 Division Avenue NE 20019**

By Mignonne Willis-Gray, Sub-Committee Chair

On Saturday, May 14, 2011, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) Faith Based Initiative will be hosting the "Called to Serve" Faith Based Leadership Conference. The event will take place at Contee AME Zion Church, located at 903 Division Ave., NE Washington, DC 20019 from 8am – 3pm.



The purpose of the training is to address issues of lethality, crime prevention, grief counseling, conflict resolution, and crisis intervention. This influential day long event is geared at providing Faith Based Leaders, as well as anyone in the community with adequate training to assist returning citizens with services and support in the area of victimization through prevention and intervention. Workshop topics include introduction and instruction of the Universal Assessment Tool, the need for faith-based

Continued on page 2

returning citizens require within the Washington, DC area.

CSOSA realizes that successful reunification into the community involves a joint effort between the agency, community leaders and the faith community.

Rev. Samuel Whittaker, Pastor of Contee AME Zion Church and Co-Chair of the CSOSA Faith Based Initiative Crime Prevention/Victim Awareness Committee, states that "this event will give Faith Based Leaders a great opportunity to connect with the community organizations and institutions around us that are able to aid us in ministry.



Rev. Samuel Whittaker, Pastor of Contee AME, Daryleuanie Johnson, CSOSA, Services Program (center) and Mignonne Willis-Gray, FBI's PURPOSE Group for Women at CSOSA.

Call to Action - 2010

By: Sondra Hunt, Special Assistant



Theme: "Celebrating Our Mission to Serve"

If you were not at the Community Justice Programs' Faith Based Initiative's, "Call to Action" Program that was held on December 9, 2010, you really missed one of the greatest programs ever sponsored by CSOSA. The Call To Action was held at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, located on the campus of Gallaudet University. There were over 100 people in attendance from the faith based community who participated in a full day of activity. There were workshops held covering topics such as: Called to Serve Victims of Crime, Bridging the Gap in Services, Re-Entering in Times of Economic Challenges and Strengthening the Roots of the Community through Education. The workshops served as a means of exchanging ideas with the faith community on how to better serve our returning citizens in every aspect of their lives.

The luncheon Keynote Speaker was Rev. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor of the Alfred Street Baptist Church located in Alexandria, Virginia. His very moving message inspired the attendees to continue their commitment to do the very best that they can in equipping re-entrants with the tools needed for a successful re-entry.

CARING FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Cont. from page 1- By Mignonne Willis-Gray

community involvement, how to tap into resources for the clients we serve and understanding and addressing victims' grief. The "Called to Serve" Faith Based Leadership Conference is one way CSOSA is continuing the agency's commitment to understanding the needed support and services added to our congregations whom we minister to on the daily basis, we have thousands of our citizens coming back from federal correctional institutions every year. This conference gives us an occasion to learn how to play a role in the successful reunification of ex-offenders. If we are able to re-tool ourselves to help the least of these, with help, they will be able to rise up and aid in the work God has called the Faith Based Leadership to do."

To register for this event, please contact Daryl Johnson at (202) 585-7359 or email Johnson.Dar@csosa.gov. For more information, contact Mignonne Willis-Gray, Co-Chair of Called to Serve at mwgray20715@gmail.com.

Cluster Coordinators

By Sondra Hunt, COTR

CLUSTER A

REV. KELLY WILKINS

**COVENANT BAPTIST UNITED CHURCH OF
CHRIST**

KWILKINS@COVENANTBAPTISTDC.ORG

202-562-5576

Cluster B

ELDER HOWARD MOORE

GREATER MT. CALVARY HOLY CHURCH

MINHMOORE@VERIZON.NET

301-641-3763

Call or e-mail us. We would love to hear from you.

You are special to us! Have a Safe and Energetic Spring

Cluster C

NATAHSA L. GROSS

ISRAEL BAPTIST CHURCH

NGROSS.ISRAELMANOR@GMAIL.COM

202-832-8483



FBI Case Management Specialist

Listening, Referring, Communicating, Tracking and Managing



By Sondra Hunt, Special Assistant

The Faith Based Initiative has grown substantially in the past few years with an increase in the number of returning citizens being referred to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency's mentoring program.

The Community Justice Program's office is pleased to announce that because of the growth, each Cluster has brought on board a Case Management Specialist whose responsibility will be to ensure that the growing number of referrals, staffings, and ongoing case management activities can effectively be performed.



The Case Management Specialist will be communicating with mentees, mentors and Community Supervision Officers (CSO). They will also represent the clusters at various community events and manage attendance at the FBI Special Emphasis Programs.

Please join me in welcoming each of the Case Management Specialists to the Faith Based Initiative Program!

A Lifetime Makeover — Previously Incarcerated Women Seek Renewal

By Denise Reed and Cedric Hendricks, OLIPA

In an effort to focus greater public attention on the challenges faced by women returning home from prison, CSOSA holds a Women's Reentry Forum during its annual reentry observance, which begins each January. This year's event took place on February 5, 2011, and was held at Ward 8's Temple of Praise Church. The theme was "Lifetime Makeover: Starting with the Woman in the Mirror." Encouraged by the prospect of a new start and armed with determination, over 200 previously incarcerated women participated. Several of our community and faith-based partners co-sponsored the event. They included Our Place D.C., D.C. Office of the Attorney General, D.C. Public Defender Service, D.C. Office of Ex-Offender Affairs, and D.C. Fire/EMS. All of them assisted by sharing resources and life-changing information that provided the participants with useful tools for successful and sustained reentry. In addition, workshops were presented on finances, health care, employment and relationships.

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton delivered a rousing welcome home speech in which she assured the women of her unwavering support and advocacy. CSOSA Deputy Director Adrienne Poteat briefed participants on CSOSA's new initiatives that expand our services to women. Additionally, CSOSA's Dr. Willa Butler presented a skit she wrote, accompanied by three women under her team's supervision. We were also treated to a heartfelt poetry reading by Minister Yorri J. Berry of Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ.

Several women participated in a "dress for success" workshop in which they were given tips on appropriate dress and make-up for

Cluster A

***Rev. Loretta Johnson, Case Management Specialist
& Pastor of Jones Memorial United Methodist Church***

Cluster B

***Mr. Tony McNear, Case Management Specialist
& Mentor for Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church***

Cluster C

***Mr. Ronald Corsey, Case Management Specialist
& Program Coordinator for Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ***



The Honorable Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton

the workplace. They were also provided with clothes donated by CSOSA employees and *Suited for Change*. They also received the services of volunteer make-up artists: Nikki Hendricks, Veronica Matthewson and Wendy Poulhaus. After walking across the stage to reveal of their new look, each of the women were invited to keep the clothing that they modeled.

Previously incarcerated women face many challenges when returning home. They include caring for children, managing personal and family relationships, and seeking employment and housing. Staying focused and self-confident in the face of it all can be difficult. However, having a good support system and access to community-based resources and services can help them succeed. The purpose of the forum was to assist the women attending with putting these things in place.



For additional information, please log on to www.csosa.gov

Gender Specific Teams – Answering the Call

By Dr. Willa Butler, Supervisory Community Supervision Officer

“Women who offend are camouflaged within the criminal justice system due to correctional programming being based on the profiles of male criminality or paths to crime” (Covington, 2002). Programs, policies and services have traditionally focused on the overwhelming number of male offenders with little attention to the specific needs of female offenders. In an effort to identify and address their mental illness, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, rape, childhood molestation, and other concerns, CSOSA integrated, under Branch III, three female gender specific teams (two mental health and one general supervision), which are located at 25 K Street, NE, Washington, DC. These teams concentrate on the specific responses and strengths of women who offend, while acknowledging the past traumas in developing an effective treatment modality that is gender responsive in breaking down strong holds and building on residual strengths and empowerment.

In an ongoing effort to address the vulnerabilities of the female offender population, the Re-Entry Sanction Center (RSC) opened a female residential floor to address chronic disorders and our Day Reporting Center (DRC) will open in the early part of May 2011, at 25K Street to meet the needs of women.



Female Offender's Unit



- “No More Drama in My Life” - A Offender Conference By: Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

On January 22, 2011, the Faith-Based Initiative sponsored its 4th Annual Conference for Offenders. This year's theme was “No More Drama in My Life” and was held at Jones Memorial United Methodist Church. On a cold day in January, participants were greeted by the welcoming faces of members from Jones Memorial. A stimulating and motivating keynote address was received from Murriell Tate, of DADS Incorporated, and inspiration

- was provided by a young leader from Fort Foote Baptist Church. His oratory of the words of Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, reminded all to us that peace is a powerful tool in solving conflict.
- A variety of workshops were held. An enthusiastic audience, heard subject matter experts that included re-entrants (as a peer to peer learning). Important time was taken during lunch to recognize 22 graduates of

FBI's Special Emphasis Programs. A variety of learning techniques were used to motivate the participants to think about their past and to establish new ways of handling conflict. An exciting moment was karaoke. Cluster staff, Community Supervision Officers (CSO), other participants and the FBI Team, sang oldies to remind participants that you can move beyond situations.

The cold day ended with the warmth of singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Sixteen (16) offenders requested a mentor by the conclusion of the program.

Another Wall Falls (Ban the Box)—by Denise L. Reed, CSOSA's Office of Legislative Inter-Governmental & Public Affairs



On December 21, 2010, the Council of the District of Columbia passed into law the “Returning Citizens Public Employment Inclusion Act of 2010 (Bill 18-826).” This legislative measure, popularly known as “Ban the Box,” requires all District of Columbia government employment applications to remove the box inquiring into the criminal history of an applicant. Any criminal history inquiry will take place only after an individual is found to be qualified for the position for which they have applied. Additionally, the District government is now required to take into account certain factors, such as, the relevance of the offense to the applicable position, the length of time that has passed since the offense occurred and evidence of rehabilitation. The same also applies retroactively to present District employees as well.

Several advocates lent their time and energy to insure the passage, including Returning Citizens United, the Public Defender Service, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Washington Lawyer's Committee. Their members credit Council member Harry Thomas, Jr. for introducing the original legislation and Councilmember Mary Cheh for the enthusiasm with which she and her staff labored in ushering the legislation through the Committee on Government Operations and the Environment. The legislation was signed into law by Mayor Vincent C. Gray on January 12, 2011.

RE- ENTRY REFLECTIONS 2011

JUSTICE SUNDAY – By Sylvia Stokes , Mentor

Reverend Joseph W. Lyles Pastor at Fort Foote Baptist Church, held an event on January 16, 2011 honoring Dr. Martin Luther King's commitment to volunteerism. Sylvia Stokes, head of the churches Returning Citizen Initiative, talked about the need for volunteers to help those that are returning from prison. Mrs. Keels, from Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency spoke to the congregation and extended an invitation to join CSOSA in the effort of becoming life coaches to re-entrants.

During both services, Reverend Lyles made a "call to serve" and over 25 members volunteered to help in the Returning Citizen Initiative at Fort Foote Baptist Church.

Our children reminded us of the commitments and struggles of the Civil Rights Movement through songs and an oratorical presentation. We will never forget that freedom and justice has a price tag that we must all pay!

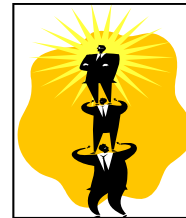
Ms. Keels commended on the churches display and the number of people who signed up and showed interest in Fort Foote's commitment. Why would a church cross the border (district line) commit to working with re-entrants in the District? We are committed to wherever God leads us!!!!

Returning Citizens Forum

By Debra Rowe, Returning Citizen

On Saturday, January 29, 2011, Returning Citizens United, Inc., presented a community forum titled "Is it Worth It?"-The Things Make You Go "Back" at the Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Churches Family Life Center. This event was part of CSOSA's Reentry Reflections Month.

The purpose of the forum was to explore recidivism causes among the District's returning citizens. The event utilized subject matter experts as panelists to address the risk factors that can lead to supervision failure such as domestic violence, substance abuse, failing to report, etc. The forum also explored the positive role that returning citizens play in our community, in helping others to succeed and not go back to prison.



Celebrating Mentor/Mentee of Year 2011

By Sondra Hunt, Special Assistant

The Faith Based Initiative Mentor/Mentee of the Year was celebrated during the Court Service and Offender Supervision Agency's Annual City Wide Assembly 2011.

Each year Mentees and Mentors are selected by the Cluster Coordinators to honor the participants in the Faith Based Initiative who maintained a positive and active relationship.

The Mentee/Mentor of the Year for 2011:

Cluster A—Mentor of the Year— Delores Lynch

Mentee of the Year— Linda Grimes

Cluster B—Mentor of the Year— Charlene Wallace

Mentee of the Year— Danyell Adams

Cluster C—Mentor of the Year— Anthony Hawkins

Mentee of the Year— Nathaniel Garvin

Path to Peace—Mentor of the Year— Muhammad Tahir

Mentee of the Year—Paul Cunningham (Brother Khalil)



For additional information, please log on to www.csosa.gov



Mentor Training Schedule

By *Elmira Gwynn, Training Specialist-FBI*



May 2011	
<p><i>Saturday, May 14, 2011 8:30am –4:00pm</i></p>	<p><i>Special Emphasis Training “Called to Serve” Victims of Crime Contee African Methodist Episcopal Church 903 Division Ave. NE 20019</i></p>

July 2011	
<p><i>Saturday, July 16, 2011 8:30am –4:00pm</i></p>	<p><i>Mentor Orientation Training and Communication Training Re-Entry & Sanctions Center 1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i></p>

May 2011	
<p><i>Saturday, May 21, 2011 8:30a.m.—4:00 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Mentor Orientation Training and Communication Training Re-Entry & Sanctions Center 1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i></p>

July 2011	
<p><i>Thursday, July 14, 2011 6:00pm</i></p>	<p><i>City-Wide Mentor Meeting & Training Jones Memorial UMC 4625 G Street, SE Washington, DC 20019</i></p>

June 2011	
<p><i>Saturday, June 25, 2011 8:30am –4:00pm</i></p>	<p><i>Mentor Orientation Train- ing and Communication Training Re-Entry & Sanctions Cen- ter 1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i></p>

September 2011	
<p><i>Saturday, September 17, 2011 8:30am – 4:00pm</i></p>	<p><i>Mentor Orientation Training and Communication Training Re-Entry & Sanctions Center 1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i></p>

Mentor Matching Report

By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

The Faith-Based Initiative through the diligent support of the Clusters have faithfully assisted offenders in being matched with mentors. As of March 31, 2011, the following report was filed for the record for active cases:

Cluster A – 110

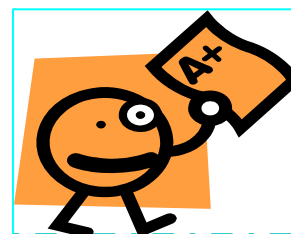
Cluster B— 92

Cluster C – 87

TOTAL— 289 matches



Congratulations to the Clusters



Israel Baptist Church—Committed to Cluster C

By— Natasha Gross, Cluster C Coordinator

Israel Baptist Church has been a pillar of Faith in Washington DC for over 130 years. Since 1880, Israel Baptist Church has provided a place for worship that embodies compassion and community partnering. It is a place that celebrates the strength of family and the advantages of social and restorative justice in our community.

As the new faith based lead church for Cluster C of the CSOSA /Faith-Based Initiative Partnership, we have a strong desire to positively impact the lives of returning citizens. At Israel Baptist Church our mission is "...to raise up a people and make them whole..." It is our goal to work both tirelessly and in unity with other faith-based institutions in this city to welcome home returning citizens, help them assimilate back into the community and reduce the rate of recidivism in Washington, DC.

Our efforts to obtain a meaningful and long lasting partnership with the CSOSA/ Faith Based Initiative Partnership are supported and encouraged by our congregation and our Pastor Reverend Dr. Morris L. Shearin. The congregation realizes the importance of programs such as this one. Israel also understands that as an organization of faith, it is our responsibility to help rebuild our community. Pastor Shearin has expressed, "It is my prayer that Israel Baptist Church will continue to be a beacon and meaningful pillar for this community." It is with that same passion, vision and leadership that the Cluster C staff takes on this calling.

Cluster C Office is located at Israel Baptist Church 1251 Saratoga Avenue, NE Washington DC 20018. The office is staffed with four essential and capable people, Natasha Gross, Cluster Coordinator; Ronald Corsey, Case Management Specialist; Tricia Kinch, Administrative Support and Mary Douglass, Consultant. The team is energetic and excited about the role that we will play in the Faith-Based Initiative and the community at large. We are committed to the challenge.



Graduations to Mentor Charles Thornton

By, Sondra Hunt, Special Assistant

We are proud to announce that one of our mentors, Charles Thornton, has been selected for an important role in city government.

Below is an excerpt from the press release issued by the Government of the District of Columbia, Executive Office of the Mayor, Office of Communications.

"Charles Thornton has been helping at-risk youngsters to become productive members of society before they get into trouble, and his skills will translate well into helping ex-offenders find their way again. He has served as the workforce development manager for Sasha Bruce Youthwork since 2008, where he helps to improve the lives of troubled youths by enabling them to learn valuable skills in carpentry, plumbing, electrical and HVAC work.

Charles is a real-estate professional with years of experience in building management and maintenance and as a member of the D.C. Housing Authority's Landlord Advisory Committee, the D.C. Recovery Community Alliance, the Faith-Based Reentry Collaborative and other community organizations."

The Faith-Based Initiative congratulates Charles Thornton in his new role in the Office of Ex-Offenders!

Cluster Spotlights— C

Mentor and Mentee of the Year

Cluster C would like to congratulate **Anthony Hawkins and Nathaniel Garvin**, who were recently rewarded with the title of **Mentor and Mentee of the Year**, respectively. They were honored at the Citywide Reentry Assembly, held at St. Luke on February 10th. Mr. Hawkins is a dedicated mentor and a member of the Metropolitan AME Church where he also works. The relationship between Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Garvin was established in February of 2010 and has been going strong ever since. We would like to thank and congratulate both Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Garvin for their participation in the FBI program and wish them continued success!

Mentor of the Month

Cluster C would like to spotlight **Ms. Ella Moore (SW Church of Christ)** for being an outstanding mentor! Ms. Moore has been mentoring Robin McGlenn since July 2010, and says their relationship has grown and is very good. She is in communication with her mentee weekly and was also privileged to be invited to attend dinner with the mentee and his family. Ms. Moore is very proud of her mentoring relationship and we in Cluster C, appreciate all of her time and dedication. Hats off to you Ms. Ella Moore for being an outstanding mentor!



Faith-Based Initiative Team
 CSOSA
 Community Justice Programs
 633 Indiana Avenue, NW
 13th floor
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Jasper Ormond, Associate Director
 Phone: 202-220-5320
 Fax: 202-220-5316



**Adrienne Poteat, Deputy Director,
 CSOSA**

Community Re-Entry Summit 2011 (cont'd from pg.1)

Come learn about re-entry support services in the DC area and whether you are eligible to have your DC arrest record or conviction record sealed. Event services: Housing Information & Counseling, Education and Vocational Training, Employment Assistance, Free Civil Legal Advice and Information on Record Sealing and Expungement. For more information contact: April Frazier, Esq. Community Reentry Program Coordinator 202-824-2836 or reentry@odsc.org.

The 13th Step Employment Program

Continued from page 6

Mr. Sledge wrote the following about the 13th Step Employment Program:

The 13th Step Ex-Offender Program

My name is Jeffery G. Sledge. I was a member of the 13th Step Program. I've gotten so much out of the program. It really helped me with my job skills, how to get a job and how to keep the job once I get it. Through the 13th Step Program, right now I'm working the night shift doing janitorial work at the Club Black. I thank God for Brother Jim and Reverend Kelly for a very good work program that helps ex-offenders like me.

To find out more about the 13th Step Program, please contact Rev. Kelly Wilkins at 202.562-5576.



**MENTOR MATCHING IS A WARM &
 LASTING SPIRIT**

This warm and meaningful gift is a lasting gift. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact:

Chris Keels, MSLC

202-510-0892

christine.keels@csosa.gov

or

Hallem Williams

Senior Program Analyst

202-220-5306

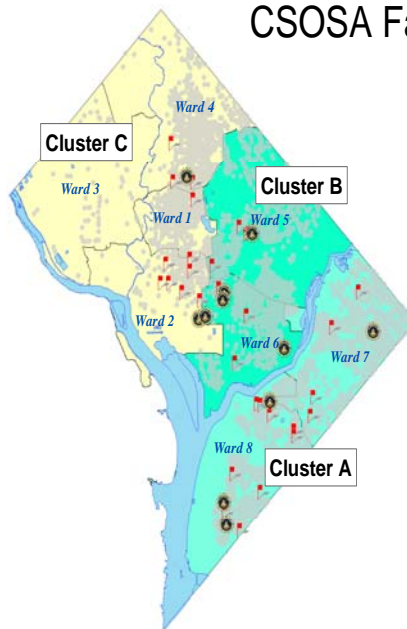
hal.williams@csosa.gov

or

The Cluster Coordinators (see page 2)

CSOSA Faith Community Partnership:

*Offenders,
 Participating
 Organizations, &
 CSOSA Offices*



Legend

- Offenders
- Participating Organizations
- Cluster C (Wards 1-4)
- Cluster B (Wards 5-6)
- Cluster A (Wards 7-8)
- CSOSA Offices

**Design Layout by Ta'Kia Jackson,
 Program Support Specialist**