

# FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

# FBI JOURNAL

Faith-Based Initiative

*Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency*



Volume 3, Issue 3

November 2010

## Fall Edition

### Mark Your Calendar

**Call to Action 2010 “Celebrating Our Mission to Serve”** (see article below)

Thursday, December 9, 2010

8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Kellogg Center—Gallaudet University

#### Facilitators Training

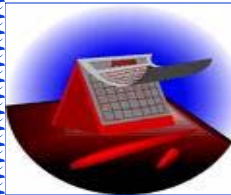
Re-Entry & Sanction Center (RSC)

6:00 p.m.

1900 Mass Ave SE

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Washington, D.C. 20032 (see page 10)



## Call to Action - 2010

*By Sondra Hunt, Special Assistant*

Please mark your calendar to attend the Faith-Based Initiative’s Call To Action Forum which will be held on December 9, 2010 on the campus of Gallaudet University at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. The Theme for the Forum is “Celebrating Our Mission to Serve.”

The all day (8:30 am—3:00 pm) forum will be a great opportunity for members of the Faith Based Community to come together and enjoy a great day of information sharing on the common goal of empowering the population we serve..

- ◆ *Speakers*
- ◆ *Exhibits*
- ◆ *Workshops*
- ◆ *Returning Citizen’s Panel*
- ◆ *Music*
- ◆ *Lunch*
- ◆ *& Much more!!!!*



### “Mentoring is the Key”

*John Milam,  
Deputy Associate Director—  
Community Justice Programs*

*Mentoring is the Key.* Mentors provide the medium where offenders and collaterals receive the positive reinforcement and the person on their shoulder telling and helping them to solve their problems. Most offenders receive a regimental list of conditions that they must heed to during their community supervision period. Many offenders have not adhered to structure most of their lives, and find the rigors supervision demands challenging. This is where the mentors have proven to be most useful – providing encouragement and guidance to solving everyday responsibilities. As government reduces its budgets and services, CSOSA will rely more heavily on the community based programs to provide support services; we employ our mentors to continue to stay committed and aid CSOSA and offenders in this plight. Without your efforts, offender reentry and rehabilitation will surely crumble.

-By Ronnie Corsey, City-Wide Outreach Coordinator

## Directory of Health Providers:

### UNITY HEALTH CARE, INC.

1220 12th Street, SE, Suite 120

Washington, DC 20003

(202) 715-7901 phone

(202) 544-4393 fax

[www.unityhealthcare.org](http://www.unityhealthcare.org)

**Unity Healthcare Inc.** has 29 service sites located in every ward of the District of Columbia. They provide quality, compassionate and comprehensive primary health care services to more than 81,000 individuals and families annually.

#### Unity Health Care Locations

[Anacostia](#) (Ward 8)

[Brentwood Square](#) (Ward 5)

[Columbia Road](#) (Ward 1)

[Congress Heights](#) (Ward 8)

[East of the River](#) (Ward 7)

[Good Hope](#) (Ward 8)

[Hunt Place](#) (Ward 7)

[Unity @ DC General](#) (Ward 6)

[Southwest](#) (Ward 6)

[Stanton Road](#) (Ward 8)

[Upper Cardozo](#) (Ward 1)

[Walker-Jones](#) (Ward 6)

Cont'd on page 5

**"IT WAS A CELEBRATION"**

### MASS ACCOMPLISHMENT/GRADUATION

By Hallem Williams, Senior Program Analyst



In an effort to help our Re-Entering Citizens become aware of the many positive leisure time, enriching options they have, CSOSA continues to schedule and connect them to pro social events.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, CSOSA and its faith partners hosted a City-Wide graduation to celebrate the diligence and accomplishments of those who participated in the various programs. This graduation celebration was held at the Balm in Gilead Church located at 4025 9th St SE, Washington, DC. Those who had persevered were awarded Certificates of Completion by John Milam, the Deputy Associate Director of Community Justice Programs, leaders of the Faith Based Initiative and the facilitators who guided them through their positive experiences.

As their families looked on, these men and women strolled across the stage and received their certificates. They smiled with joy and exuded an aura of relief that conveyed a sense of accomplishment. These graduates were reminded that this was yet another symbol of commencement, a new beginning, not an end.

The CSOSA Team reminded these men, women and their families that if we are to build our community to be what it should be they must stay home and play a major role in this task.

## 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**

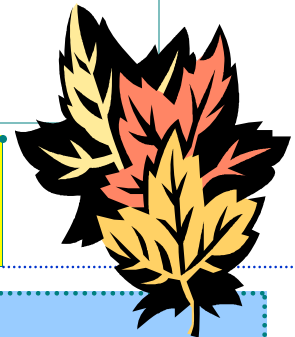
**GREATER MT. CALVARY HOLY CHURCH**

**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 Fall and Winter



### CLUSTER C

**DEACON MARY DOUGLASS**

**METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH DAPRP**

**MPDOUGLASS@DAPRP.ORG**

**202-223-0581**

**RONNIE CORSEY**

**NEW CITY-WIDE OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

**RCORSEY@DAPRP.ORG**

**202-223-0581**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE PAGE 4**

# Pro-Social in the Fall-time

*New People, Places and Things*



## Service Provider Fair

By Ronnie Corsey, City-Wide Cluster Coordinator

The Service Provider Fair, held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, was a great success with a combined total of 90 individuals in attendance. The Service Providers came out with very informative resources for the CSO's to utilize in their everyday interactions with our returning citizens. The event hosted over 23 service providers, some of whom are already partnered with CSOSA, as well as potential new clients interested in establishing a working productive relationship with the faith-based initiative. The providers came with a variety of services reaching from health care to housing needs. The concerns of training and employment were also shared with providers. I can truly say the dedication and support of the faith based team was demonstrated on this day. It was a pleasure coordinating this event with the CSOSA staff. I am honored to have been appointed to this role in the program and look forward to many more successes in the future. I appreciate the faith based team for their involvement and participation as well as the Cluster Coordinators, for being available to help out and make this event successful.



## CSOSA's CJAN Network

By: Lawrence Jordan

Community Relations Specialist

On September 28, 2010, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) hosted its annual citywide Community Justice Advisory Network (CJAN) forum. This year's forum was held at Gallaudet University's Kellogg Center, and our guest speaker was none other than the Honorable Michael A. Brown, At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia. Councilmember Brown is a third generation Washingtonian who was raised with a keen sense of civic responsibility, pride and activism; personal attributes that he attributed to the examples set by his parents. Throughout his public career, he has demonstrated compassion to unselfishly serve others, to include those underserved and those who reside in challenged communities. This same compassion and commitment to serve was prevalent in his presentation to the 280 people in attendance at the Citywide CJAN forum.

The theme of the forum was "Public Safety through Workforce Development." Councilmember Brown focused his presentation around identifying and creating a system that focuses on delivering educational and training programs that prepare adult students to successfully enter and compete in the current and future workforce of the 21st Century in this Metropolitan area. He identified five primary elements surrounding workforce development necessary for the success of our offender population. These elements are: (1) the offender must begin thinking of employment prior to his/her release into the community; (2) the offender must find adequate housing; (3) the offender must enhance his/her education level; (4) the offender should seek training for local job opportunities; and (5) the offender must diligently seek employment at a level equal to his/her marketability.

The attendees were visibly impressed, and showed their approval by nodding their heads and delivering a loud, thunderous applause. As is customary after a great and motivating speech, the audience began networking and communicating about the message that was delivered to them by D.C. Councilmember Michael A. Brown.



Pictured right: Councilmember Michael A. Brown, At-Large giving Keynote address

## Cluster A: Empowering Citizens through the Ballot



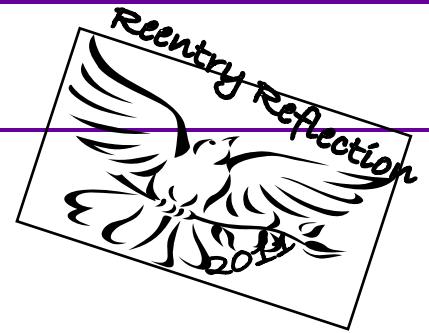
Reentry Network is shaking the chains of chronic apathy and despair through the power of the ballot. This fall, the Reentry Network led the collaboration between Mentoring Works 2, East of the River Clergy-Police-Community-Partnership (ERCPCP), Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), and Covenant Baptist Church to educate and bring voters to the polls for DC's local elections. Reentry Network targeted those who were in recovery, returning citizens, and homeless. When asked why was this effort to get out the vote for these targeted residents so important, Lead organizer, Charles Thornton said, "I've been told the reason our constituent group was overlooked is because we don't go out to the polls. So in order to have an impact on the election, without being about any candidate, it was important to come together as a group to take part in the democratic process." Reentry Network led the way in getting over 400 targeted residents to the polls for early voting.

However, the Reentry Network didn't stop with just early voting. The Reentry Network along with Mentoring Works 2 met with the Board of Elections and the DC Jail's warden to ensure registered voters had an opportunity to vote. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, 497 registered voters at DC Jail and the Correctional Treatment Facility exercised their right to vote.

Mr. Thornton described how inmates lined up to vote. "Many thought because they were incarcerated they had blown their chances." Thornton said, "It was empowering to see them exercise their political right, it was like they were standing up...both events were the beginning of people being heard—this is a democratic town and you have to take part in the process in order to have an impact on the services our population needs." November 2<sup>nd</sup> is also a key election; Reentry Network is looking forward to getting our people reenergized and back to the polls.

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

## Re-Entry 2011—Plans Are in Motion



- For the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) will convene a series of activities designed to raise public awareness about the challenges associated with prisoner reentry. *Reentry Reflection 2011* will kick-off on *Justice Sunday*, which takes place January 16, 2011. It will conclude 30 days later on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Since its inception, we have launched this annual reentry observance during the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend in January in order to tie into the holiday's emphasis on volunteer service and January being National Mentoring Month. What began as *Reentry Sunday*, a single day event where reentry was encouraged as a theme for special church services and mentors were recruited to work with parolees and supervised releasees, has grown to four weeks of activities hosted by both CSOSA and a number of our community partners. The activities planned for 2011 include a forum on January 29<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Returning Citizens United entitled *Is It Worth It?...Things That Make You Go back*; our *Women's Reentry Forum*, scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>; our *Citywide Reentry Assembly* on February 10<sup>th</sup>; and, the US Parole Commission's February 12<sup>th</sup> forum on *Family Strengthening and Engagement*. More events will be added to the schedule as our outreach and planning continue.
- CSOSA's Faith Based Initiative plays a central role in organizing and promoting *Reentry Reflection*. Each of our Cluster-based lead faith institutions reach out to their Cluster members to get them involved. At the *Citywide Assembly*, each Cluster presents awards to its mentors and mentees of the year. The testimonials from those receiving this recognition inform us about the positive transformational changes that are possible when people give and accept help. The Community Action Group's renowned choir joins us each year to deliver inspirational songs inspired by its members' personal experiences of recovery.
- Men and women returning home from prison often encounter difficulty with family reunification, housing, employment, education and health care. While there is support and assistance available to assist with these needs, more is always needed. Our hope is that through all of the activities that take place during *Reentry Reflection 2011*, we can inspire more agencies, organizations and individuals to partner with CSOSA and help the men and women that we serve.
- For more information about *Reentry Reflection 2011*, contact OLIPA's Gregory Smith at (202) 220-5403.

### New City-Wide Outreach Coordinator

by: **Sondra Hunt, COTR**



Please join the Community Justice Programs Office, Faith-Based Initiative Program in welcoming aboard, Ronnie Corsey as the new Citywide Outreach Coordinator. Ronnie brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the FBI Program having served as the Administrative Assistant to Covenant Full Potential Development Corporation for several years.

Welcome Aboard Ronnie!



## Directory of Health Providers

Cont'd from pg. 2

### Bread for the City

#### Northwest Center

1525 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202.265.2400  
Fax: 202.745.1081 (Legal, Medical);

202.518.0545 (Social Services, Food, Administration)

202.386.7613 (Development, Finance)

#### Southeast Center

1640 Good Hope Road, SE  
Washington, DC 20020  
Phone: 202.561.8587  
Fax: 202.574.1536 (Social Services, Food);

202.587.0537 (Legal, Administration)

Web: [www.breadforthecity.org](http://www.breadforthecity.org)

### Community Education Group

3233 Pennsylvania Ave. SE

Washington, DC 20020

(202) 543-2376

(202) 543-9146(fax)

[www.communityeducationgroup.org](http://www.communityeducationgroup.org)

Specializing in Health Education and AIDS counseling

HIV Rapid Testing Available

### S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat)

Behavioral Health Services

60 O Street NW

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 797-8806 Ext. 1115

## Healing From Within

-By Elder James Jenkins, Bible Way Temple



Grief, an intense sorrow over the loss of someone or something dear to us, can be emotionally devastating and result in irrational thoughts and behavior. Fortunately, the Healing from Within Grief Counseling Program is a vehicle to bring re-entrants together with others who may not have a criminal background but share the experience of grief about various issues and want socially acceptable relief. Some participants are going through multiple grief issues and have been doing so for some time. Others may not have recognized that they were grieving until it was brought to their attention by who referred them. However, a nurturing environment of grief counseling fosters healing.

The challenge to the volunteer counselors who facilitate the weekly sessions that are structured with general topics related to grief is to help the re-entrant participants overcome the feeling that they are being forced to come to yet another program and to look forward to the sessions as an opportunity for help in getting relief from their grief. Some participants reach acceptance and are ready to move on before the conclusion of the 12 week cycle while others drop out early. However, those that complete the program are empowered with understanding, freedom, and accomplishment.

The Healing from Within Grief Counseling Program will begin its second 12 week cycle on Friday, September 17, 2010 at the Bible Way Temple, 1100 New Jersey Avenue Northwest Washington, D.C. where Apostle James Silver is the Pastor. The sessions are held every Friday from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Temple Prayer Chapel which can be accessed directly from its New Jersey Avenue entrance.

The program is a CSOSA (Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency), Cluster B special emphasis program coordinated by Elder Howard Moore, Director of Prison Aftercare of Calvary Healthcare, Inc. of Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church, and Elder James Jenkins, Doctor of Divinity, and President of the Bible Way Temple's Prison & Drug Ministries, along with his team. For additional information, Elder Moore can be reached on 301-641-3763 and Elder Jenkins can be reached on 202-302-3205.

## Cluster Spotlights—A

Growing Deeper in Our Commitment: An Interview with Rev. Dr. Christine Wiley

The Rev. Dr. Christine Wiley is the Senior Pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in Ward 8 of Washington DC. Covenant is the lead church for the CSOSA Faith Community Partnership where they work closely with other committed faith institutions in Wards 7 & 8, helping to mentor and support persons returning home from incarceration. Pastor Wiley leads the bi-monthly council meetings and has had the opportunity to mentor a returning citizen.

When asked what makes the CSOSA Faith Community Partnership so significant, she said, “It is good the federal government recognized the institution that has the trust of the community is the church. If there is going to be effective trustworthy programs—it will be coming out of the church.”

She further reiterates the importance the programs created to help returning citizens are faith driven and come from those invested in the community. Dr. Wiley believes that it is imperative that programs are not government ran, but instead, “actual programs are developed by the faith community, so real relationships can happen.”

The number one topic Dr. Wiley has addressed in council meetings and in the community is the need to work on the development of jobs. “The faith community and government need to work with businesses regarding creating jobs and hiring returning citizens.” Dr. Wiley even believed the federal government could do better in developing jobs within the federal system for ex-offenders.

When asked how working with the Faith-Based Initiative (FBI) has impacted Covenant Baptist Church, Pastor Wiley reflected on the pride of the church. “Since we started working with the FBI, I have noticed the pride from the church that there is an entity within the church working on the issues of reentry. It means a deeper commitment to the marginalized.”

Although working with the FBI brings much pride and a sense of purpose, Dr. Wiley has seen the disparities that impact the lives of reentrants. Dr. Wiley expressed frustration because there has not been much movement to impact systemic discrimination. Working with the FBI has shed light on the lack of resources our people have to break the cycle of incarceration. “The Individual stories impact me, so that I can be more committed. The people in our community can’t call on resources. There are disparities for legal assistance for persons who are poor and living in Wards 7 & 8. Many people become incarcerated because they don’t have good representation. This impacts me because the more aware I become of disparities and unfairness for African Americans in the criminal justice system, the more I realize we don’t have equal rights...If you have a private attorney you have a real possibility of getting real justice. If you get a court appointed attorney you get no justice. The faith community and CSOSA have to have a real conversation about these disparities.”

Cluster A- CBC Job Club: Holding Open the Door of Opportunity

By Rev. Kelly Wilkins, Cluster Coor.

In Ward 8, it’s been estimated that 25% of residents are unemployed. However, in reality, the estimates hovers closer around 40% when we include those residents who have given up looking for employment. The recession has taken a toll on everyone but especially on the returning citizen population. The chasm of opportunity has widened and many returning citizens search for work for a long time before any door of opportunity is opened for them. Knowing the statistics and seeing the desperation of many returning citizens referred to the CSOSA Faith-Based Initiative, I felt like we had to do something. So last year, I formed the Covenant Baptist Church (CBC) Job Club. The Job Club is designed to provide a supportive environment where job searching and navigation of workplace challenges can be made easier with trusted and committed volunteers. Cluster A Program Coordinator, Ronald Corsey and Cluster Coordinator Reverend Kelly Wilkins work with participants on an one-on-one basis to assist clients. Many clients like the supportive environment of the Job Club and they like the fact when they came in for help, they left with a finished product such as a resume, cover letter, interviewing skills and tools etc.

However, what I realized later is during these tough times, a dynamic resume and keen interviewing skills was not enough. The doors have not been opening for people who are felons. Again, I felt like I had to do something. So I began an informal grass roots effort to ask as many employers as possible to hire or mentor a returning citizen. Surprisingly, some doors were opened and chances were given to several clients. Every time a client was given a chance for employment, we couldn’t stop rejoicing. We knew God had responded to our faithful work.

Nevertheless, I did discover that some clients were not able to maintain their employment no matter how hard we worked with them. They had many obstacles. There was one key element that seemed to provide support and reinforcement the client needed to stay gainfully employed; that was whether they had been referred to the Faith-Based Initiative (FBI) and had a mentor. So many work opportunities were lost to clients who had completed supervision and came back to the Job Club for support or were walk-ins under supervision. These clients were not as open to aftercare support or advice once they became employed.

Cont. on page 11



# Mentor Training Schedule

By *Elmira Gwynn, Training Specialist-FBI*



November 2010	
<p><i>Thursday, November 18, 2010</i></p> <p><i>6:00pm—8:00 pm</i></p>	<p style="color: red; text-align: center;"><b>Facilitators Training</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Re-Entry &amp; Sanctions Center</i> <i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE</i> <i>(next to the D.C. Jail)</i></p>

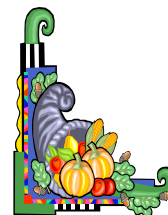
November 2010	
<p><i>Saturday, November 20, 2010</i></p> <p><i>8:30am – 4:00pm</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mentor Orientation Training and Communication Training</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Re-Entry &amp; Sanctions Center</i> <i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE</i> <i>(next to the D.C. Jail)</i></p>

December 2010	
<p><i>Saturday, December 11, 2010</i></p> <p><i>8:30am – 4:00pm</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mentor Orientation Training and Communication Training</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Re-Entry &amp; Sanctions Center</i> <i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE</i> <i>(next to the D. C. Jail)</i></p>

February 2011	
<p><i>Saturday, February 26, 2010</i></p> <p><i>8:30 am—4:00 pm.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mentor Orientation Training and Communication Training</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Re-Entry &amp; Sanctions Center</i> <i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE</i> <i>(next to the D. C. Jail)</i></p>

## Mentor Matching Report

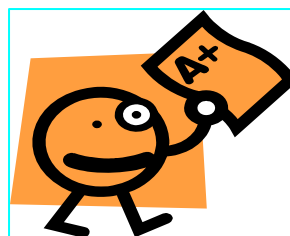
By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader



The Faith-Based Initiative through the diligent support of the Clusters has faithfully assisted offenders in being matched with mentors. As of September 30, 2010, the following report was filed for the record:

- Cluster A – 135
- Cluster B— 124
- Cluster C – 108
- TOTAL— 367 matches**

*Congratulations to the Clusters*





# Cluster Spotlights– B

*Message from Bishop Alfred Owens, Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church & Cluster B Faith Leader*

## Faith Leader Message

Greetings in the name of the Lord! It is with pleasure that I write these words of encouragement on behalf of Cluster B, representing Ward’s 5 and 6 of the District of Columbia in partnership with CSOSA’s Faith-Based Initiative. As senior pastor of Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church, I have been dedicated to meeting not only the spiritual needs, but also the material needs of the community. Our community outreach program provides a food bank, a clothing boutique, an employment program and job bank, as well as a Family Life Community Center with a weight room, bowling alley, full roof top basketball court, and a dance studio designed to help meet the needs of our returning citizens of the District of Columbia in collaboration with CSOSA. Additionally, we operate an HIV/ AIDS Ministry and an out-patient substance abuse treatment center (CATAADA House) for the citizens of our community. In providing these services to the community, we have cooperated in partnership with hundreds of other community based service organizations. On a continuous basis, I meet with area leaders to discuss various ways in which to better serve the men and women who are returning home from prison each year, in order to help them make the critical transition back into being productive citizens within our community. Realizing that the successful achievement of this purpose requires innovative collaboration of the entire community, we are committed to reaching out for the necessary support and encouragement needed to help bridge the gap between the returning offender and his or her community.

*Faithfully Yours,*

*Archbishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr.*

*Archbishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr.*



By- Victoria Hardin, Cluster B Mentor

I received an opportunity to attend CSOSA’S faith-based drug and alcohol prevention training on September 16, 2010. The training was a refresher course for me to reinforce my own sobriety as well as enlightened me with understanding addictions and the stages of change. The speaker Mr. Felder, familiarized me with the signs and symptoms of using drugs. I didn’t have prior knowledge of PCP and ecstasy. He also passed out a guide strategically identifying relapse before it happens, along with necessary steps to take if one relapsed. I was able to express myself, ask questions and received sound advice from the lecturer. For instance, if an assigned mentee is in pre-contemplated stage and I missed the sign because I did not come to CSOSA’s drug training session, I could lose my mentee because she is now in the action stage dealing with symptoms and possible denial. I am able to carry the relapse guide and signs and symptoms manual in my book bag, to keep myself up to date with the signs of drug use. I am serious in helping another individual stay clean. During my era of drug abuse and when I was a client of CSOSA, I wasn’t fortunate enough to have a connection to a faith-based mentoring partnership. I thank God for this pyramid of hope in saving lives; we must stay connected to the foundation of Light.

***Lapse versus Relapse is a constant war-we must put on the armor of God and keep it on.***



# Cluster Spotlights– C

## Cluster C Faith Leader Message

By : Rev. Ronald Braxton

As I prepared to write this article for the Faith Based Initiative Journal, I began to ponder the objectives of the program, its goals, its status, its accomplishment and, of course, its audience. However, always in the forefront were thoughts of returning citizen's when they come home. Initially, I planned to write from the perspective of a mentor, because that is what we do at Daniel A. Payne Reclamation Program (DAPRP). Upon closer examination, I began to reflect on how we truly envisioned the mentees—and how we are helping them. That gave me pause and in doing so, an indwelling teaching surfaced that reminded me that “we are our brother's keeper.” I then began to think about whether what we do in our various roles means that we have indeed taken on the mantle of keeper of our returning citizens. I asked, “Are we doing everything possible to fulfill and perhaps broaden the scope of the program as well as increase our commitment as responsible counselors to insure as best possible ways for them to transition back into the community?”

*Am I my brother's keeper?* When one volunteers to be a mentor, do we really mentor the person? Do we really look after them in the sense of being a keeper—one who cares for another, one who shows great concern for another, one who coaches another?

One of my recent devotional readings was actually a continuing set of devotions, “What's Good for the Goose.” This series focused on the traditional migratory pattern of geese traveling from north to south in the winter and used this phenomenon of nature as a teaching tool. The story begins by urging us to not worry about our lives; rather, to look at the birds in the sky and ask: “What can I learn from a flock of birds?”

The first devotional revealed that geese fly united, they do not fly separately. The geese are designed to fly in their characteristic “V” formation. The next day's devotion addressed being a “pinch hitter.” When one goose gets in a pinch, another “goes to bat” for him. In this continuing saga, we learn that in the world of geese, every bird is cared for--the aged, the young, the infirmed—all are kept protected and aligned in the rear of the formation. They are not isolated, discounted, or considered useless.

Oh! What a lesson to be learned through the existence of creatures that inhabit the earth. The question then becomes, when returning citizens come home, how do we relate? How do we treat our human habitants of the earth? Do we isolate them, consider them useless? Or, do we wrap our arms around them, care for them, show them love, and encourage them? In 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Paul tells us to “Encourage one another and build each other up.” *Am I my brother's keeper?* The final devotional in the series concluded that lost and stray geese are always welcomed into the formation. The flock is not used as an exclusive club for the elite. Birds often separate from their formations, for many reasons, including being isolated by weather, accidents, or infirmity; but all are given full family status when they rejoin the flock. The flock will alter its plans, mechanics and navigation route, reschedule its arrival time to reach its destination, and inconvenience itself to accommodate any stranger seeking acceptance.

*Am I my brother's keeper?* When we become involved with the mentoring program, often times the persons we are to mentor has gotten lost in life, strayed from the mainstream, doesn't look like us, doesn't act like us, some have heavy burdens they are carrying, and still others may not be “your kind of people” in the choices they have made, or values they have espoused. They may not even talk like you. So what? In the faith community, we must remember, it is our duty to demonstrate responsibility for one another. For being one's keeper means we must love one another. For when we love one another, we are then opened up to expressing that love by our service, show a willingness to bear their burdens, forgiving them for their transgressions. We are willing to help them overcome the fear of not being forgiven or accepted. We must communicate an attitude of acceptance with open arms.

The final questions are: “Are you willing to be your brother's keeper?” Will you commit to helping fix the broken wings—broken lives of those who have selected alternative life styles? Will you work to remove the stigma of the vices and temptations that influenced their behaviors that allowed them to become birds of prey?

*Are we our brother's keeper?* How we answer the question is indicative of whether we are fulfilling our responsibility to be “our brother's keeper.”

## Facilitator's Training

(from page 1)

By Chris Keels, FBI Team



November 18, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Re-Entry and Sanctions Center located at 1900 Massachusetts Ave, SE (next to the DC Jail), the FBI Team will be meeting with all Group/Class Facilitators (Special Emphasis Programs) to review our programs and to learn more about adult learners.

Come and learn best practices, network with each other for resources and be thankful together for the lives that you have touched. It's the season of thanksgiving.

## City-Wide Cluster Meeting Report

By Guy Charity, Daniel A. Payne Reclamation Center

July 2010



The Daniel A Payne Reclamation Program (DAPRP) hosted the City Wide Mentor's Meeting at the CSOSA Reentry and Sanctions Center located at 1900 Mass Avenue, SE, Washington, DC on July 23, 2010. Elmira Gwynn facilitated the meeting and was assisted by her colleagues Sondra Hunt and Hal Williams of the CSOSA Faith-Based Team. The meeting was well attended and had Deputy Director Ms Adrienne R. Poteat, as well as Associate Director of Community Justice Programs, Mr. Jasper Ormond in attendance.

After greetings by Sondra Hunt and the blessing of the food by Elder Howard Moore, the clusters gave their reports. Cluster Coordinator Rev. Kelly Wilkins reported on the events and activities in Cluster A; Cluster Coordinator Elder Howard Moore reported on Cluster B; and DAPRP board members Guy Charity, Gary Jones, and Greg Johnson reported on Cluster C.

Originally secured by Christine Keels to speak, United States Attorney General for the District of Columbia Peter J. Nickles could not make it, but sent Acting Deputy Alicia Washington to represent him.

She gave an impassioned and thought provoking speech stressing the need for cooperation between the community, law enforcement and the court system.

She cited example after example where cooperation influences

(cont'd in next column)

## Mentor Training—Relapse Prevention

By Calvin Adams, Cluster B Mentor

On Thursday September 16, 2010, I attended CSOSA's Substance Abuse Training session that was held at the Re-Entry & Sanctions Center. This event was a plus for me in educating me to the point of being able to help someone overcome issues dealing with this illness.

Ronald Keels presented his poetry. He is an overcomer of drug abuse. He was very candid about the issues of testing positive at screening indicating that no one can test positive if you are not using drugs. Often times, we try to blame others for our problems related to drugs and alcohol, but we are subsequently held accountable for our own actions. He indicated that he has a book coming out soon.

I have found great pleasure in helping others, and also found it to be quite therapeutic concerning my own recovery experience. The training has given me more insight to work with concerning my own challenges. In my own work with the National Alliance of Mental Illness, I have gained knowledge and understanding that can be applied to those I serve. I understand the teamwork effort that is involved in helping others get better.

Since the training, I have been able to establish a better understanding of the issues surrounding drug addiction and how to avoid it in my own life. I have become more dependable, willing, reliable, and compassionate concerning those suffering from these issues of drugs and alcohol. I am now able to define and explain the many problems associated with substance abuse; and I respect even the more concerning client confidentially. One can quickly learn how to enrich his/her life's performance and at the same time appreciate personal growth.

I have learned in this training that there is always improvement to oneself; but you must first believe in yourself to turn it around for the sake of the greater

outcomes and advocated a series of town hall meetings going forward as a way to foster cooperation and partnership among these various constituencies in an effort to reduce recidivism.

Deputy Associate Director for Community Justice Programs, John Milam gave the closing remarks following Ms. Washington's speech and the meeting was closed with a benediction from Rev. Kelly Wilkins.

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**Adrienne Poteat, Deputy Director,  
 CSOSA**

**Cluster A- CBC Job Club: Holding  
 Open the Door of Opportunity**

Cont. from page 6—I don't know what the job outlook holds, but we believe that God desires all of us to have gainful employment in order to take care of ourselves and families. So even with a small volunteer staff, the CBC Job Club is committed to organizing for jobs in the community and assisting in as many ways as we can to close the chasm of opportunity and employment for returning citizens and Ward 8 residents.

However, clients that had been referred to the FBI and had a mentor still come back to discuss concerns they had about their employment. They were offered advice and we were able to follow-up with them because we could connect with their mentor or CSO. In addition, in many cases, the employers called us for additional support. Unexpectedly, it became a partnership. This summer 5 returning citizens were offered jobs through the Job Club and 3 of them are still employed. All three of the clients still work closely with the FBI and we work closely with their employer, mentor or CSO.



**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:

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**christine.keels@csosa.gov**

or

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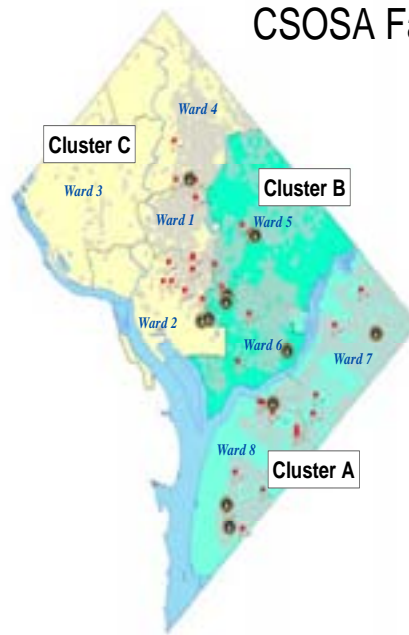
**hal.williams@csosa.gov**

or

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

**CSOSA Faith Community  
 Partnership:**

*Offenders,  
 Participating  
 Organizations, &  
 CSOSA Offices*



**Legend**

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

**Design Layout by Ta'Kia Jackson,  
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