FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE



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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 reentrants 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

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

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.



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 exoffenders. 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 <u>Johnson.Dar@csosa.gov</u>. 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

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202-832-8483



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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!

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

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 cosponsored 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



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.



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 of-fender 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

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 "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 reentrants (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 reentrants.

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:

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)



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Cluster A—Special Emphasis Program Recognition—By Rev. Kelly Wilkins, Cluster A Coordinator

ONE STEP AT A TIME: The 13th Step Employment Program

On January 24, 2011, Covenant Baptist UCC kicked off a new employment program designed to assist returning citizens and persons in the community to become gainfully employed. We strongly believe that God desires all of us to work and with the proper preparation and assistance, many will find gainful and purposeful work.

The instructor of 13th Step, Mr. James Kendlin has over 20 years of experience in workforce development and the housekeeping industry. Mr. Kendlin is retired and volunteers 5 days a week teaching men and women what it takes to gain and maintain employment. Based on each participants area of experience and interest, the program furnishes over 200 job leads a week for participants to pursue. In addition, the class curriculum challenges students to confront areas in their lives that may have hindered them from being employed or keeping their employment.



As Director of the program, each week I receive student evaluations of the program. The feedback from the students have been overwhelmingly positive. Out of a first class of 10, 7 students are currently employed. Some of them now have more than one job. Covenant is very thankful of Mr. Kendlin's dedication and we hope to get the program funded soon. Each student is learning to take one step at a time to becoming gainfully employed. *Cont. on page 11*

Cluster Spotlights-A

I can't speak for everyone, but whenever I put on a new pair of shoes, my toes, ball (or sole) and heel must cooperate in order for me to move about comfortably. The same adjustments with a new pair of shoes are very similar to adjusting as the new Case Management Specialist for Cluster A. First, my toes are the first to enter a new pair of shoes. And, right away, I can tell if they are going to be comfortable in their new space. From the baby toe to the big toe, when they wiggle into their rightful place inside the shoe, within seconds, my brain lets me know that "all is well inside the new space." Once inside, my toes become anxious for me to move about. Well, my fingers are experiencing a similar encounter in my new Case Management Specialist position. They are anxious, yet cautious, when flipping through case files, historical reports, initial mentoring plans, mentor applications, monthly reports, and other important documents! With each flip, I am aware that I am touching a myriad of fabrics that tell a unique story about the lives and journeys of so many special people.

Putting on New Shoes





Next, the sole or ball of my foot touches the mattress or bottom part of the shoe to see if the foundation will offer sufficient support to my movements while walking. After all, shoes are not made for standing still but for moving! So, it is with my heart and soul as I am becoming more and more familiar with the clients, mentors, special emphasis group workers, and government personnel who really, really want to help change lives! It's rewarding to be able to put a face with a name and name with a PDID number as I learn more about the inner workings of a new foundation that's being laid to help and respond to the needs of our returning citizens. And just like the sole of feet being comfortable on the foundation of the new shoes, I too am beginning to feel more comfortable standing as a part of the grounding that Cluster A has already laid for returning citizens.

Finally, the heel of the foot is the last part to slide into the new pair of shoes. And when the heel can shake hands with the back of the shoe then they both agree that it's a good fit. Yes, a message goes out "Houston, it's a good fit! You can now proceed to the walk ramp!" Like my heel in the new shoes, my mind is cognizant of the many details necessary for documenting and tracking the hard work of so many persons. I am excited because after just a few short weeks of making calls, attending Cluster and CSOSA meetings, participating in weekly team meetings, and become acquainted with mentors and mentees, I, too, have received an affirming message from within me that says "Loretta, it's a go! You can and will make a difference in the lives of others in your new role as case manager with Cluster A!"

And, incidentally, two weeks ago I just treated myself to a new pair of shoes for my new position. I'm adjusting to these new shoes and am beginning to wear them with more ease today than I did when I first put them on. Yes, the toes have relaxed, the sole is resting firm on the foundation of the shoe, and the heel is okay against the back of the shoe. As the new case manager of four weeks, the fit is still a good one! It's a privilege to work in an environment that's filled with contagious enthusiasm among the staff (Kaya Aria) and energetic and passionate leadership by our Cluster Coordinator (Rev. Kelly Wilkins). I am excited to be a part of such an awesome team called to do an awesome task! And I do believe that I can and will make a positive contribution/difference in how Cluster A fulfills its mandate for our returning citizens!



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Mentor Training Schedule

By Elmira Gwynn, Training Specialist-FBI

May 2011	
Saturday,	Special Emphasis Training
May 14, 2011	"Called to Serve"
8:30am -4:00pm	Victims of Crime
	Contee African Methodist Episcopal Church
	903 Division Ave. NE 20019

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

June 2011	
Saturday, June 25, 2011	Mentor Orientation Training and
8:30am -4:00pm	Communication Training
	Re-Entry & Sanctions Center
	1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)

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

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

July 9011

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

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

<u>Cluster C – 87</u>

TOTAL—289 matches







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Rev. Cheryl Mercer, Associate Director of GMCHC Prison Ministry —Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church

"Who can recall what we said were the main points of our parenting challenge for all parents?" Immediately, responses come forth: "to raise kids who are happy, healthy...... (so forth)." And so begins the class session for the week. The Family Reunification Program, is just one of the programs to assist offenders with reintegrating into their families. This is a 14 week program led by Cluster B, Elder Howard Moore, Bernard and Edana Perry, and other facilitators (McKendree-Simms-Brookland United Methodist Church) and service providers which brings clients together to learn about being an effective and loving parent to children of all ages. The Perry's bring so much to the table. Each week, they discuss theories of child development, behavior modification, and parenting styles. The sessions include discussions of actual examples of what these principals look like in day to day interaction.

The clients respond in kind by sharing some of the real tough problems they face as they reintegrate back into the community and to their own families. The discussions of how they were raised are introduced by the Perry's themselves, as they discuss how things were when they were first married, and how life and careful attention to the needs of the family have altered and transformed how they handled situations with their children as they grew from infancy to adulthood, and into becoming grandparents. The clients are lively and enjoy hearing the stories and in turn, share their own. Some of the topics of discussion mentioned by clients range from fatigue from work demands, to lacking time to function as a responsible parents on the weekends, to getting support, feeling manipulated by children, being a step parent, and how to reward good behavior. Every topic is met with enthusiasm and open minds. A few clients take notes, and the Perry's include handouts in many of their sessions.

This is an atmosphere where trust has been established from the beginning. Bernard Perry asserted on the first night, "I am not here because I am getting paid to do so. My wife & I enjoy teaching, but we believe that somehow what is being shared will make a difference in your life.

From the left Bernard & Edana Perry, Family Reunification Program Leaders & Elder Howard Moore, Cluster B Coordinator

We hope that you will be able to take away some valuable information that will make a difference in the way you come to enjoy and love your families as you get on your feet. Perhaps it is the transparency in the teaching style of the Perry's that has helped to make the environment such an engaging one. The clients find enjoyment and humor in the duality of the teaching style of this couple. With light refreshments available to all, each person is encouraged to discuss the situation they may be facing with regards to their children, and to ask questions as the class progresses.

Last week's session focused on child abuse and neglect. The definition of discipline was discussed, and examples of various kinds of scenarios brought forth that allowed the clients to categorize them as either abuse or neglect. As the evening came to a close, the Perry's reiterated, "what are the basic needs of children and what are our responsibilities towards them?" Class was dismissed with glee and pride on the faces, and in the hearts of our faith based re-entering citizens.

Order My Steps—By Tony McNear, Case Man. Specialist

Ordering Our Steps is a Women's Relapse Prevention Group that meets on Thursdays from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm at 25 K street NE. Ms. Ina M. Brown is the lead facilitator for the group. Ms. Brown is founder and executive director of House of Prosperity Everlasting, a 501 C-3, better known as H.O.P.E. The mission of H.O.P.E. is to embrace, advocate and empower men, women and youth. This is often best done through the services rendered at H.O.P.E. to include substance abuse training and relapse prevention. These skills are shared and utilized every week during the Ordering Our Steps Groups. Ms. Brown has put together an amazing team of presenters and co-facilitators to help her accomplish working with the women who attend Ordering Our Steps.

Some of the subjects covered are healing from victimization, cleansing through work-out, toxic relationships, how do I explain my addiction to my children and other subject matters specific to women's addiction and recovery that engage the women in therapeutic dialogue.

Healing From Within

By Tony McNear, Case Management Specialist

Healing From Within is a crisis intervention counseling group with a focus on grief and loss. The group meets once a week on Fridays at 910 Rhode Island Avenue NE, at 12:00 pm, (for 1-hour). Elder Jacqueline Rice is the facilitator for this group. Elder Rice is a licensed counselor on staff at Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church. Elder Rice has been on staff at GMCHC for more than 10 years. Her office is housed at 605 Rhode Island Avenue NE, in the Alfred A. Owens Family Life Community Center. Elder Rice counsels many people from Maryland, DC and Virginia. Her clientele are from all walks of life with all types of circumstances and issues. She has a very busy and full schedule; however, she always finds time to help someone.

Some of the topics and subject matters dealt with during the Healing From Within sessions are loss, forgiveness, trauma, recovering and rebuilding after the death of a loved one, and identifying and recognizing the stages of grief.

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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!



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!



Grants/Awards

Hallem Williams, Senior Program Analyst

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has published funding details for the Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative. This Act (P.L. 110-199), authorizes grants to governmental agencies and not-for-profit community based groups to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victim support and other services to help adult and juvenile ex-offenders to transition successfully back to the community.

The U.S. Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women is awarding \$6.9 million to 23 projects in the Engaging Men in Preventing Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking grant program. It is the first time in the agency's history that a grant program directly encourages men to be part of such prevention efforts.

The funding recipients include non-profit non-governmental victim services agencies, non-profit community based agencies, state domestic violence or sexual assault coalitions, higher education institutions, a unit of local government, a tribal coalition, and a tribal non-profit victim services agency. The agency said it has an "ongoing commitment to support gender and culturally specific education on healthy relationships, and strengthening existing community outreach efforts to men and

The Maryland Crime Victim's Resource Center, Inc. is launching a National Identity Theft Victims' Network Cooperative Agreement with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC/Justice Dept.) to facilitate up to nine sub-awards of up to \$50,000 each to create or support regional or statewide coalitions to assist victims of identify theft. The announcement is located on the agency's web-site at http://www.mdcrimevictims.org/ID%20theft%20Network/index.html

The award number is #2010-VF-GX-K030, to be announced in the Spring of 2011. The award is available to D.C. applicants.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG), Title-Grant Program and Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) **programs.** This consolidated application is due June 1, 2011. JABG is focused on youth offender and systems reform activities that promote increased accountability. The Title II Grant Program is focused on improving juvenile justice systems by increasing the availability and types of prevention and intervention programs and juvenile justice system improvements. The JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court, prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, and technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives.





By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

As a follow-up to the 2010 Call to Action, the Faith-Based Initiative developed work groups to begin the process of implementing recommendations. Workshops at the Called to Action focused on six key barriers to re-entrants:

- Called to Service Victims of Crime
- Bridging the Gap in Services -- Addiction & Health Care
- Returning in Time of Economic Challenges- Housing
- The Challenges of Employment
- Strengthening the Roots of the Community Education

On January 18, 2011, workgroups met to begin to review the issues and further develop the recommendations. The workgroups developed action items to support the issues and recommendations. The action items range from conferences/ programs to educate the community on individual rights, CSOSA's mission and vision and performing research. Other action items include developing resource manuals, models of conflict resolution for children and teens, assessment tools, creating access to services, training for service providers, along with certification, accountability and training on holistic approaches, mentoring/job coaching, pre-release life skills enhancements, tutors, incentive programs, developing re-entrant listening teams, developing universal re-entrant learning goals and educational standards, and administering surveys to more effectively bridge the gaps to reentry.

Work groups (sub-committees) will continue to meet through the month of May. The sub-committee chair and co-chairs will report on their progress and experiences in effective lobbying and strategizing. Further, the Cluster Advisory Council consisting of the Cluster Faith-Leaders, Coordinators, Sub-Committee leadership and three ad-hoc members will meet to begin designing its structure and responsibilities in advocating

City-Wide Advisory Council Work Group #3 Strengthen the Roots of the Community Through **Education**

Natasha L. Gross, Cluster C Coordinator

On January 19, 2011, this workgroup of the City-Wide Advisory Council, proposed to the council that the FBI provide mentors/tutors for the CSOSA's Learning Labs.

In March, Ms. Carol Fleming, retired CSOSA employee began lending her services to the Vocational Opportunities for Training, Education and Employment (VOTEE) Unit at 1230 Taylor St. NW. Ms. Fleming is assisting Sara Nebiyeloul, Learning Lab Specialist in the Lab's New Book Club. I observed Ms. Fleming beginning her time with two very engaged offenders.

This made me proud to be a Cluster Coordinator. Ms. Fleming is a Cluster B mentor from

Northeastern Presbyterian Church.



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 Advise and Information on Record Sealing and Expungement. For more information contact: April Frazier, Esq. Community Reentry Program Coordinator 202-824-2836 or reentry@odsdc.org.

The 13th Step Employment Program

Continued from page 6

Mr. Sledge wrote the following about the $13^{\rm th}$ 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

 \mathbf{or}

Hallem Williams

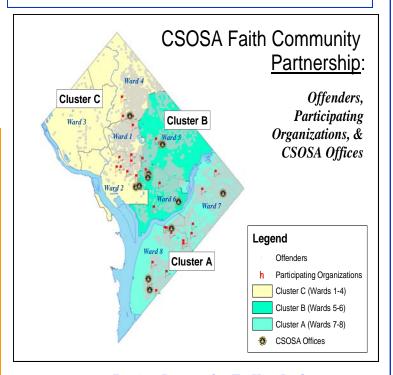
Senior Program Analyst

202-220-5306

hal.williams@csosa.gov

or

The Cluster Coordinators (see page 2)



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