# FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

## FBI JOURI

Court Services & Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia



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#### inter Edition

Volume 5 Issue 1, February 2012

**Court Services & Offender Supervision Agency's** 

New Director Nancy M. Ware is Sworn In

Article Source: DC Government Examiner (1/24/12)

Nancy Ware has technically been on the job as new director of the D.C. Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) since December, but she was ceremonially sworn in on January 23, 2012.

Ware, a former management analyst for the agency, was nominated by the White House to take over the agency in August. She was confirmed by the Senate in November and was sworn in to begin her duties on Dec. 1, 2011

The January 23rd investiture offered Ware a chance to lay out her goals for the agency, which includes focusing resources on the most serious offenders, reducing the rate of returning offenders and making sure residents on probation or parole get the services they need.

"My charge is a serious one," Ware said. She said she wanted to help former offenders stay out of jail "by establishing strict accountability and continuing to strengthen our sanctions and incentives model."

The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency is a federal body that oversees probation, parole and supervised release for both local and federal courts in Washington; the agency oversees about 15,000 adults on release at any given time. District of Columbia Court of Appeals Judge Eric Washington, accompanied by U.S. District Chief Judge Royce Lamberth, presided over the ceremony.

Special guests included Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and Mayor Vincent Gray (D). Rep. Norton praised Ware's experience as the former executive director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, a local group that brings together leaders from the city's government, courts and law enforcement agencies. Ware has been "preparing her whole life for this mission," Norton said.

Gray, who had worked with Ware on youth services programs more than 15 years ago, said Ware had a knack for bringing people together and convincing them to collaborate. He said he expected Ware would "leave [the agency] far better than how you found it."

Susan Shaffer, Director of the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia, said in her remarks that Ware "pushes her agenda with thoughtfulness and care." Shaffer also lauded Ware's ability to "work with anyone."

The agency has been without a permanent director since 2008. Deputy Director Adrienne Poteat has led in the interim.







Article submitted by: John Milam, Deputy Assoc. Director, Community Justice Programs

"Mentoring is a pro-social support option for offenders who need additional assistance in finding employment and housing, reconnecting with their families, and navigating other challenges they may confront as they adjust to life outside of prison. (Giguere, 2009)" The mentor/mentee relations are essential to most reentrants' success in navigating the natural systems of support and executing pro-social decisions. Mentors take on the role of companion, educator, and role-model. Therefore, it is important that we recognize those mentors and commend their majestic efforts in serving our community. For that reason, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) hosted an event that celebrated our mentors and their contributions. The celebration was held on September 27, 2011. This event marked the continuing collaboration and commitment offered by the District of Columbia's faith community to assist returning citizens in their quest to rebuild and restore their lives, family, and self dignity. The commemoration began with the cutting of the cake. The cutting of the cake initiated the festive celebration. Mr. Lamont Carey, recent released parolee, was the Keynote Speaker. He spoke about his experience as a mentee in the

program and also discussed his accomplishments. Mr. Carey concluded his presentation by reciting a poem that seemed to move the crowd

After the moving poetry piece, the clusters' coordinators presented their mentors awards for their astounding work with their mentees. Cluster A, coordinator Rev. Wilkins, awarded fourteen mentors. Cluster B, coordinator Tony McNear, awarded ten mentors. Cluster C, coordinator Natasha Gross, awarded sixteen mentors. To show a token of gratitude, each mentor was given a certificate. To make the night even more eventful, the celebration came to a close with a musical selection by Jerome Banks, a mentee. Jerome Banks also spoke about his teenage experiences and his current experiences as a mentee. Largely, the event was a success and demonstrated appreciation to the mentors from staff and mentees.

CSOSA thanks the faith community and its volunteers for facilitating this most difficult endeavor; and, recognizes the Faith Based Initiative staff for its tireless efforts in coordinating this important relationship.

#### **Cluster Coordinators**

#### **CLUSTER A**

which was shown evident through the audience's cheers and applause.

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#### Mentees on the Citywide Advisory Council (CWAC) Article submitted by: Natasha Gross

I recently had the pleasure of meeting **Mr. Samuel Al's,** 2010 Mentee of The Year. Over the course of the past year Mr. Als has been very busy being active in the community. In 2010, Mr. Als served on DC Governments Commission on Re-Entry and Ex-Offender Affairs as a Liaison for Returning Citizens. Mr. Als currently serves as a member of the Faith Based Initiative's City Wide Advisory Council Executive Committee. Samuel Als has stated, "I appreciate the opportunity to be included in decision making and advocacy that will potentially impact myself and other re-entrants." The FBI salutes Mr. Als in his efforts to be a part of the solution.

Over the past year, I have worked with **Ms. Judith Griffin,** a participant in the Lifetime Makeover Group, and now as a member of the CWAC's Executive Committee. Ms. Griffin is courageous as she speaks out on women issues and reminds the council of the underserved population. Ms. Griffin accompanied Rev. Betty Newell, Pastor of New Covenant Evangelist Ctr. as they testified before City Council on November 17, 2011, on the issues and barriers facing re-entrants.

A new member of the Council, Ms. LaJuana Clark, joined us this past January 2012.

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### Citywide Advisory Council

Article submitted by: Natasha Gross, Cluster C Coordinator



The Faith-Based Initiative's City-Wide Advisory Council (CWAC) is the advocacy, public policy, lobbying and strategy development component of Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency's (CSOSA), Faith-Based Initiative (FBI).

The purpose of the Council is to remain abreast of the barriers and issues offenders face and to provide support for offenders through advocacy, educating the community, public policy recommendations and strategizing for change. In its collaboration with CSOSA, CWAC is the faith based institution's voice in the community for CSOSA.

Thus, the role of the Council is also to educate for the rights of offenders in the District of Columbia. The Council's expanded format of work groups composed of mentors, faith and community leaders provides specific issues and resources for which the Council advocates. The five workgroups that grew out of a December 2010 Call to Action Conference are: *Re-entering in Times of Economic Challenges—Employment; Strengthening the Roots of the Community through Education; Bridging the Gap in Substance Abuse and Health Related Issues; Re-Entering in Times of Economic Challenges-Housing; and Call to Serve: Victims of Crime.* The Council is composed of thirty-one (31) voting members—fifteen (15) Executive Committee members that include: three (3) faith leaders from the faith-based institutions; eight (8) additional faith leaders; one (1) former Council member; one (1) Community Justice Program (CJP) staff person; and two (2) offenders. An additional sixteen (16) Advisory Council members to include: three (3) contracted Cluster Coordinators, one (1) additional member to be named by CSOSA; the chair and co-chairs of the five (5) CWAC work groups; and, four (4) offenders who are successfully involved in the FBI Mentoring Initiative exist.

#### A Word From the Chair of CWAC

Article submitted by: Rev. Donald L. Isaac, President (CWAC Exec. Committee)



#### A Message from the Called to Serve Workgroup

Article submitted by: Samuel Whitaker, Co—Chair (Senior Pastor of Contee A.M.E. Zion Church)

#### May Our Service Speak For Us!!

On October 27, 2011, I met with the three Cluster Faith Leaders and with their representatives, at CSOSA's Re-Entry Sanction Center, to establish or revive the former Citywide Advisory Council. Facilitated by staff from CSOSA, we heard reports on the major barriers that offenders face. This information came as no surprise because for years, all of the faith leaders have been actively engaged in the movement for change.

We talked about our commitment and task ahead of us and confirmed that our Service Would Continue to Speak For Us!!

As the President, I am very proud that the Council has accomplished so much in such a short time period. Let us count our blessing and our advocacy:

- (1) 11/14/11—Citywide Advisory Council Met and established goals and timelines.
- (2) 11/17/11– A delegation attended Phil Mendelsohn 's City Council Hearing on the Ex-Offender Affairs and Needs.
- (3) 12/5/11— A delegation attended a CSOSA meeting with Secretary Hilda L. Solis, Department of Labor and expressed our needs and concerns related to employment for offenders.
- (4) 12/12/11—The Full Council met and heard reports from the work groups and affirmed appropriate actions.
- (5) 1/15/12—Participated in the Martin Luther King Parade.

In February we will be meeting with members of the City Council and working on engaging all of our mentors in areas of advocacy.

May The Service That We Do Speak For Us!!!!!

## The Faith-Based Initiative: Expanding the Walls of the Church



Dear Faith Partners,

The Contee A.M.E. Zion Church has been a cornerstone in the Deanwood community for 127 years. The pastor and congregation just embarked on its first year working with the Faith-Based Initiative (FBI). This venture has been a wonderful journey into ministry. Working with the FBI helped us rekindle our fire for the work of God. Partnership with the FBI helped our church to tap into resources we knew existed but could not access. Resources that will not only bless our church but also the community we serve. Child support services, housing for reentering women, the Public Defender Service, reentry task forces, just to name a few. The Partnership helps us to expand our service beyond our walls. We have discovered that many hands will make the load we carry light. As we work with the Faith-Based Initiative we can do much more because we do not have to re-invent the wheel. This has been a wonderful experience that blessed our ministry with new life.

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

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#### Justice Sunday Observed at Covenant Baptist UCC Re-Entry Sunday - "Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve"

Article submitted by: Denise L. Reed, CSOSA's Office of Legislative Inter-Governmental & Public Affairs

On Sunday, January 15, 2012, CSOSA joined members of its Faith-Based Initiative in kicking off *Re-Entry Reflection 2012*, with the yearly recognition of *Justice Sunday*. This event was hosted by Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ. Pastors, Drs. Christine Y. & Dennis W. Wiley, with Cluster "A" Coordinator Rev. Kelly Wilkins, welcomed the community, as well as CSOSA and its other partners to the church for this collaborative and inspirational event.



The purpose of the annual month-long *Reentry Reflection* observance is to raise public awareness about the issues and challenges surrounding reentry. By launching the observance during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Weekend, we are able to tie into its overarching theme of community service, as well as the fact that January is National Mentoring Month.

Each year, CSOSA joins with the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ) and the National CARES Mentoring Movement (MCMM) to commemorate *Justice Sunday*. Associate Director Cedric R. Hendricks, along with NAFJ's President, Addie Richburg, and NCMM's Roxana Bilal delivered remarks that encouraged those present to consider joining the ranks of those serving as mentors for men and women that have returned from prison. Ms. Richburg also presented Pastor Christine Wiley and several other Faith-Based Initiative members with *Drum Majors of Service* awards (see the award listing below) on behalf of the National Corporation of Community Service. They were recognized for their work with the District of Columbia's returning citizens.

The Justice Sunday program was followed by Pastor Dennis Wiley's message about the "Power of Authentic Worship." He admonished all to "remain humble and keep both feet on the ground" when in service. He told the audience that "The true test of authentic worship is defined by the inseparable connection between worship and service. It is not enough to come to church to get our praise on, we must come to get our service on as well----enter to worship, depart to serve. "Following the service, NAFJ and NCMM invited worshippers to visit their display table to receive further information on mentoring opportunities.

#### Celebrating Facilitators at Re-Entry Sunday

Event Facilitated by: Elmira Gwynn, FBI Training Specialist

The following Awards were given to the Faith-Based Initiative's Special Emphasis Program Facilitators:

#### Order My Steps—Women's Relapse Prevention Program

Peggy Scott & Ina Brown—honorary bestowal to family

#### Reintegration Support Group

Tony Keith & Guy Starling

#### Former Cluster B Coordinator

Diane Sims-Moore—honorary bestowal to family

#### Celebrating New Life—Men's Relapse/Life Skills Program

James Fulmer & Rev. Coletta Jones

#### Men of Destiny

Rev. Don Hutchins

#### Life Time Make Over

Willa Kynard

#### Men of Valor

Curtis Brantley

#### **Purpose**

Mignonne Willis-Gray

#### **Relationship Restoration Program**

Rev. Walter & Denise Sadler

#### Paramount Housing Resource and Assistance Center

Rev. Anthony Owens

#### **SE Parenting Class**

Sylvia Stokes

#### Healing From Within—Grief Counseling

Dr. Jackie Rice

#### Family Reunification Program

Bernard & Edana Perry

#### Citywide Hispanic Support Group

Ada Velasquez





#### Call to Action 2012

Please mark your calendars for a most important date to remember! Community Justice Programs Faith Based Initiative Program will host our Fifth, "CALL TO ACTION" Conference on May 22, 2012. Over the past eight years the Faith Based Initiative Program has developed from concept to reality and significant progress has been realized from both the offender and faith institution perspectives.

CSOSA's Call to Action is a time to reflect, strategize, plan, and develop new concepts for re-entry. CSOSA along with its partnership community utilizes this gathering as a time to listen, enlighten, and learn from each other about reentry concepts, trends, and best practices and to galvanize the community around a common platform for social change.

Please join our faith institutions and service providers as we continue the "CALL TO ACTION for our returning citizens."

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#### **RE-ENTRY 2012**

#### 10th Anniversary ~ Citywide Reentry Assembly

On February 16, 2012, CSOSA sponsored its Tenth Annual Citywide Assembly. The event focused on recognizing mentees and mentors of the year and awards were given to Faith-Based Initiative's, Special Emphasis Group facilitators. The audience included criminal justice officials, the faith and business community and reentrants. Special guests included: The Honorable Robert E. Morin, Deputy Presiding Judge, Criminal Division, D.C. Superior Court, Isaac Fulwood, Chairman, United States Parole Commission, Kathryn Tracy, Deputy Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Vincent Whipple, Deputy Regional Director, OFFCP, U.S. Department of Labor, Charles Thornton, Director, D.C. Office of Returning Citizens Affairs. The CAG Choir and Lamont Carey Entertainment added greatly to the celebrating and the sharing of testimonies.



First Ladies Honored for Commitment to FBI

Denise Sadler, Balm in Gilead Ministries &

Rev. Christine Y. Wiley, Co-Pastor Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ

#### "Stepping in, Stepping Out and Stepping Up" Lifetime Makeover Women's

Event Review by: Chris Keels



On February 11, 2012, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, along with the US Attorney's Office, United States Parole Commission, Our Place DC and DC Healthy Start Consortium sponsored, "Stepping In, Stepping Out and Stepping Up" Lifetime Makeover Women's Event. If you were not there, you missed motivating speaking, interesting service providers, a stimulating video on the challenges that women face and a discussion on how to maintain healthy relationships.

The event also included a foot washing ceremony provided by *Samaritan Ministries* and Fashion Show that was resourced by *Suited for Change* and other area providers.

CSOSA's programs and annual events for women, such as this one, will continue to be uplifting in theme and message, while providing useful resources for our participants.



"Through Healthy Living" - A Re-Entry Conference for Offenders

#### Revive the Spirit 2012—A Re-Entry Conference for Offenders

On Saturday, February 25, 2012, the FBI Team will be sponsoring "Revive the Spirit 2012—Through Healthy Living". The event will present sports, exercise, dance & proper eating as ways to support our bodies. Service Providers will be invited to perform screenings and provide resources. Presenters will focus on the following topics: **Health** 

Care for Children, Elder Care and Environment Health.



#### Revive the Spirit 2012: Through Healthy Living

Saturday, February 25, 2012

St. Luke Center

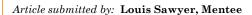
4923 E. Capitol St., SE

Washington, D. C. 20019

The First Lady (Michelle Obama) states the following regarding the importance of immediate health improvements for all Americans: "The physical and emotional health of an entire generation and the economic health and security of our nation is at stake."

#### Cluster Spotlights - A ^

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#### "A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." - Oprah Winfrey

If your name is Creator then you don't need a mentor or a coach. For lowly mortals like me and you, having one can be a rewarding experience.

Some people never have the benefit of unlocking the potential inside themselves. It could be argued that it's because they don't have someone in their corner to aid, guide and support their decision. We all make mistakes in life and I think it takes someone like a mentor on your side who offers advice and guides your decision making.

Basically, there are two ways to gain wisdom in this life - learn from your own mistakes or from the mistakes of other people. The first way is more painful and more time consuming. The second way requires a mentor who will share their experience with you and help you to avoid mistakes that you would otherwise make. There is no doubt that any mistake holds a valuable lesson that in the future will help you to improve your performance. However, why fail more than is necessary? If you want to achieve success faster and with less effort, finding a mentor might be one's best option.

I've had people tell me, "Find a mentor, who will guide your actions and help you to grow spiritually and professionally." But funny enough, I think he and I kind a found each other. Rev. Anthony Owens and I were matched in May 2010, and since then we have conversed many times. Without his kind ear, I don't know what I would have done in some situations. I've still made mistakes and some poor decisions, but Rev. Owens has always been there to listen.

For a long time, I underestimated the importance of having a mentor by my side. We have different variables that surround us, but one thing has managed to stay the same: Rev. Owens has always been there to listen first and offer advice second. He has never pressured me to do what he advises; rather, he only wants to make sure I see what I am saying and what he is saying in response.

Self-Improvement: Rev. Owens has assisted me to see that I am a constant work I progress. It is not always easy for me to live according to my conscience. The line that separates "right" from "wrong" and "good" from bad is sometimes blurred. Rev. Owens has divine sense that aids in making him a good and just person., With that clear revelation, I, like many others, are able to move away from the doubts that attack me and gently, but firmly, push us in the right direction.

Encouragement: Rev. Owens encourages all of my positive behavior and tries to help me understand my negative behaviors and actions. I, like many, have days when everything seems to go wrong (and not just a little bit). On those days, I feel lethargic, unmotivated, depressed, frustrated and high in anxiety. A simple "cheer up" just doesn't cut it. Rev. Owens doesn't tell me that everything is going to be OK on its own merit, but he tells me that through faith I, my creator and a belief in myself, everything will be OK.

Honesty: Rev. Owens promotes honesty no matter what, and that is the bottom line for him. Back in the old days respected leaders believed persons were qualified to give good advice if they (a) were not emotionally attached to you; (b) were not paid for their advice or dependent on your income; and, finally, (3) practiced what they preached.

There are plenty of people who will readily give you advice, but only a few can overcome the impulse to tell you what they believe you want to hear and have enough wisdom and inner strength to tell you what you need to hear. Rev. Owens is one of those people. In the words of Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

#### **Celebrating New Life: Finding Your Place**

Article submitted by: Rev. Kelly Wilkins, Cluster Coordinator

The mission of the Celebrate New Life: Men's Relapse Prevention Group (part of the CSOSA Faith-Based Initiative), is to assist individuals, through faith based recovery programming. This program helps people to overcome issues such as: drug addiction, criminal activity, joblessness etc. Using a structured curriculum from the National Institute of Health (NIH), combined with life skills training, personal sharing and problem solving, the men find a safe place to work through their recovery and many other reentry challenges that they face. The group is facilitated by myself, and Mr. James Fulmer, and we meet every Wednesday for 6 weeks at Covenant Baptist UCC. Recently, I sat down and interviewed one of the participants, Artis Thomas, to find out what he thought about the program. Artis Thomas graduated twice from Celebrate New Life (CNL) and is working on his third group. Below is my interview with Mr. Thomas.

Rev. Wilkins: "What prompted you to begin attending CNL?"

"This group works for me. "My CSO, Mrs. Ratima Williams told me I could do better for myself and I needed something that Artis: would challenge me. Next thing I knew I was going to a CNL orientation. I was not feeling it. I didn't see the value in it at all and I definitely didn't want anyone to be in my business. But since my CSO referred me, I went to the orientation"

Wilkins: "Why did you keep coming back?"

Artis: "When I began the group I had low self-esteem. I had a lot of shame and would not think or talk about myself. But when I started coming to the group I started talking about myself and liking myself. Even though things have not been happening fast for me, talking about my situation helped me dig myself out of depression."

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### Cluster Spotlights - A (continued)

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#### Celebrating New Life: Finding Your Place

Article submitted by: Rev. Kelly Wilkins, Cluster Coordinator (Articled continued from pg. 6)

Artis: "The group teaches me how to improve myself and work on myself. So now I can accept circumstances I cannot change right now and work on things I can change. Slowly, I felt the pain easing away. Now, I can accept some things in my life, like the fact I live in a shelter without losing my faith"

"Also, talking to the other people in the group is teaching me how to be in relationship and make judgments about people without being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. And I feel like I'm around positive people. You, James, Mrs. Ratima Williams and the church's staff have been supportive... Never looking down on me."

Wilkins: "What would you say to persons who may be skeptical about coming to the group?"

Artis: "It's the best place to be when you are feeling low and at the bottom. Our Creator helps people who have a need. For me, "my bottom was my top." It's okay to be at the bottom because you are at a place where you have gone as far down as you can go and now up is the only way out. I would say its okay to be at the bottom as long as you know you can't get moved up by yourself."

Artis: "I would tell them this is the best place for them to be."



## Reverend Kelly Wilkins Honored for her Commitment to Re-Entrants Article submitted by: FBI Team



Rev. Wilkins has been instrumental in advocating for the rights of reentrants in the areas of housing, employment and the availability of service. The award bestowed on Rev. Wilkins speaks to her courage and tenacity in advocating for the "Ban The Box" legislation with D.C. City Council. "Ban the Box" removes the inquiry about an applicant's criminal history from many of the City's job applications, and applicants for positions other than those for

which a background check is required by law. Information about their criminal histories will no longer be asked for until <u>after</u> an initial determination has been made about their qualifications for a particular job. Charles Thornton, Director, DC Office of Returning Citizens Affairs states "Rev. Wilkins is known as a community activist who is committed

to re-entrants."

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## Cluster Spotlights – B Special Emphasis Groups

#### Healing From Within—Grief Intervention Program

Article submitted by: Dr. Jacqueline R. Rice - Facilitator



CSOSA, Cluster B, under the direction of Evangelist Howard Moore, has completed the first twelve week group of candidates for graduation - Healing From Within. Healing From Within is a grief and trauma counseling program that provided a venue of group support to residents who are re-entering the communities. The purpose of the support group is to help our clients deal with their personal issues as related to grief and trauma. The group met weekly at the South Capital Street, SE facility.

We got off to a slow start, due to the fact that most of the attendees did not feel that they needed the services which were offered. It was obvious that they were not expecting to gain anything from the program. However, after a few sessions, they became aware that the sessions were not only geared to grieving the loss of a family member, friend, or loved one. The group (all male) was made aware of the many different aspects of grief. Consequently, they were able to relate to the issues of grief in ways which had not been considered before participating in the group sessions.

The discussions did not revolve merely around death. Included were discussions of things that most of the attendees had not associated with grief, i.e, loss of friendships or items of sentimental values or anything that was of value to them. They came to realize that even their current situations often presented authentic causes of grief. From these discussions, the attendees were introduced to the reality of grief, i.e, grief is a negative and painful emotion which must be expressed. They received information that would enable them to express grief in their own unique ways and in a positive manner that would bring healing as well as encouragement.

It gave me much joy to witness these men come together and to see them supporting one another in their individual concerns. I want to thank Elder Moore, Cluster B Coordinator for allowing me this wonderful opportunity to serve. I thank Bro. Tony McNair, Cluster B's Case Manger for his invaluable service as my "right arm" assistant. I could not have done it without him. It is a blessing to serve.

I remain IN HIS SERVICE OF MY CREATOR AND FOR HIS GLORY.

Court Services & Offender Supervision Agency and

Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church

**Presents** 

#### Reintegration Support Group's

### "Fit For a King - Empowerment Program"



Cluster B has updated its Reintegration Support Group (RSGI). Fit For a King is an Empowerment Program that began on January 17, 2012. The goal of this twelve week program is to systematically provide ex-offenders information, instruction and assist them in gaining the necessary skills required for them to obtain employment, housing, clothing; and the right tools, so they might further their education. An example of some of the tools are: building a portfolio which includes a birth certificate, social security card, driver's license renewals and resume (s). "Fit For a King", also provides information concerning paternity obligations, and other community resources. This RSGI program will accomplish its purpose by hosting a series of presentations from private and public service agencies that highlight empowerment suited for a King.

Mr. Michael Bost, Facilitator, comes to the Faith-Based Initiative with experience in leading life skills groups, community activism, and working with troubled youth and males.

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## Cluster Spotlights – C

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## Mentor Matching at Fairview Women's Halfway House

Article submitted by: Natasha Gross, Cluster C Coordinator

Cluster C was selected to receive mentees from the Fairview facility in the months of June and September. The young women were eager to have mentors and ready to get involved in the CSOSA/Faith Based Initiatives Mentoring Program. There were a few women that were referred for some job readiness training and others for our Special Emphasis Groups such as Order My Steps and PURPOSE.

Those women who have completed their stay at Fairview have also been matched with some of the female mentors that are a part of the Faith Based program and some are doing well and looking forward to getting their lives together. We would like to thank the staff at Fairview for their continuous support of the Faith-Based Initiative.



#### Congratulations—New SCSOs

Article submitted by: Natasha Gross, Cluster C Coordinator & Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

Cluster C would like to congratulate Officer Trina Stewart and Matthew Hudson for being our CSOs of the year.

Officer Stewart has been a very supportive and compassionate officer and advocate for our returning citizen community. She has participated in many of the Faith-Based Initiative programs and trainings. Being a native Washingtonian, she is truly a person who loves DC and is determined to make a difference in her community and the District as a whole. Cluster C would like to thank Officer Stewart for her dedication and her time encouraging, mentoring, and supporting our returning citizens who participate in the Faith-Based Initiative Mentoring Program.

Officer Hudson has continuously referred offenders to FBI, volunteered to assist at events and spoke on behalf of the program to other CSOs and audiences. Mr. Hudson is very committed to his clients and to CSOSA. He is currently assigned to the Female Unit at 25 K. Why would a male want to work with female offenders? Because, Mr. Hudson strives to find resources, connections and possibilities for everyone. He is a great role model of a progressive and responsible male figure.

We congratulate Ms. Stewart and Mr. Hudson on their promotions to Supervisory Community Supervision Officers in December 2011. Keep the referrals coming to the Faith-Based Initiative, we know that you will inspire your CSO Teams to your level of excellence.

#### Lifetime Makeover

Lifetime Makeover also referred to as LTMO, is the newest of CSOSA's Faith-Based Initiative, Special Emphasis Programs. LTMO is an eight to ten week course that focuses on women's self-esteem and empowerment. During the course, facilitators are able to interact with and expose the women to many different topics, such as: healthcare, diet & exercise, budget & finance, goal setting, parenting skills, and dressing for success. One of the key components of LTMO is the group covenant and the commitment each participant, and the facilitators included, make during the first session. The facilitators constantly reinforce the importance of being true to your word and the covenant is a reminder of that. As a result, the clients who are referred to LTMO continue to work daily on accountability and responsibility beyond the conclusion of the course.

Near the end of LTMO the facilitators take each of the women to *Suited for Change* (a local suiting organization) where they receive two outfits that will prepare them for job searches and going on interviews. After going to *Suited for Change*, the women also participate in The Lifetime Makeover Lunchtime Fashion Show, where they are able to strut their stuff and share their newly identified goals with family, friends and their Community Supervision Officers. Lifetime Makeover began in May of 2011, and has since had three sessions and successfully graduated 30 women.

Yvonne Branch is a mentee who was referred to the Faith-Based through the Lifetime Makeover Special Emphasis Program as a Service Only Client. From the very beginning Ms. Branch has taken ownership of her recovery and encouraged her fellow Lifetime Makeover classmates to do the same. In fact Ms. Branch also volunteered to participate in the *Order My Step Women's Relapse Prevention Group* where she also played a major role in encouraging others.

During one of our many sessions on goal setting Ms. Branch (a middle aged woman) alluded to the fact that she would like to pursue her G.E.D. Hearing this the facilitators of Lifetime Makeover decided that they would encourage her to reach her goals. We are proud to report that Ms. Branch has been attending CSOSA's V.O.T.E.E. Learning Lab at 25 K Street, NE Washington, DC and has plans to enroll in a Stay Program upon the completion of her supervision.



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#### Looking Back Over the Year—2011 Photo Album 🐇

#### By Hallem Williams, Senior Program Analyst

CSOSA, it's clients and the community-at-large have been blessed by the opportunities, displays of love and commitment to helping these men and women turn their lives around as they become law-abiding contributors to this, our nation's capital. Through the dedication and professionalism of the CSOSA staff and that of our participating faith institutions we have demonstrated to our clients that crime and prison life are not their manifest destiny. Through mentoring and a carefully scripted array of pro-social opportunities their options have been highlighted and expanded.

Focusing on strengthening family relationships, healing from grief, empowerment, cultural enhancement, life skills and relapse prevention FBI was most prosperous in 2011. In terms of cultural enhancement and pro-social skills there were tours, parades and fashion shows.

As the availability of helpful resources continues to be a vital component of the FBI, CSOSA hosted a Service Providers' Fair to enable service providers to display their programs and resources for probationer and parolees to utilize. There was a conscious effort to share opportunities for our citizens to exercise their lawful rights. For example, they participated in the 2011 Parade honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and attended a forum sponsored by the US Attorney for the District of Columbia dealing with the expungement of certain criminal records. Enjoy the pictures!!!!





Justice Sunday 2011 @ Greater Mt. Calvary Holy



Special Emphasis Program — Mass Graduation (9/27/11)



July 14, 2011

(Right) Mass Graduation & Citywide Mentor Meeting

(Left) St. Teresa of Arila Dance Ministry

Lifetime Makeover Dress for Success Fashion Show (12/21/11)



Holiday Meals for Mentees — Team 24 CSOs Rock!!!!



Celebrating Mentors 2011 — Cluster B's Mentors/Staff





Lifetime Makeover Dress for Success Fashion Show (12/21/11)

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## Looking Back Over the Year — 2011 Photo Album



Family Reunification Says Good Bye to Former CSO Christopher Ayers and Thanked Him for his Support of the Family Reunification Program



Call to Serve – Victims of Crime Work Group



Cluster B Leadership



Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton speaks at 2011 Women's Event





Carol Fleming, Mentor

Initiates FBI's Mentor as Tutors Program for CSOSA's Learning Lab

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#### **Grant Opportunities**

On January 12, 2012, the Secretary of U. S. Department of Labor (USDOL) announced the availability of grant funds to assist former offenders who are returning to their communities. The Secretary stated that grantees will provide job training and employment preparation assistance, mentoring and connections to support services such as housing, substance abuse programs and mental health treatment.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations (faith based institutions) that are located or have existing staff in the highpoverty, high crime communities they propose to serve.

For further information about this grant competition contact:

A'shanti F. Glolar, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Office of Public Engagement, www.dol.gov/OPE.

In addition to the aforementioned grant competition the USDOL expects to award 17 grants to organizations providing training, employment and support services to adult former inmates returning to their communities. The solicitation for this and other federal grant applications are published in the Federal Register's public inspection page.

The Federal Register is published daily as a hard copy or electronic document. I is compiled by the Office of the Federal Register, within the National Archives and Records Administration and is printed by the US Government Printing Office. It is the main source of federal regulations. It is the daily Federal Journal of The United States Government. It is organized into four parts:

Presidential documents Rules and Regulation Proposed Rules, and Notices, including hearings and grant applications

To purchase a current or back issue of the Register you may contact the United States Printing Office. There is an annual subscription of \$929.00. Each edition may be purchased for between \$11.00 and \$33.00, depending on its size. However the Federal Register is available on-line, and can be accessed through federal depository libraries on paper or electronically. In fact, in 2009 a free, searchable website was created for the Federal Register articles from 1996 until the present time.

For further information you may contact the Federal Register at:

800 North Capitol St., NW Washington, DC 20001 202/741-6000

The email address is: fedreginfo@nara.gov

\*



#### **Grant Types**

There are basically two types of grants:

\*Discretionary Grants (Direct and Block)

Direct Awards to faith based or community based organizations (grantees) from a Federal Agency; and

Block Grants - the Federal Government makes an award to a state or local government, including DC, which reviews local grant proposals and awards grants to faith based and other organizations that are in line with the local plan and strategy.

For example, Faith Institutions are eligible to apply for USDOJ's Sub Contracts or Block Grants from a DC agency. There is a Directory of State and Local Formula Grant opportunities (including DC) that is published periodically.

All Federal Grants must be announced to the public. These announcements are sometimes referred to as Requests for Proposals or notices of funding availability or solicitations for grants. These announcements are announced throughout the fiscal year and sometimes not issued on a systematic basis.

Most Federal Agencies have experts who are available to help organizations apply for and manage their grants. CSOSA has and will continue to seek out grant opportunities for faith institutions in the District of Columbia.

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#### **Grant Opportunities (continued)**

#### The Importance of the DUNS Number to Grant Applications

What, you may ask, what are the grant categories and how can my faith institution or community based organization prepare and compete for them?

In the first place, there is a list of criteria that must be satisfied as pre-requisite to declaration of your organization's eligibility to compete for grant funds:

\*Does your organization have a DUNS (government grant identifier) number?

It usually takes a day to get a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet. Pay no fee and do not purchase anything. If relevant, call 1-866-705-5711, tell the operator that you are applying for a federal grant and need to register for a DUNS number. The operator will ask several questions like organization's name, who you are, organization's purpose, and number of employees.

Having a DUNS number will not guarantee that you will win a Federal Contract. It helps you to compete on a more even footing with your completion.

The Federal Government requires organizations to provide a DUNS Number as part of its grant applications and proposals.

D & B is arguably the most consulted business credit reporting agency. There is no charge for a DUNS number. Dun and Bradstreet is a company that provides business information for credit, marketing and purchasing decisions. US Office of Management and Budget has adopted the use of DUNS numbers as a way to keep track of how federal grant money is awarded

\*Does your institution have experience with grants administration?

\*Who is your grant administer/contact?

#### 2011 Mentor Matching Report Card



Article submitted 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 December 31, 2011, the following report was filed for the record for referrals received in 2011:

 $Cluster \ A-86$ 

Cluster B— 73

Congratulations to the Clusters



TOTAL— 244 matches







We commend our Cluster Coordinators, their staff, and the mentors and the mentee for making the commitment to working together for change.





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## **Mentor Training Schedule**



#### March 2012

Saturday

Mentor Orientation Training &

March 17, 2012

Signal S

#### March 2012

Saturday
March 24, 2012
8:30 p.m.—3:00
p.m.

Correctional Behavioral
Interventions Training

(for Cluster Staff and Special
Emphasis Facilitators)

#### **April 2012**

Saturday

April 28, 2012

Communication Training &

8:30am -3:00pm

Re-Entry & Sanctions Center

1900 Mass. Ave., SE, WDC
(next to the D. C. Jail)

#### September 2012

Saturday,	Mentor Orientation Training and
September	Communication Training
15, 2012	Re-Entry & Sanctions Center
8:30am—	1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)
3:30 p.m.	

#### **May 2012**

Saturday
Mentor Orientation Training &

May 19, 2012
Communication Training
8:30am -4:00pm
Re-Entry & Sanctions Center
1900 Mass. Ave., SE, WDC
(next to the D. C. Jail)

#### **June 2012**

Saturday Special Emphasis Training June 9, 2012 "So, You Want a Grant?" 8:30am— (Open admission, please register with 3:00p.m.Cluster Coordinators) **Mentor Orientation Training &** Saturday Communication Training June 16, Re-Entry & Sanctions Center 2012 1900 Mass. Ave., SE, WDC 8:30am— (next to the D. C. Jail) 3:30 p.m.



Elmira Gwynn, FBI Training Specialist

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Nancy Ware, Director, CSOSA

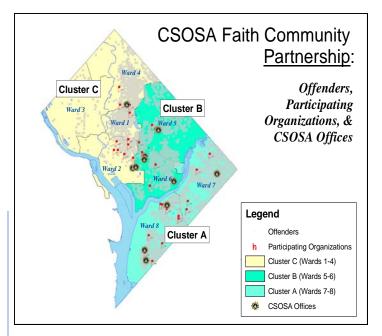
Jasper Ormond, Associate Director Phone: 202-220-5320 Fax: 202-220-5316

> Faith-Based Initiative Team CSOSA Community Justice Programs 633 Indiana Avenue, NW 13th floor

## Citywide Advisory Council's (CWAC) <u>Executive Committee</u>

- \* Rev. Donald L. Isaac, President (East of the River Clergy and Police Partnership)
- \* Rev. Morris L. Shearin, Vice President (Israel Baptist Church, Cluster C)
- \* Arch Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Secretary (Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church, Cluster B)
- \* Rev. Christine Y. Wiley, Parliamentarian (Covenant Bap. Church of Christ, Cluster A)
- \* Rev. Christine Y. Wiley, Parliamentarian (Covenant Bap. Church of Christ, Cluster A)

FBI Journal produced by: Community Justice Programs (CJP), Faith-Based Initiative Program





#### 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

Hallem Williams

Senior Program Analyst

 ${\bf 202 \hbox{-} 220 \hbox{-} 5306}$ 

hal.williams@csosa.gov

~

**The Cluster Coordinators** 

(Contact information provided within.)