

# FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

# FBI JOURNAL

Faith-Based Initiative

*Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency*



Volume 3 Issue 2

May 2009

## Special Edition

Spring & Summer a Time for Training

### Mark Your Calendar

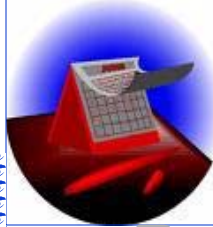
June 13, 2009 8:30am—4:00pm

Specialized Training—

Housing Training for Mentors

Re-Entry & Sanctions Center

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



*Paramount Housing Resource Assistance Center*

#### FBI Specialist Emphasis

By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

As a follow-up to our January 31, 2009, "Claiming Your Own-Home Sweet Home— Housing Conference", the FBI has opened a Housing Resource Assistance Center at Paramount Baptist Church. This committed faith-institution has met with CSOSA and Cluster A over a series of months to develop the concept. The Paramount Housing Resource Assistance Center (PHRAC) provides an assessment of needs, referrals and follow-up related to shelters, transitional housing apartments and house rental for re-entrants. The program began on April 6th, with a waiting list, as Community Supervision Officers (CSO) were excited about utilizing the services.

Continued on page 3

## Revive the Spirit 2009

From Cluster C's Reclaimer Newsletter

CSOSA's Faith-Based Initiative hosted the Revive the Spirit 2009 Conference: "New Hopes and New Opportunities" An Offender Empowerment Conference on Saturday February 21, 2009. This conference was the finale of an awesome Forty Days of Reentry, CSOSA's way of bringing attention to the issues and challenges facing reentrants in Washington, DC. The event was held at Foundry United Methodist Church in Cluster C which is a faith-institution that has been a long-time supporter of the FBI. The day began with a welcome from Rev. Dean Snyder, Pastor at Foundry.

The Morgan State University Christian Center's "Voices of Praise" offered musical selections throughout the day. This conference differed from other Forty Days of Reentry events as it is catered primarily to our mentees. Workshops ranged in topics such as Re-Entering the Family, the Second Chance Act and Substance Abuse Prevention. The guest speaker for the luncheon was the Honorable Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. of the U.S. District Court, who offered an awesome word about rising above circumstances, citing difficulties he had as a child growing up in Washington.



# Revive the Spirit 2009

The day ended with a recognition ceremony for the staff and participants of the CSOSA Faith-Based Initiative. East cluster recognized a CSO, mentor and mentee. Cluster C recognized Ms. Angela Peoples and her mentor Ms. Peggy Scott of St. Mary's Baptist Church.

The ladies were matched at the Order Our Steps Relapse Prevention Group that met at 1230 Taylor Street NW, where Angela was an active participant and very honest about her struggles to keep her family intact while battling her addiction. Peggy was a very supportive mentor and offered her words of love and encouragement to the ladies on a weekly basis. Angela's CSO, Ms. Trina Stewart was also recognized for her work as a group facilitator alongside Stacey Abraham, CSOSA Treatment Specialist and Tashia Chambers, Outreach Coordinator for the Faith- Based Initiative. Congratulations to All!



## "CELEBRATING YOU"



Mentor Recognition Program— by Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

As part of Revive the Spirit, the FBI took time to honor our mentors. To the left is Michael Thompson, a committed mentor from Foundry United Methodist Church and the staff of DAPRP. Below to the right is Mentor from Cluster B, along with mentee, the Cluster Coordinator and Valarie Canady, CSO.



## Cluster Coordinators

### CLUSTER A

**MINISTER KELLY WILKINS**

**COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH**

**KWILKINS@COVENANTBAPTISTDC.ORG**

**202-562-5576**

### CLUSTER B

**EVANGELIST HOWARD MOORE**

**GREATER MT. CALVARY HOLY CHURCH**

**MINHMOORE@VERIZON.NET**

**301-641-3763**

### CLUSTER C

**REV. KAREN HARRISON**

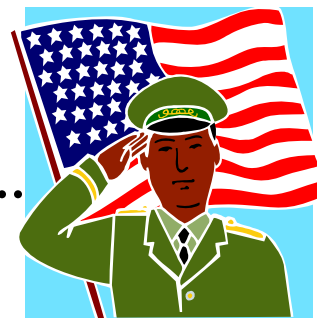
**METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH DAPRP**

**KHARRISON@DAPRP.ORG**

**202-462-1360**



.....  
 Call us or e-mail we would love to hear from you. You are special to us! Happy Mother's Day and Please Remember our Veterans



## Are You Prepared to Change?

By Chris Keels, FBI

Change is in the air! The theme this year and for some time will be “change.” How does one consider change in their lives? I would like to offer the following steps:

*Celebrate* – your small accomplishments as building blocks for change.

*Research* your options – consider the opportunities that are available that can aide you in correcting, revising or updating your life choices.

*Endure* – your reward is at the end of the struggle.

*Assess* the level of discomfort in your life – where is there a need for change?

*Model*- the actions of those who are leaders and provide directions that can improve your life.

Maybe we have not arrived to the point where we can say, “*life is peaches and cream*”, and however we can smell the sweet aroma of cream in the accomplishment of our great leaders.

This **CREAM** formula seems simple, however it is an age-old practice that has proven to be beneficial.



**Nelson Mandela**, went to prison for a cause that he believed in. He believed that native people of South Africa deserved freedom. What are **you** willing to stand for? Perhaps, you would choose prison, for the commission of crimes against property and persons or because of a violation of your freedom and values. Stand for something or your will fall for anything.



**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, marched, protested, preached and died so that we can all get to the mountaintop. He lived and died so that we would have equal opportunities to education, employment, public transportation and etc. What do we need to march for today? Are you ready to march? Are **you** informed on the issues and prepared to work towards change in your life and community?



**President Barack Obama**, broke the barriers that can no longer be used as excuses. We can work, lead, live, grow and expand in any area in live that we choose. **Continued on Page 4**

### Paramount Housing Resource

continued from Page 1

Through a data system, clergy at Paramount are able to match the offender’s needs, income and zip code preference with what is available in the city.

A mentor is also assigned to the re-entrant by Minister Kelly Wilkins, to assist the offenders in making the best choices and to keep the CSO(s) informed of the offender’s progress.

We all know that housing is at a premium in the District, therefore we commend the congregants at Paramount Baptist Church for doing all that they can to try and meet the need.

The FBI will be training all mentors on how to access housing services on Saturday, June 4th. See the calendar on page 6 for training information.

### Second Chance Act– Funding

By Hal Williams, Senior Program Analyst

This legislation, among other provisions, reauthorized grant programs for reentry of offenders into the community that are included in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

Pursuant to an overview published by the Congressional Research Service, this Bill, which was sponsored by Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill became law on April 9, 2008.

Several Key policy matters are included among the many significant provisions of this Law that are designed to improve reentry planning and implementation:

Subtitle B, Section 212 authorizes the Secretary of Labor to make grants to nonprofit organizations to provide mentoring, job training and placement services, and other services to assist certain nonviolent offenders in obtaining and maintaining employment.

For additional information concerning the Second Chance Act, readers are encouraged to contact the office of Congressman Danny Davis at 202-225-5006.

**For additional information please log on to [www.csosa.gov](http://www.csosa.gov)**

# Family Reunification Program

-By Chris Keels, Mentoring Services Liaison (MSL)

On January 7, 2009, CSOSA began its third series of the Family Reunification Program.

The purpose of the Family Reunification Program is to provide an opportunity for offender's whose children have been placed in foster care or with a guardian to begin the process of reunifying with their children. The program is offered to assist offenders in beginning the reunification of the birth parent with the child through a process of understanding the court's orders, the foster care system, the importance of family preservation, legal rights and parenting skills. Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, Children's Choice Foster Care and Adoption Services, The Office of the Public Defender, Community Relations Office/Brookland Manor, D. C. Child Support Services and McKendree-Simms-Brookland United Methodist Church provide direct services to the offender/parent through adult basic education classes, parenting classes, foster care birth/parent services, housing assistance and life coaching (mentoring).

This program is a restorative justice concept in that it seeks to return healthy families to the District's community, thereby strengthening the fabric of its citizenry.

On May 6, 2009, participants graduated from this four month program. The graduation was held at McKendree-Simms-Brookland United Methodist Church. The next Family Reunification Program series will begin on June 3, 2009 at 910 Rhode Island Avenue, NE. Referrals will be received from CSO(s).



## Cluster B Initiative— Re-Integration Support Group

By Evangelist Howard Moore, Cluster B Coordinator

As you can imagine, there are many challenges for those coming home from prison. Issues related to employment, accommodation, and resettlement must be actively addressed in order to reduce recidivism.

Therefore, Cluster B has initiated "The Reintegration Support Group" which meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30pm until 8:00pm in the chapel of the Alfred A. Owens, Jr. Family Life Community Center, located at 605 Rhode Island Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002.

**"RE-INTEGRATION SUPPORT GROUP"**

Every Tuesday  
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM  
Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr.  
Family Life Community Center's Chapel  
605 Rhode Island Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20002

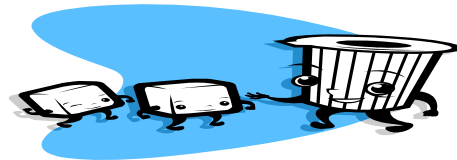
*Many are the challenges for those coming home from prison. Issues related to employment, accommodation, and resettlement must be actively addressed to reduce recidivism, but also to promote social justice.*

*The Re-Integration Support Group will help identify barriers, devise solutions to these barriers, and help develop links to community based services that will assist men and women in making the critical transition back into being productive citizens.*

For more information please contact the SMCHC Prison Ministry 202-703-5826 or  
 Evangelist Howard Moore 301-941-2762  
 Deacon Day Starling 302-476-9880  
 Jonathan McDonald 301-952-4074

The mission of the Reintegration Support Group is to help returning offenders identify barriers, devise solutions to these barriers, and develop links to community based services that will assist them in making the critical transition as they return home from prison. We will develop individual supervision plans that will assess individual strengths, weaknesses, and refer individuals to community based services and resources that will offer solutions, so as to encourage them to live a more positive and productive life within the community. For more information, contact the Greater Mt. Calvary Prison Ministry at 202-269-5826.

## Are You Prepared to Change?



Continued from Page 3-

Obama showed the world that change is inevitable and that grass root movements can change history. What history are you prepared to change?

In your household, is there another Mandela, King or Obama? Are you providing the best environment for the nurturing of a leader? Drugs, alcohol, violence and despair breed more of the same. However, compassion, love, commitment, investment and guidance groom a nation.

If you know anything about the South, you know that cream rises to the top and it's the best part of the butter. But cream only appears after agitation and churning. Go through the experience and then enjoy the sweet cream. Try a little **CREAM** in your life!

# Our Steps are Ordered

By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

On January 6, 2009, the FBI began its second series of Order My Steps at CSOSA's NE (25 K Street NE) field office which focuses on Relapse Prevention for Women. The group-counseling program met for eighteen weeks on a bi-weekly schedule. The Cluster C program was co-sponsored by The Church of Christ (13th Street NW). Topics such as:

- Problems, Struggles and Disappointments
- Healing from Victimization
- Toxic Relationships
- How Do I Explain My Addiction to my children

were discussed during the program.

The group has decided to continue meeting until mid-July. Therefore, we are still taking referrals. CSO(s) should send all referrals through the agency's case management system entitled, SMART.



## Program Receives Award

Order My Steps (OMS) received a plaque during the 2009 Revive the Spirit for outstanding program. The below picture includes facilitators Stacey Abrahams, Tashia Chambers, Trina Stewart, mentor Peggy Scott and mentee Angela Peoples.



Peggy Scott (Mentor), Tashia Chambers (Outreach Coordinator), Trina Stewart (CSO), Angela Peoples (Mentee)

## Faith-Based Initiative Service Provider Resource Guide

By Tashia P. Chambers, MSW,  
Outreach Coordinator

CSOSA and its Faith Based Re-Entry Partners are proud to announce the upcoming publication of its Annual Citywide Resource Manual (June 15, 2009). This Resource Manual was artfully produced by the Faith-Based Initiative Team under the leadership of Tashia Chambers, the Initiative's Outreach Coordinator.

Along with resource guides published by organizations such as the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia, the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, DC, United Way of the National Capital Area and others, this Guide has been produced as a tool for our reentering citizens. It will assist them and those men and women from the DC faith community who serve as their mentors to identify and access viable opportunities and tools to assist in breaking the insidious cycle of drugs, crime, victimization, and incarceration.

The Resource Manual is organized by service assistance needs such as housing, education, job training and placement. The location of the service providers covers every quadrant of the District (NW, SW, NE and SE).

This Resource Manual may be accessed through the CSOSA WEB Page (CSOSA.gov) or that of its partner, the Daniel A. Payne Reclamation Program of the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church (WEB site) beginning on June 15, 2009. A limited number of hard copies of the manual may be obtained by contacting CSOSA at 202 220-5300.

## Mentor Matching Report Card

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 April 27, 2009, the following report was filed for the record:

Cluster A – 31

Cluster B— 22

Cluster C – 19

**TOTAL—72 Matches in 2009**

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



*Congratulations to the Clusters*





# 2009 Mentor Training Schedule

By *Elmira Gwynn, Training Specialist-FBI*

## May 2009

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

## June 2009

<i>Saturday, June 6th</i>	<i>Mentor Re-Entry Orientation Training and Communication Training</i>
<i>8:30am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Re-Entry &amp; Sanctions Center</i>
	<i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C.</i>

## June 2009

<i>Saturday, June 13th</i>	<i>Specialized Training—Housing Training for Mentors</i>
<i>8:30am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Re-Entry &amp; Sanctions Center</i>
	<i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i>

## July 2009

<i>Saturday, July 18th</i>	<i>Mentor Re-Entry Orientation Training and Communication Training</i>
<i>8:30am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>3845 South Capital Street, S.W.</i>

## September 2009

<i>Saturday, September 19th</i>	<i>Specialized Training—Managing at the Edge—Mentor Special Emphasis Training</i>
<i>8:30am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Re-Entry &amp; Sanctions Center</i>
	<i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i>

## September 2009

<i>Saturday, September 26th</i>	<i>Mentor Re-Entry Orientation Training and Communication Training</i>
<i>8:30am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Re-Entry &amp; Sanctions Center</i>
	<i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i>





# Cluster Spotlight– A

## The Mentor Effect

Author: Rev. Lawrence Sandidge

The Mentor Effect is a phenomenon characterized by a change in the lifestyle of a returning citizen that is easily recognized by Court Services and by society as a whole. The Mentor Effect does not become effective overnight. No, it happens over some indeterminate period of time. This period of time is different for every returning citizen because the change effect is dependent upon a successful mentor/mentee relationship.

The mentee, the returning citizen, has to sincerely want to change and has to be completely open to the mentoring program. The mentor has to be unselfishly available to the returning citizen and must become his/her “brother’s keeper.” This relationship is only as effective as each mentor and mentee allows. The dynamics of this relationship are respect, honesty, trust, discipline, faith, and vulnerability. A successful mentor/mentee relationship requires work for all involved but the result is that the returning citizen does not become a returning inmate.

I signed up to become a CSOSA mentor six or seven months ago. I was already a Prison Ministry volunteer at Covenant Baptist Church. The Prison Ministry gave me a sense of the greater need that reaches beyond the walls of the DC Jail. My visits to the jail helped me to acknowledge my spiritual blessing and recognize that same spiritual blessing that is dormant in my brothers who made bad choices that landed them in jail. I saw the spirit of Christ in my brothers and I realized that my spiritual walk should not be limited to worship and bible study inside the jail, but should include ministry outside of the jail that would help my brothers revive their spiritual blessing. I needed to be a part of the Mentor Effect.

I was matched with a young adult male who is serving a six month parole. I am 56 years of age. My mentee is 18 years of age. Imagine what it was like to build a mentor/mentee relationship with this young man at my age. Let me tell you, it did not happen overnight, but “God is able.” “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Such strength is the foundation that helped me initiate the Mentor Effect.

It took nearly a month to create an atmosphere that allowed me to make a breakthrough with my mentee. I met with him at his home. I told him about my personal life, about my life in the church, and about what I saw as my role as his mentor. Then I asked him to share who he is, what his family is like, what his social life is, and how he felt about being a mentee. I listened and heard his story. I became acutely aware that family cycles of criminal activity, a broken home, and his social acquaintances and activities needed to change.

I made a commitment to stay in touch, to be consistent in my contacts, to offer alternative social activities at times, and to be a supporter. I have kept my commitment. My goal is to be a stable presence, something that his life sorely lacked. The road has been rough at times, but I have never given up on my mentee. He is a returned citizen. He is not a returning inmate. I see in him that spiritual blessing that is dormant but not lost forever. I believe that our relationship can and will continue to grow and I believe that the Mentor Effect has positively impacted both our lives.



# Cluster Spotlight– B

By Evangelist Howard Moore, Cluster B Coordinator

When Anthony Bryant returned home from prison, he was determined that he was going to change his life once and for all. He was determined that he would not be yet another number added to the statistics of the Criminal Justice System’s record, as it relates to the District’s high rate of recidivism. Anthony was determined that he would be a better man this time around; all he desired was an opportunity, and someone he could trust that would help him facilitate the many opportunities offered to returning offenders through the CSOSA Faith Based Initiative. He was a drummer by pastime trade, but a truck driver before incarceration in need of recertification. He didn’t have to be told that he needed to get some things straightened out concerning his own personal life, because he accepted responsibility, and he was accountable to the consequences of the decisions he made. It really wasn’t that hard encouraging him to seek the counseling services of Calvary’s Counseling Center, or any other services for that matter. What Anthony Bryant needed was someone he could look up to as a possible father figure. Therefore, when Anthony’s turn came to be matched with a mentor, Cluster B Coordinator, Evangelist Howard Moore matched him with a mentor who had the experience and wisdom that he needed to get him to the next level of his life.

The father figure mentor proved to be the perfect match for Anthony in the person of Mr. Carlos Stewart. Carlos was a smooth walking, soft talking, elderly gentleman that Anthony Bryant could indeed look up to. Carlos has years in age to his credit, but most importantly, Carlos has years of experience and wisdom, which seemed to be a perfect commodity for Anthony. He was able to encourage Anthony in ways no one else could.

Continued on Page 8



# Cluster Spotlight– C

## Peggy Delaney, Mentee and Rita Fobbs, Mentor

By Tashia P. Chambers, MSW, Outreach Coordinator

Rita Fobbs and her mentee, Peggy Delaney were matched in February 2008. Rita Fobbs, a member of Southwest Church of Christ in Cluster C, works in the healthcare field. Her mentee, Peggy Delaney, is in recovery from drugs and alcohol and is pursuing work as a medical assistant. The likely pair find themselves actively pursuing their goals and their schedules make it difficult at times to meet in person. However, they always make an effort to keep in contact by telephone. “A lot of times we are playing phone tag. When I call her she’s busy or when she calls me I am meeting with clients at work”, says Ms. Fobbs.

Rita is comforted knowing that she is not a burden to Peggy, describing her as a woman who is independent and has “things covered”. “When we talk, it’s about not going back out there”. Rita allows Peggy to vent and the mentor finds that “the more Peggy talks the more she reassures herself that the drug life is no life at all.”

In the Spring of 2008, Rita had been having medical problems. She soon after went into surgery and Rita was there to comfort her. “I had to go out of town the day after her surgery, but I was at her side”. During this difficult time, the women grew close to one another. Rita mentioned a time when miscommunication led her to the wrong doctor’s office to visit Peggy: “When they told me she wasn’t there, I panicked!” Rita said.

Continued on Page 8

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

Jasper Ormond, Associate Director  
 Phone: 202-220-5346  
 Fax: 202-220-5316



**Adrienne Poteat, Acting Director,  
 CSOSA**



## MENTOR MATCHING IS A WARM & LASTING SPIRIT

Since 2006, the F.B.I. has matched 256 mentees with mentors. 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**

**Senior Program Analyst**

**202-220-5306**

**hal.williams@csosa.gov**

or

**The Cluster Coordinators (see pg 2)**

### Cluster Spotlight- C

Continued from Page 7

“It turns out there was just miscommunication on our part.”

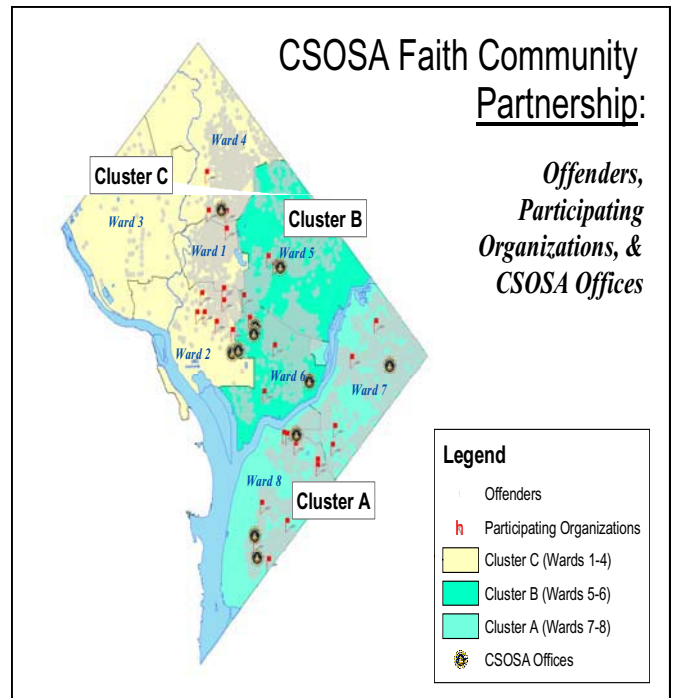
Peggy comes from a very supportive family environment and Rita finds comfort knowing that Peggy has a team of people rooting for her. Besides her NA/AA meetings, Peggy also attends computer classes. With the support from her mentor and family, Peggy’s dreams are manifesting. She is currently working a new job and her health is better. Rita is still there as a constant friend continuing to maintain contact at least twice a week. When asked what makes a successful mentee-mentor relationship, Rita responds: “Constant communication. She keeps me informed with what’s going on and I help her the best I can.”

### Cluster Spotlight- B

Continued from Page 7

He encouraged Anthony in no time at all to attend classes at Calvary’s Job Bank, even in subjects beyond the CDL recertification. Carlos helped Anthony to revise his resume in an effort to make himself more marketable. Anthony attended classes regularly, as well as attended Calvary’s Alternative Counseling Center. Through much encouragement, Anthony came to realize that he could not change others, but he could change himself.

In January 2009, Carlos Stewart and Anthony Bryant were recognized, celebrated, and awarded as Cluster B’s Mentor and Mentee of the Year.



**Design Layout by Ta’Kia Jackson,  
 Office Automation Clerk**