FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE



Faith-Based Initiative

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency



Volume 3, Issue 2

July 2010



By Sondra Hunt, Special Assistant

On the evening of March 30, 2010, Pastor Graylon Freeman and his lovely wife graciously welcomed CSOSA and its faith partners to the 13th Street Baptist Church in NW Washington DC. We celebrated the honorees who were recognized for their accomplishments in CSOSA's Special Emphasis Quarterly efforts to welcome its re-entering citizens back home. The music was inspiring, the fellowship was wholesome and the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood reverberated throughout the evening. It was truly an evening to remember.

CSOSA and its faith partners also celebrated the awesome contributions made city wide by men and women of faith during 2010. These men and women gave tirelessly by helping reentering men and women to whom they were assigned to be mentors (life coaches).

The re entrants and their families were comforted in knowing that people of goodwill were there for them. The future looks bright as we seek to help these citizens stay home.

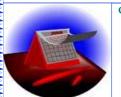
Summer Edition

City-Wide Cluster Coordinator Meeting (see page 11)

July 23, 2010

Keynote Speaker—Mr. Ronald C. Machen Jr., U.S. Attorney for D.C.

Mark Your Calendar



 ${\bf Quarterly\ Special\ Emphasis\ Graduation/Accomplishment\ Event}$

Balm in Gilead Ministry

4025 9th St. SE

Washington, D.C. 20032 (see page 2)



Moving on With My Life—With the Help of Others

By Mr. Hill, Cluster B Mentee

This is my story. My name is Mr. Hill. I'm 35 years old and I'm a convicted felon. I currently have 8 years left on parole for my role in a 1991 shooting that resulted in the death of another man.

On December 21, 1991, myself and my best friend Eddie were hanging out on 14th and Columbia Road N.W. I was 17 and Eddie was 16. Although we were young, we enjoyed the company of the older guys. That would prove to be a big mistake. On this particular night, Eddie and I decided to walk down to Columbia Rd to see if we could find a friend of ours. We ended up running into an older guy (older than us at least) named Burt who didn't care for Eddie or myself too much. This was in part because we wouldn't sell his product on the streets. You see, we were "independent hustlers". So, every time we ran into this guy he would provoke an argument by saying offensive and disrespectful things. Well this night was no different except this time Eddie had a gun on him. Burt started usual and I responded by being equally immature and disrespectful.

Then it happened as fast as the snap of a finger. Burt pulled a knife, Eddie pulled a gun. This was "knife at a gun fight" literally. One shot was fired and Burt was hit in the throat. I was frozen with shock and the consequences registered so I ran. Eddie caught up with me a block away. When we stopped running, we were headed to a friend's apartment. After I was safely inside I started to calm down. My mind knew that my life had just changed forever. Not for something I'd done, but because of the decision Eddie made. If I had the gun I'm not sure I would have made the same decision. Things got bad fast. Witnesses led the police and homicide detectives to where we were "chillin" which confirmed that Burt was dead. (cont. page 10)



Mr. Hill and Tamara Caldwell, CSOSA Counselor-RSC

Call to Action - 2010

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Theme:

"Celebrating Our Mission to Serve"

Speakers, Exhibits, Workshops, Returning Citizen's Panel, Music, Lunch and much more!!!!

8:30a.m.—3:00p.m.

Kellogg Center-Gallaudet College

By Sondra Hunt, Special Assistant



This event is an annual conference designed to call the faith-community together in a forum of dialogue and action. Through workshops, speakers, action planning, stimulating presentations and reflections, we will strategically plan for the next phase of our work with and for re-entrants. Come join us and share your concerns, ideas, and creativity. All faith-based institutions are invited and re-entrants/mentees are strongly encouraged to attend.

"COME CELEBRATE"

MASS ACCOMPLISHMENT/GRADUATION- By Chris Keels, Faith-Based Team Leader

On July, 20, 2010, join us at Balm In Gilead Ministry, at 4025 9th Street SE, Washington, DC 20032 for a celebration of mentees who have successfully completed the SE Parenting Class, Family Reunification, Celebrating New Life – Men's Relapse Prevention Group, Healing From Within-Grief Counseling Group and Order My Steps—Women's Relapse Prevention Group. Come and help us celebrating the accomplishments of our mentees and the reward of mentoring.

July 20, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

Balm in Gilead Ministry

Cluster Coordinators

By Sondra Hunt, COTR

CLUSTER A

REV. KELLY WILKINS

COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH

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 Fun Summer



Cluster C

DEACON MARY DOUGLASS

METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH DAPRP

•••••

MPDOUGLASS@DAPRP.ORG

202-223-0581

MICHELLE ROSE - MROSE@DAPRP.ORG

NEW CITY-WIDE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

202-223-0581

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE PAGE 9

Pro-Social is the Way to Go!

New People, Places and Things

By Christine D. Keels, Supervisory Program Analyst

Occasionally, everyone needs to re-organize our time, people, places and things. In our society, it is called spring cleaning when it deals with your home. Well, the FBI is expanding the concept of change throughout the summer. Forget about house cleaning, we can do that during the next snow storm. But let's get out and have some fun mentors and mentees.



In the next column, you see a listing of exciting pro-social events. Mr. Thomas H. Williams, Associate Director for Community Supervision Services and the Faith-Based Initiative invites you to get out into the community and meet some new people, experience some new places and learn something new. Each event is designed for public enjoyment and they are FREE. The District is such a rich mecca of beauty, culture and graceful living. These family activities are here for you and plus CSOSA will give each re-entrant a contact credit (one less time a re-entrant has to report to CSOSA that month) if approved by the Community Supervision Officer. The re-entrant must sign in at the event with the CSOSA representative. Check with Hallem.williams@csosa.gov or 202-220-5306 for more information. Have fun in the sun and in the cool this summer.



Women's Event—Re-Entry Reflections 2010

By: Ta'Kia Jackson,

Program Support Specialist

On May 1, 2010, CSOSA sponsored the 2010 Women's Re-Entry Event at Temple of Praise Church in SE. The gathering was one to remember. The day started with the arrival of women from the Fairview Halfway House, an opening plenary, and workshops. The women were encouraged to bring their children and play and learn together.

The day had various workshops including how to apply makeup,



exercising, hair care, a luncheon, and motivational speaker.

After demonstration, the participants joined in and helped to apply make-up, demonstrate exercises, and styled hair. Some of the activities were led by persons on supervision with CSOSA, so this was great peer sharing.



Summer Calendar of Pro-Social Events for Mentors & Mentees:

- Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, Inc.'s Job Fair—Tuesday, August 10, 2010, 10am
 12pm at 3939 Benning Road NE202-396-1201
- Free Gospel Yoga Classes—Saturdays, June 12-July 31, 2010, 9:30am—10:30am at Covenant Baptist Church 3845 S. Capitol St. SW202-562-5576
- Free Summer Movie—North Capitol Collaborative Family Support Center, July 9th, July 23rd, August 6th and August 20, 2010, 2:00pm-4p.m. at 113 Q St. NW.....202-299-0031
- Free—An Evening of Music and Verse—July 18th, 2010, 6pm at Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Free ticket must be picked up in advance of the event. www.kennedy-center.org/millennium
- Free—An Evening of Classical Works and Popular Songs, featuring Smokey Robinson—July 20, 2010, 6pmat Kennedy Center Concert Hall. Free ticket must be picked up in advance of the event. www.kennedycenter.org/millennium

Mark Your Calendar



Ms. Amy Barnes' speech shared her struggles with domestic violence and her road to self-employment and self-esteem.

The women who attended the program developed covenants that were laminated with their pictures and words to give to their loved ones. The covenant outlined what promises they would keep with their families and specifically their children. What a great way to prepare for Mother's Day and reentering the community.



PURPOSE Graduation

-By Mignone Gray-Willis, Program Facilitator

The Women's P.U.R.P.O.S.E. Empowerment Group held its first graduation Monday, May 3, 2010 at Covenant Baptist Church, located in South West Washington, DC. The group was created to empower women to take the necessary life changing steps to develop self-assessment, self-acceptance, the openness to change, and the faith to speak their goals, dreams and ambitions into reality. Each of the eight graduates took to the stage and spoke on the impact P.U.R.P.O.S.E. has made in their lives thus far. One graduate, Tonya Mackey, said "The purpose of the group to me means being able to share our experiences and help other women to open up and share".

Mackey, like the rest of this first graduating class, completed the seventeen week P.U.R.P.O.S.E. workshop designed to support women as they embark on a journey of transformation into their purpose. The program focuses on removing barriers, life planning, building self-esteem, learning how to live, understanding emotions, easing pain without medication and removing the "buts" in participant's lives.

The next group session began meeting on Monday, June 7, 2010 and already has grown by one-third of its original size. This is a true indication of the existing need for additional women's support programs.





As the founder and facilitator of the Women's P.U.R.P.O.S.E. Empowerment Group, I am deeply committed to making a sustainable impact in the lives of women who face a variety of barriers to reunification with themselves, their families, and ultimately society. If there is a women in your network who you feel would benefit from participating in the group or you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Mignonne Willis-Gray

Email: gbsmgtsys@comcast.net

Putting the Pieces Back Together Again—Relationship Restoration Group's Graduation by—Denise Sadler, Program Coordinator

Balm In Gilead Ministry (BIGM) and CSOSA graduated their second class from the Relationship Restoration Program on Tuesday April 27, 2010.

In October 2009, BIGM formed a partnership with CSOSA. The purpose of this partnership was to provide relationship restoration development assistance for offenders returning to the community. The program seeks to begin the process of mak-

ing relationships whole and developing new relationships. The program provides relationship re-entry services: classes, workshops, restoration planning, and service of reunification.

The program meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. The program consist of 5 classes and a graduation ceremony. Each student receives a certificate of completion from BIGM and CSOSA after completing the 5 classes.



Pictured above from left to right is Pastor Walter J. Sadler, Zachary Hughes, Michael Alston, Timothy Howard, Milton Robinson, and Kenneth Perkins.

New City-Wide Outreach Coordinator by: Sondra Hunt, COTR



In 2010, we welcomed Mary Douglass as the new City-Wide Outreach Coordinator. Ms. Douglass has recently been appointed the Cluster C Coordinator. Daniel A. Payne Reclamation Program has hired *Ms. Michelle Yevette Rose* to be the new City-Wide Outreach Coordinator.

Ms. Rose, received a certificate of law (Juris Doctorate and Family Law) from Howard University of Law. Ms. Rose comes with clear understanding of the clientele that we work with the and barriers to their re-entry. She has also worked with DC Rape Crisis Center's Hotline. Please join CSOSA and DAPRP in welcoming Ms. Rose.



FBI is Crossing Borders



-By Hallem Williams, Senior Program Analyst

CSOSA is overjoyed by the opportunities that has recently been consummated for the benefit of some of some of its re-entering women. Ft. Foote Baptist Church located in Fort Washington, Maryland has entered into an agreement with CSOSA and the DC-based not-for-profit, Our Place Program to provide a range of services for reentering women and their families.

Rev. Joseph W. Lyles, the Pastor of Fort Foote Baptist Church, expressed his joy at being able to offer support to these women and their families through volunteer mentors and other outreach ministries offered by his Church and others throughout the county. The program will recruit and train one hundred (100) women of faith to lend a hand and a heart to these DC offenders. It has been noted that the jurisdictional boundaries are somewhat artificial and that the benefits realized in one jurisdiction accrue to all within the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA).

CSOSA, Our Place and the Faith Institutions in Ft. Washington Maryland are optimistic that the range of programs and services to be offered will assist those in need.

-By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

Continuing with the commitment of Fort Foote, Sylvia Stokes, the Program Coordinator has organized efforts with churches in Maryland and Virginia to provide services and mentoring to D.C. offenders. To that end, an organization entitled The Interstate Alliance of Faith-Based Institutions has been formed with the *mission of seeking to empower, unite, and develop supportive programs for incarcerated women and their families that will establish successful re-entry into communities.* The organization is planning the following conference:

Interstate Alliance of Faith-Based Institutions



First Annual Conference in 2011

"Ordering Our Steps for Re-Entrants"

Fort Foote Baptist Church

Fort Washington, MD. 20744

Purpose Statement: The Interstate Alliance of Faith-Based Institutions' First Annual Conference is geared toward providing an opportunity for faith-based institutions, service providers, re-entrants and criminal justice officials to come together from Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, District of Columbia, and West Virginia to discuss, advocate, plan for re-entry to our communities for and with ex-offenders. For more information contact sstokes@fortfootebc.org

-By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

FBI is Crossing Borders cont.

On May 20, 2010, FBI responded to an invitation from the Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc to present at a Community Resource Day to offenders that are on supervision with CSOSA, but have been detained on charges in the P. G. County and Maryland offenders who are anticipating inter-state compact transfer to the District.

Staff of the P.G County Detention Center and the inmates were very impressed with the programs and opportunities offered for re-entrants by CSOSA and it's faith-partners. Continually, we heard the call for such a program in Maryland.

Assessment were completed on the needs of offenders that will be supervised by CSOSA and mentoring plans and services are in process. We are proud to say that this will allow CSOSA to maintain contact with monitored cases in another jurisdiction and will allow us to begin services with those returning person .90-120 days before release from custody.

-By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader



Sunday, June 6th was a day of Joy for FBI

Cluster A - I provided a greeting at the Women's Day at Balm in Gilead and Rev. Kelly Wilkins (Cluster A Coordinator), wrote and delivered a wonderful poem.

Cluster B – Rev. Bernard Keels, (mentor) spoke at Ebenzer United Methodist Church as the minister for the morning service where he saluted the church for their involvement in FBI and led a workshop after church on how to expand their ministry. At Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church, Elder Howard Moore, Cluster B Coordinator introduced, The Amazing Gospel Souls. This singing group was formed at Lorton Correctional Facility in 1980, and some of its members completed CSOSA's mentor training and now serve as mentors under Cluster B, to which the congregation gave a thunderous applause.

Cluster C – I spoke at 13 St Church of Christ and recruited 25 mentors with the assistance of Dr. Lloyd Fennell, (Cluster C Interim Coordinator) and Guy Charity (Metropolitan AME).

Go Faith-Based!!!!, Go Faith-Based!!!!, Go Faith-Based!!!!

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Shopping for Resource for Clients—By Mary Douglass, City-Wide Outreach Coordinator

In the early spring of the year, planning commenced for a comprehensive program filled with a variety of activities and participants as an enhancement to solidify and to improve relationships and communications between FBI Service Providers and CSOSA. The team effort culminated on June 9, 2010 at a Service Provider Fair held by the Faith Based Initiative (FBI) in Northwest. It was a tremendous effort, a successful event that focused on making all parties knowledgeable and aware of the myriad of services available to returning citizens, such housing, apparel, job training, other educational opportunities and the like. *The event featured over twenty providers*.

The fair was a follow up to the January Service Provider meeting where the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis report was presented. The analysis was an assessment of the FBI attempts to meet twelve basis needs of ex-offenders in order to improve the quality of life for those under supervision with CSOSA in the District of Columbia: job coaching, family reunification, gang intervention, pro-social skills, grief counseling, relapse prevention, housing, relationship counseling, healthcare, post traumatic stress relief, financial management and entrepreneurship. The fair was a way to help respond to the SWOT analysis and seize the opportunity to minimize the weakness and threats by focusing on and providing an opportunity for: (1) CSOs and service providers to get to know one another and the services that are available (2) all to improve their strengths and help alleviate the weakness and threats.

More than thirty (30) CSOs came to gather information on services that will enable them to better construct a reentry plan for their clients be it a need for housing, getting a GED, clothing, job training, or other services. The overwhelming positive response has necessitated plans for another Fair in the fall, temporarily scheduled for October 6, 2010 at CSOSA's Re-Entry and Sanction Center, 1900 Massachusetts Ave., SE (near DC jail).



HOW COMMUNITY SERVICE & FBI CHANGED ME

By Keisha Gilmore, Returning Citizen

Doing community service in the church has changed me for the better. When I started probation, I was really angry. Angry at the Community Supervision Officer (CSO) for not communicating with me like a human being. Angry that others on probation were getting services I needed that my CSO never told me about. I was just plain angry.

I met my last CSO, Mr. Keone Thomas, and everything was as it should've been in the first place. Finally, I felt like someone was listening to me and actually cared about my plight. After three different CSO's failed me, he came in and motivated me and got me started with my community service.

That's when Covenant Baptist Church came into play. Meeting Rev. Kelly Wilkins, Ms. Betty Boyd, Ronnie Corsey, and Minister Debra Camphor was unbelievable... they showed me nothing but love. What shocked me most of all were the Pastors. Of all the churches I've been to, the pastors are always shut away from everyone like they were too precious to meet a stranger. Not so with Pastors Dennis and Christine Wiley, Covenant Baptist Church. Since day one, I was greeted by them with a warm hug and a smile. I told them my name once and they never forgot it. My views of church has changed drastically.

Even though I am done with community service and I was released from supervision early, I continue to volunteer at Covenant Baptist Church. I recently joined Covenant on Easter Sunday. I will be baptized for the first time in my life, so I am really proud of that. It makes me feel good to be around positive people and makes me want to do all positive things in my life. I am so glad I had the opportunity to do my community service at Covenant Baptist Church. Had I not done my service at Covenant, I don't think I would have such a positive outlook on how I want to live my life.

For that, I am eternally grateful.

2010 Allied Professional Award—CSOSA

On April 14, 2010, the Congressional Victim Caucus Awarded to a CSOSA employee the 2010 Allied Professional Award. Christine D. Keels was presented the award at Capitol Hill. Ms. Keels was nominated by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton, for her outstanding work in the area of program development and global initiatives related to victim's rights.

On April 15, 2010, the FBI participated in the Justice Department's recognition program by attending and presenting a display.Ms. Keels celebrated with a host of co-workers, friends and relative. You will hear more about her efforts as the FBI team develops an initiative entitled, Call to Service, which is being designed to assist faith-based institutions in working with victims of crime.



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Mentor Training Schedule

By Elmira Gwynn, Training Specialist-FBI



September 2010

Saturday,

September 18, 2010

8:30am -4:00pm

Mentor Orientation Training and

Communication Training

Re-Entry & Sanctions Cen-

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

September 201

September 9, 2010

6:00p.m.—9:00 p.m.

For a Negative Results— Substance Abuse Prevention

Re-Entry & Sanctions Center

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

October 201

Wednesday, October

6, 2010

Special Emphasis Training

"Effective Grief Counseling"

1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to

6:00p.m.-9:00p.m.

Re-Entry & Sanctions Center

the D. C. Jail)

October 20

Saturday, October 23, 2010

8:30am -4:00pm

Communication Training

Re-Entry & Sanctions Center

1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the

D. C. Jail)

November 2010

Saturday, November 20, 2010

Mentor Orientation Training and

Communication Training

Re-Entry & Sanctions Center

8:30am -4:00pm

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

December 2010

Satur-

day, December 11, 2010 Mentor Orientation Training and

Communication Training

Re-Entry & Sanctions Center

8:30am -4:00pm

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 has faithfully assisted offenders in being matched with mentors. As of May 31, 2010, the following report was filed for the record:

Cluster A - 116

Cluster B—95

 $\underline{\text{Cluster C} - 79}$

Congratulations to the Clusters





TOTAL—290 matches



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

By Elder Howard Moore, Cluster B Coordinator

Cluster B has experienced growth each year of the partnership with CSOSA. Not only have the number of Faith partners and Service Providers increased, but the leadership of the Cluster has been recognized and elevated. Evangelist Howard Moore, the Cluster B Coordinator, was elevated to the position of a licensed, ordained Elder of Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church in May 2010. Elder Moore has served as the Executive Director of the Prison Ministry at Greater Mt. Calvary for 2 years. He began working in the Prison Ministry more than 10 years ago, and has witnessed the continued growth of the ministry as a whole, as well as the continued awareness and support of this ministry within the community as a whole. Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church, under the Pastor ship of Archbishop Alfred A. Owens and Co-Pastor Susie C. Owens, saw the need for creating this ministry more than 20 years ago and has been at the forefront of working to provide services and resources to help ex-offenders.

Also elevated from Minister to licensed, ordained Elder in 2008 is Rev. Cheryl Mercer, Associate Cluster B Coordinator, and Associate Director of GMCHC Prison Ministry. Rev. Mercer, a retired educator as well as an Urban Ministry Major of Social Justice from Wesley Theological Seminary, joined the Prison Ministry after volunteering to teach Life Skills at one of the Youth Detention Centers that housed an increasing number of her former students who were disappearing from the public school rolls.

Program Coordinator, Minister Anthony Keith, was elevated to the Office of Evangelist in 2008. Evangelist Keith has served as the program coordinator for GMCHC Prison Ministry's Reintegration Support Group Initiative, which was formed as a prisoner aftercare resource for returning citizens and their families. Under the direction of Evangelist Keith, facilitators teach various curriculum topics needed to assist the clients as they return to their communities.

There was an additional member of the Cluster who was also elevated in May 2010. Mr. Guy Starling, who has worked as a mentor of CSOSA, became Minister Guy Starling. For many years, Minister Starling served as a Deacon at GMCHC.

Cluster B is indeed blessed to have so many well equipped leaders associated with CSOSA's Faith Based Initiative's Wards 5 and 6.



An Accounting—The Census

By Elder Howard Moore, Cluster B Coordinator

On March 17 & 18th, the FBI sponsored our Quarterly Reviews for Community Supervision Officers and the Clusters to review matched cases. Our speaker for this event was Ms. Lisa Shaw from the U. S. Census Bureau. Ms. Shaw focused on the importance of everyone being counted. Such a counting, allows for more services and opportunities to enter the District of Columbia to benefit our communities. which includes re-entrants. This is not the first time that there has been an accounting of the citizenry. Records exist to show that Roman-controlled Egypt had begun a census as early as 10 B.C. and it was repeated every 14 years. Indeed, it seems that Caesar Augustus was the type of leader who ordered many censuses in his day. Let us use our leadership skills to ensure that everyone registers for the U.S. Census. Keep in mind in D.C., re-entrants are citizens and should exercise all of their rights as citizen. Contact the U. S. Census Bureau at www.census.dc.gov for more information on how to register.

Operation Community Shield Presentation - MPD

By Elder Howard Moore, Cluster B Coordinator

Branch IV of CSOSA held a call out to offenders to remind them of their responsibilities on supervision. The Metropolitan Police Department was available to talk about accountability tours, hot spots in the city and crime prevention.

CSOSA's Community Supervision
Officers were there to remind the offenders of their releasing orders and to gauge whether there are concerns
or questions.

The Faith-Based Initiative was there, represented by Elder Howard Moore, Cluster Coordinator—Cluster B. FBI shared it's programs and concept as a way of reaching out and providing services.

The offenders were brought into a CSOSA facility on a hot evening to get further aide in their re-entry. It may have been hot on outside, but it was cool in the room!!

******************** * Cluster Spotlights– C * *******

By—Joan Rajah, Program Coordinator—13th St. Church of Christ

"A bay-bay!" was the exclamation heard as clients and facilitators entered the Court Services conference room on Taylor St., NW. for their "Order My Steps" relapse prevention session. The phrase really a variation on the word "baby" came to be used as a term of endearment, and actually was used as several different parts of speech, e.g., a noun, adjective, but mostly as an exclamation. Picked up from one of the clients, it was used more frequently after the ladies bonded. They bonded as they discussed and experienced real life application to such topics as having a mission, changing the way we think to change behavior, being proactive, and taking ownership rather than being a victim

It wasn't always that way. The first class started with about fifteen people and ended up with six faithful members who would call each other to make sure they showed up. It started as a "have to" and ended as a "want to," a choice made by some of participants who were resistant. The relapse prevention program, "Order My Steps" is a support system designed to help clients free themselves from the bonds of drug dependence to the freedom of responsibility and productivity. Once the light bulb came on, they wanted to attend. And, they wanted mentors.

We need more mentors to help clients order their steps, as pointed out by Christine Keels, Faith Based Initiative Team Leader, as she spoke to the 13th Street church of Christ recently. After hearing Graylon Freeman, Minister, emphasize the importance of water, water, water to salvation and the start of a new life, Mrs. Keels challenged the congregation to "wade in the water" of mentoring and not be afraid to get a wet. She encouraged them to help someone else get "immersed" in a new way of thinking and behaving and come up a new "creature," a productive member of society.

And, when that happens, "A BAY-BAY!!"

Calling for All Mentors—273 Sellmon Cases

By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader



District of Columbia inmates in Sellmon v. Reilly brought a court action against the US Parole Commission (USPC) alleging that USPC retroactively applied its own parole guidelines and practices in violation of the Ex Post Facto Clause of the US Constitution.

The District Court held that the inmates established a prima facie case of an ex post facto violation resulting from the retroactive application of the USPC guideline regime, rather than the DC Parole Board's guideline regime; however, only those inmates who demonstrated that the practical effect of the practice was to substantially increase the risk that they each would serve lengthier terms of incarceration were entitled to relief on their ex post facto claims. With respect to these inmates, the USPC began conducting hearings for each of them in order to determine whether they should be released. Many have been released early as the result.

CSOSA began receiving the Sellmon cases for community supervision in January 2010. All of these offenders will receive mentors to assist with their re-entry. The Sellmon offenders appear to be very committed to making a change in their lives. Some of the releases have secured jobs, housing, and other services within 60-days of release. We welcome these highly motivated individuals as they return to the District of Columbia.



FBI & Special Events

On Saturday, April 10, 2010, CSOSA's FBI, Community Relations Specialists and Community Service Program hit the streets passing out flyers related to the National Recognition of Victim's Rights Events, U. S. Census Campaign and recruiting for mentors. The mentors, CSOSA staff and offenders passed out over 1,500 flyers at the following metro stations: Anacostia Metro Station (Howard Rd. & Firth Sterling, SE).

Congress Heights Metro Station (13th & Alabama Ave., SE)

Deanwood Metro Station (4700 Minnesota Ave., NE)

Minnesota Avenue Metro Station (Grant Street & Minnesota Ave., NE)

Potomac Avenue Metro Station (13th and Penn. Ave., S.E.)

Benning Road Metro Station (Benning Road N.E. & E.Capitol S.E.)

Benning Road Library



Mr. Smalls, a Community Service Worker

The offenders were given credit for the hours as part of their court orders to complete community service. Mailings, flyer distribution, meetings and calls were made to support the above efforts.

On May 28, 2010, CSOSA received a thank you letter from the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs-Office of Victims of Crime, that indicated "the National Crime Victims' Rights Week's prelude ceremonies are among the most important events of the year for OVC, as demonstrated by the Attorney General's participation. Because of your support, people throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area were made aware of our unique and dignified events. It is efforts like yours that helped OVC to achieve its highest attendance for the NCVRW prelude events to date!" Joye E. Frost, Acting Director. We would like to thank the Community Service Program and the Community Relations Program for their continued support in the FBI's Special Events.



Hallem Williams, Senior Program Analyst



District of Columbia Receives \$10.6 Million Grant for Substance Abuse Prevention

The District of Columbia Government received a \$10.6 million grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to go towards substance abuse prevention. The grant, to be administered over 5 years, doubles the substance abuse prevention funds for the District.

The grant is part of the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant program administered by SAMHSA. The Funds will be used to expand and build on the existing substance abuse prevention infrastructure in the District. As part of the agreement, the infrastructure will be sustained after the funds expire guaranteeing a continuation of enhanced substance abuse prevention in the District.

For more information call: 202-340-7834

Moving on With My Life—With the Help of Others

Cont. from page one —-We were arrested, tried and convicted of manslaughter. Here's a lesson to all young black men – you do not have to be the shooter to be convicted of shooting somebody. All you have to do is be present. It's called aiding and abetting. I was convicted as if I had pulled the trigger. My young life had been taken away that fast. I was given a 22 year sentence and was sent to the Lorton Correctional complex, which was one of the most dangerous and corrupt prisons in the country. Everything that could happen there did happen there.

The next 8 years were a crash course in adulthood, survival and spirituality because I grew up, survived and developed a relationship with God at Lorton. I was far from a saint, but I knew I needed a higher power to survive that place. Words can't describe the psychological toll my conviction took on my mother who in spite of my shortcomings supported me unconditionally all my life. I was her strength even at a young age and now I was gone to big boy jail. What's funny is after serving 12 years of a 22 year sentence, I thought prison made me a man because I survived it, when in reality it made me a coward. Prison made me anti-social, I have trust issues, and I use to despise authority. I communicate well but I don't talk about my feelings. You see "real convicts" don't have feeling or show emotion because that's a so-called sign of weakness. In hind sight I know that after serving 9 1/2 years, these character defects caused me to make decisions that sent me back to prison 3 more times for parole violations related to drug use and compliance. Today I'm fresh off of a 12 month hit. Today I don't have the same core beliefs that I adopted in prison. I'm currently trying to do things the right way. I'm a proud father of two, a one year-old and a four year-old. I'm using my life experiences to help me lift myself and family. They're my AHA!! moment. I know clearly what I have to do. I'm no longer bitter. I'm hopeful and optimistic. Today I think like the people I use to despise. Like a man. A man on a mission.

Church and State





May 2010

On May 13, 2010, CSOSA spon-

sored a City-Wide Mentor Meeting at the Re-Entry Sanction Center (RSC). The focus of the meeting was to update our mentors on the FBI Special Emphasis Programming, provide cluster updates and to discuss what is the conflict between church and state. The speaker Ms. Jacquelyn Pressey, Professor, Morgan State University, shared her research on the fore-fathers intent in developing separation between church and state. Her interpretation indicated that the original intent was to protect the church from governmental involvement. The audience was challenged to learn from the history of educational institutions in avoiding working with governmental agencies geared toward social change and development.

Breaking the Cycle of Violence and Poverty



June 2010

On June 25, 2010, CSOSA sponsored a second City-Wide Mentor Meeting at the RSC. The focus of the meeting was again to update our mentors on current mentoring issues, to share best practices in mentoring and network. The keynote speaker was Mr. William Kellibrew IV, President of the Kellibrew Foundation. The speaker shared his story of victimization and his work to change the cycle of violence in our community. He challenged the mentors to use their love and unity to inspire mentees to live in peace and harmony.

Community—Concepts of Change



July 2010

Our next City-Wide Mentor Meeting will be held on Friday, July 23, 2010 at the RSC at 6:00p.m. The speaker is Mr. Ronald C. Machen Jr., U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. Join us as we discuss with the USAO—DC alternative ways handling disorder and crime prevention (see page 11).

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U.S. Attorney Office USAO_-DC Partners with FBI



On May 6, 2010, CSOSA hosted the U.S. Attorney Office for the District of Columbia in a presentation on the Faith-Based Initiative. Mr. Ronald C. Machen Jr., U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia expressed a commitment to work with CSOSA in addressing the needs of re-entrants. To that end, we will initiate our partnership with the following emphasis:

Mr. Albert Herring, Executive Assistance U. S. Attorney for External Affairs will assist with the facilitation of the Relationship Restoration Group entitled, "Putting the Pieces Back Together Again." Our distinguished keynote speaker for the

City-Wide Mentor Meeting

is Mr. Ronald C. Machen Jr., U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia

Friday, July 23rd at the Re-Entry & Sanctions Center, 1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail) at 6:00 p.m. Light Refreshments Served.

CSOSA will also work with USAO-DC in developing strategies for addressing conflict resolution in our communities and will ensure their presence at future FBI events and program. We are proud of this partnership as we work together to strengthen our communities with faith-based institutions and service providers.



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 202-345-4494

christine.keels@csosa.gov

or

Hallem Williams

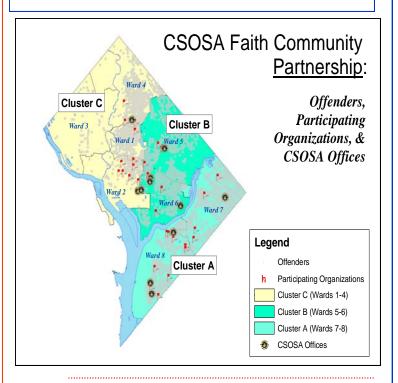
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The Cluster Coordinators (see pg 2)



Design Layout by Ta'Kia Jackson, Program Support Specialist