

# Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign

**The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign**  
is developed and managed by  
**Outreach Extensions**



**The National Black Church Taskforce Initiative on Crime and Criminal Justice**  
*A national faith and community based partnership*





**Greetings:**

Outreach Extensions is pleased to share with you the **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign**. Our goal is to support the work of community and faith-based organizations, such as the **National Religious Affairs Association of NABCJ**, as well as policy leaders, through offering media resources that facilitate discussion and decision making about solution-based reentry programs. Based on the belief that diverse media play an essential role in motivating and mobilizing community action, the campaign will expand public awareness and work in partnership with local organizations and initiatives to foster public safety and support healthy communities.

A long-term effort, the **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign** is unique in that it incorporates twelve public television documentaries that span more than two years. The stepped broadcast dates for the various productions began June 22, 2003 with *GOD AND THE INNER CITY* and will end in 2005 with *REDEMPTION*. All productions incorporate the theme of **reentry into family and community by individuals who were formerly incarcerated**. The extended timeline means heightened exposure for an awareness effort and the opportunity to build maximum impact.

The 2½-hour video, ***Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs***, highlights selected reentry programs organized in six thematic groups: Education & Employment, Health, Housing, Family, Public Safety, and Faith. The 23 reentry programs presented in the video are described on the following pages. The **companion resource guide**, also called *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs*, profiles almost 100 reentry programs, including the 23 on the video. A set of briefing papers on the campaign themes presents key issues and policy implications. We chose to include a broad array of reentry activity from across the country in order to illustrate some of the exciting ways that communities and jurisdictions are beginning to think, work, and collaborate around the pressing issue of prisoner reentry.

You'll find the resource guide and clips from the videotape on the Reentry Campaign Web site, **[www.reentrymediaoutreach.org](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org)**, along with other significant campaign materials such as information on and video previews of the television documentaries that are part of the campaign. We encourage you to view the *Outside the Walls* videotape and other campaign materials and consider how your organization may be able to use these reentry resources to support your work.

We are grateful to our strategic partners and advisors, Urban Institute, the Council of State Governments, and The Annie E. Casey Foundation for their guidance on the development of the videotape. Urban Institute also conducted research and developed and wrote the resource guide in collaboration with Outreach Extensions.

You can stay involved in the campaign by emailing us at [ReentryFeedbk@aol.com](mailto:ReentryFeedbk@aol.com) to be added to the Reentry E-Newsletter list. We look forward to working with you on the **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign!**

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judy Ravitz".

Judy Ravitz  
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denise Blake".

Denise Blake  
Reentry Project Director



# Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign

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

## A Resource for Community Organizations

### What is Prisoner Reentry?

More people are leaving prisons across the country to return to their families and communities than at any other time in our history. Nationally, over 600,000 individuals will be released from state and federal prisons this year, a fourfold increase over the past two decades. From a number of perspectives, the issue of how people fare after they exit the prison gates has received renewed attention. Many will have difficulty managing the most basic ingredients for successful reintegration—reconnecting with jobs, housing, and their families, and accessing needed substance abuse and health care treatment.

### Reentry Campaign Overview

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign will expand public awareness and dialogue, provide media-based resources, and work in partnership with key organizations like the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice who are engaged in local initiatives to strengthen families and neighborhoods. The campaign will facilitate discussion and decision making about solution-based reentry programs that foster public safety and support healthy communities.

# Campaign Tools and Resources

## Reentry Resource Guide

The Urban Institute has collaborated with Outreach Extensions in developing a resource guide entitled ***Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs***, related to the issues in the Reentry Campaign. The Urban Institute provided background research papers to introduce each of the campaign's six themes: Education and Employment, Health, Housing, Family, Public Safety, and Faith. We chose to include a broad array of reentry activity (almost 100 programs) from across the country in order to illustrate some of the exciting ways that communities and jurisdictions are beginning to think, work, and collaborate around the pressing issue of prisoner reentry. The guide helps readers understand the issues surrounding reentry, the relevance to policy, as well as learn about and replicate program practices. Available as a PDF file on the Reentry Campaign's Web site, the guide's primary purpose is to facilitate discussion and action planning by policy leaders and community groups.

## Reentry Outreach Videotape

Highlighting 23 organizations in the *Outside the Walls* Resource Guide, the accompanying *Outside the Walls* videotape was produced by Dean Radcliffe-Lynes. It presents a snapshot of the services they provide and outcomes of their work. Interviews include service providers (including rehabilitated former prisoners), reentry clients, victims, and public officials. Structured to present the six themes in separate modules, the videotape facilitates discussion, problem solving, and decision making by faith and community audiences, as well as policy leaders. The 2½ hour videotape is available from Outreach Extensions; it can be previewed on the Reentry Web site. *The outreach videotape will not be broadcast on PBS or any other media outlet.*

## Screening Tapes for Community Engagement

**Outreach Extensions invites** community groups to expand their participation in the Reentry Campaign by holding local events. **Free** copies of *Outside The Walls* and selected campaign documentaries are available to organizations that conduct screening events, panel discussions and forums, or other local activities. This is an opportunity to engage key constituencies and stakeholders in meaningful dialogue and action. The most creative events, with the most meaningful impact, will be featured in the bimonthly Reentry E-Newsletter as well as reported to the project funder, The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Showcasing the work of these organizations offers additional approaches to solving reentry challenges.

## Reentry Campaign Web Site ([www.reentrymediaoutreach.org](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org))

The Reentry Campaign Web site expands opportunities for public access to the outreach campaign. The site provides an overview of the national campaign, all outreach media materials, video clips of campaign documentaries, a feedback mechanism, and information on national/local campaign activities and events.

## Campaign Management

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign is designed and managed by Outreach Extensions, a national consulting firm that specializes in comprehensive, high profile educational and community outreach campaigns for media projects.

For campaign information, please contact:

### Outreach Extensions

**Denise Blake**, Reentry Project Director  
Outreach Extensions  
3529 Brookstone Way, Union City, GA 30291  
Tel: 770.964.5045; Fax: 770.964.5046  
E-mail: [DeniseBlake1@aol.com](mailto:DeniseBlake1@aol.com)

**Judy Ravitz**, President  
Ken Ravitz, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
7039 Dume Drive, Malibu, CA 90265  
Tel: 310.589.5180; Fax: 310.589.5280;  
E-mail: [outext@aol.com](mailto:outext@aol.com)

Oversight for the **National Black Church Taskforce Initiative on Crime and Criminal Justice** is through the National Religious Affairs Association of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.

National Religious Affairs Association  
of the  
National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice  
P.O. Box 77075  
Washington, DC 20013  
Tel: 703.765.4459; Fax: 703.765.9761  
Email: [nraanabcj@aol.com](mailto:nraanabcj@aol.com)

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign is funded by a generous grant from:



**The Annie E. Casey Foundation**

## Reentry Documentaries

The following public television documentaries are part of the **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign**; some are in production, others are scheduled for broadcast, and still others have already been broadcast.

### **A JUSTICE THAT HEALS / Previously broadcast**

On June 9, 1996, Mario Ramos graduated from high school. The next day, he murdered Andrew Young. It was one of 90 homicides in Chicago that month. The events that followed were anything but typical. The murderer was a parishioner at a nearby church; his victim lived in the neighborhood. The parish priest and members of the community rallied around the murderer and his family – not to defend what he had done, but to defend his *humanity*. They also reached out to the victim's family, determined to arrive at a form of justice that would heal all concerned. Their extraordinary story offers an approach to justice that moves beyond confrontation – and attempts to restore harmony to the lives shattered by a terrible crime. Produced by Jay Shefsky, the one-hour documentary originally aired on WTTW in Chicago in April 2000.

### **ROAD TO RETURN / Previously broadcast; Current PBS Plus offering through 2005**

Narrated by actor/director Tim Robbins, ROAD TO RETURN tells an emotional story of what happens when untreated and unskilled former offenders are returned to society. The film looks at New Orleans' Project Return, a 90-day program that helps former offenders to become self-reliant, law-abiding citizens. Offering group therapy, job training, and placement, Project Return was created by Tulane professor Dr. Bob Roberts and Nelson Marks, who served twelve years for bank robbery. Successful program outcomes include a lower than 6% recidivism rate for graduates. The one-hour film is written, produced, and directed by Leslie Neale and distributed by Chance Films. WYES/New Orleans was the entry station for its PBS broadcast.

### **GOD AND THE INNER CITY / PBS Broadcast June 22, 2003**

This timely and compelling story relates the battle for the souls of our cities and our youth being waged by faith-based groups in America's most troubled neighborhoods. Produced by Manifold Productions, this one-hour documentary features three moving stories about the leaders of faith-based groups that work hand in hand with local crime enforcement, social workers, and welfare bureaucrats to save youth and others from jail, drug dependence, and unemployment. GOD AND THE INNER CITY zeroes in on the people these programs are trying to help in three different cities: Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Some believe that these groups form a new social movement. Can their faith-based approach transform America's inner cities, reversing decades of failure and neglect?

### **WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO TO YOU / PBS Broadcast December 16, 2003**

Part of public television's acclaimed P.O.V. series, this documentary offers an unprecedented look into the minds and hearts of women inmates of New York's Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. The film goes inside a writing workshop led by playwright Eve Ensler, consisting of fifteen women, most of whom were convicted of murder. Through a series of exercises and discussions, the women, including former Weather Underground Members Kathy Boudin and Judith Clark, delve into and expose the most terrifying places in themselves, as they grapple with the nature of their crimes and their own culpability. The film culminates in an emotionally charged prison performance of the women's writing by acclaimed actresses Glenn Close, Marisa Tomei, Rosie Perez, Hazelle Goodman, and Mary Alice. The film was produced by Madeleine Gavin, Judith Katz, and Gary Sunshine.

### **EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET: The Life & Work of Piri Thomas / PBS Broadcast**

**April 6, 2004**

An incendiary mix of documentary, poetry, storytelling, drama, and performance, *EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET* explores the life and work of Piri Thomas, the 75 year-old Afro-Cuban-Puerto Rican author of the classic autobiographical novel *Down These Mean Streets* (1967). The film traces Thomas' path from childhood to manhood in New York City's Spanish Harlem, *El Barrio*, from the 1930s through the 1960s: his parents' immigrant experience, home life during the Great Depression, membership in *barrio* youth gangs, his struggle to come to terms with his mixed-racial identity, travels as a teenage merchant marine, his heroin addiction, his notorious armed robbery of a Greenwich Village nightclub, his six years spent in prison, his emergence as a writer, and his ongoing work of forty-five years as an educator and activist empowering marginalized and incarcerated youths. A stylized, genre-spanning production, *EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET* examines Thomas' use of creative expression as a means of confronting poverty, racism, violence, and isolation. The film is a riveting portrait of a life lived through struggle, self-discovery, and transformation. Produced by When In Doubt Productions, Inc. in association with the Independent Television Service and Latino Public Broadcasting with major funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

**MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL / Distributed by American Public Television,  
May 2, 2004**

Hudson River Film & Video is producing a documentary about a violence prevention project in the San Francisco County Jail where 80 percent of its graduates did not return to jail after only four months of intense immersion. Twelve hours a day, six days a week, men who are violent offenders are involved in what is said to be the first restorative justice project of its kind -- RSVP: Resolve to Stop the Violence Project. The documentary focuses on nine men of diverse ethnicities as they engage one another in deeply emotional encounter groups, then follows the men when they return to their communities.

**FINDING THE SOUL OF A TEENAGER / Fall 2005**

"The key to changing kids' lives is love," says John Bess, founder and chief executive officer of The Valley, a nonprofit comprehensive youth services agency, whose primary goal is to empower young people to become self-sufficient and responsible adults. The Valley's numerous programs are presented at satellite locations all over New York City. Focusing on the success of The Valley's programs, this documentary will show the transformation in the lives of these kids as they participate in workshops in violence reduction, conflict resolution, neighborhood youth projects and other activities. The film will also show the daily routines of these young men and women as they interact with friends and families and struggle with the difficult conflicts and challenges that life sometimes presents. The documentary will also feature interviews with staff and other experts in the field, including James Gilligan, Carol Gilligan, Michael Thompson, James Garbarino, and Deborah Prothrow-Stith. Hudson River Film & Video.

**GIRL TROUBLE / Late 2004**

This groundbreaking documentary chronicles four years in the lives of three teenage girls entangled in San Francisco's juvenile justice system. These girls, and many like them, aren't just at risk – they are in deep trouble. Trying to change their lives, the girls work part-time at the innovative Center for Young Women's Development, an organization run by young women who have faced similar challenges. As the girls confront seemingly impossible problems and pivotal decisions, the Center's 22-year-old executive director Lateefah Simon is often their only support and mentor. Bay Area filmmakers Lexi Leban and Lidia Szajko document the girls' remarkable successes and heartbreaking setbacks. The film traces their struggles to transform their lives within the context of a system that fails to meet the needs of girls in trouble.

*GIRL TROUBLE* is produced by Critical Images, Inc. in association with Independent Television Service and KQED Public Television, San Francisco, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

**PRISON LULLABIES / Late 2004**

Filmed at Taconic, a medium security correctional facility located in the heart of Westchester County, New York, *PRISON LULLABIES* follows four women over a period of 16 months, from their time in prison, through their release, and to their reintegration into society. Pregnant at the time of their arrest for drug-related offenses, the women were given the rare opportunity to keep their babies with them while serving their sentences. They live with their babies on the nursery floor, separated from other inmates. *PRISON LULLABIES* is the first documentary to

take an in-depth look at a nursery program and its long-term effects on the women who participate. Produced and directed by Odile Isralson and Lina Matta, Brown Hats Productions.

**A HARD STRAIGHT / Late 2004**

A HARD STRAIGHT chronicles the lives of persons formerly incarcerated facing what may prove to be their biggest challenge – reentering society after years of incarceration. Beginning on the day of their release from prison, this one-hour documentary follows formerly incarcerated men and women as they enjoy their newly regained freedom while negotiating the difficulties of returning to an uncaring and sometimes hostile society. Of the six hundred thousand prisoners who are released from jail every year, fifty percent of them will return there, the majority within 90 days – A HARD STRAIGHT exposes the truth behind the statistics and sheds a bright and unblinking light on the profound experience of doing time and trying to go straight. Produced by Lindsay Sablosky with Independent Television Series (ITVS) and directed by Goro Toshima.

**AIMEE’S CROSSING / 2005**

Female juvenile offenders have the fastest growing rates of incarceration; yet, media access to their stories is extremely limited because they are minors. However, Governor Rod Blagojevich, of Illinois, has granted Academy Award®-nominated and national Emmy award-winning filmmaker Tod Lending (Nomadic Pictures) unprecedented access to a female juvenile detention center (prison) in Illinois in order to tell this story. In this provocative and very personal feature documentary, AIMEE’S CROSSING, Lending will focus on juvenile offender Aimee Myers, and her family, through her first year of incarceration and a year after her release. Lending will film her therapy sessions and examine how the juvenile justice system contends with her history of domestic and sexual abuse, substance abuse, and mental health issues (she is diagnosed as bi-polar). After Aimee’s release, the film will examine what support she requires from her family, the justice system, and her community in order to change her negative behaviors and become a productive citizen. Produced and directed by Tod Lending, Nomadic Pictures.

**REDEMPTION / PBS Broadcast 2005**

Academy Award® nominated and national Emmy award-winning filmmaker Tod Lending (Nomadic Pictures) will create a feature documentary that will explore the web of social and economic barriers that low-income African-American men face in the context of incarceration and release; and examine existing support structures, and those that are needed, to help former prisoners successfully re-enter their families and neighborhoods. This compelling and highly personal film will challenge the public's perceptions, and reveal the individual, family, and community pathways that can lead to social change.

**Programs Profiled  
in  
Outside the Walls:**

***A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs (Videotape)***

*“I’m a recovering addict. I’m also an ex-offender. So I understand the challenges that someone faces in transitioning from not only inside the walls to outside the walls, but from inside that prison up here [points to his head], to the freedom that we can receive once we can replace that old misinformation. Not only misinformation, but missed information.”*

**-- Nevelle Thompson**, Case Manager, Maryland Reentry Partnership

**EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

**Project RIO (TX)**

*“It’s very important that people are equipped with the right attitudes, the right skills, the right background prior to release. Once they’re released and they come into our career centers, where our workforce development Project RIO specialists work with them, the job is much easier for us to accomplish.”* -- **John Ownby**, Program Administrator, Project RIO

Prisoners learn about and connect to Project RIO both in prison and after release in several ways: Project RIO distributes program brochures to all new inmates; they sponsor an orientation for prisoners on release day, providing them with contact information for the program; and parole officers are trained to refer their parolees to the program. After release, Project RIO employment specialists work with clients to place them in jobs that match their skills and temperament. Its comprehensive services include employment counseling, employment referral, free fidelity bonding, and tax credits to employers who hire former offenders. A 1992 evaluation performed by Texas A&M University found that, at that point in time, the four million that was expended on program operations actually returned ten million dollars to the coffers of the state government by virtue of lower re-incarceration costs.

**Safer Foundation (IL and IA)**

*“Ninety-seven percent of the people who go into prison are coming home. We, as a community, have a choice. We can say come home worse than you went in and do what you have to do to survive. Or we can say, we will not feed you, but we will provide you with support systems that will help you to help yourself. That’s really what we like to do.”* -- **Diane Williams**, President, Safer Foundation

The North Lawndale Adult Transition Center receives inmates from the Illinois Department of Corrections to serve out the last months of their sentences. The Center is one of two secured residential sites run by the Safer Foundation, originally established in 1972 to provide vocational training to inmates. One of the country’s largest community-based providers of employment services for former prisoners, Safer has programs in six locations in Illinois and Iowa, and has placed over 40,000 clients in jobs. Safer also provides clients with additional services they often need to be ready for employment such as housing, substance abuse treatment, education, and life skills.

A three-year study by Loyola University looked at Safer clients who went through its employment programs. They found that 17 percent of the clients recidivated in comparison to 44 percent of those released from the state during the same period of time.

**Center for Employment Opportunities (NY)**

*“The cost of being in prison, the cost to families and communities, is actually quite high. If an individual has a job, they’re significantly less likely to be re-offending and, therefore, consistently less likely to return to prison.”*-- **Mindy Tarlow**, Executive Director, CEO

The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) was created in the late 1970s by the Vera Institute of Justice to respond to the employment needs of recently released prisoners. Providing a highly structured set of employment services, CEO assists about 1,800 non-violent felony offenders who are on parole, probation, or work release in New York City. The majority of CEO clients are men (90 percent) in their mid-twenties (90 percent); many have children and families they hope to support upon release. CEO places 65 to 70 percent of its graduates in full-time jobs within three months. About three-quarters of placed participants were still working after one month; and 60 percent were still on the job after three months. The average hourly wage of placed participants is higher than the minimum wage. Nearly two-thirds of the positions offered full benefits.

### **Institute for Social and Economic Development — Microenterprise Training for Women in Corrections (IA, UT, DE, NY, NE, & MS)**

[Talking about the collaboration between ISED and the Iowa Department of Corrections]

*“We need to get together and do what each does best. We need to come up with a team approach and offer a range of products and services geared to the ex-offenders, which meets their needs and continuously keeps them supported as they reenter. That’s what we’ve seen is making all the difference.”*

-- **Christine Mollenkopf-Pigsley**, Director of Microenterprise, ISED

The Institute for Social and Economic Development’s (ISED) Microenterprise Training for Women in Corrections assists women who are incarcerated at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville, Iowa. As part of its Women’s Business Center, in 2000, ISED started a project called Pathways to Progress, which is a microenterprise program for incarcerated women. ISED collaborates with the Iowa Women’s Enterprise Center and the Iowa Department of Corrections to provide entrepreneurial training to women in prison.

It follows them from a training program while they are inside the facility, to a reentry project as they leave the prison and begin to implement the business plan they developed in prison. The microenterprise program focuses on helping the women to use their talents and skills to start small businesses, obtain quality jobs, and build financial assets to help them become economically independent and successful members of the community.

### **Delancey Street Foundation (CA, NY, NC, and NM)**

*“All the residents started like I did. Came in, sat on the bench, and asked for help. It’s all based on the ‘each one, teach one’ format.”*

-- **Charles Williams**, Intake Coordinator, Delancey Street

The Delancey Street Foundation compound is made up of stylish stores, town houses, a Town Hall, a restaurant, and a park, all of which act as a home and training center to over 500 individuals who were formerly incarcerated. The compound was built by Delancey Street residents; many came to the Foundation from the criminal justice system with little or no skills.

Delancey Street acts as a residential education center that assists former offenders and former substance abusers. Residents are required to stay with the program for two years, although the average stay is closer to four, and they gain educational, life, and marketable skills. Over 14,000 have successfully graduated from the program and are living independent lives. The Foundation has expanded over the years and about 1,000 residents live in five facilities across the nation.

## **HEALTH**

### **Rhode Island Prison Release Program & Project Bridge (RI)**

*“What I’ve come to recognize is that public health is public safety. Somebody that has an infectious disease and that we release to the community without giving them support is going to cause harm out there in the community as surely as if they had committed a crime.” –*

**Ashbel T. Wall, II**, Director, Rhode Island Department of Corrections

The Rhode Island Department of Health, Department of Corrections, The Miriam Hospital Immunology Center, and the Brown University AIDS Program have implemented a program providing HIV-infected inmates with health care both during and after incarceration. The Prison Release Program addresses the issue of continuity of care for HIV-infected inmates by connecting them with a physician in prison who will continue to treat him/her after release. Project Bridge, a community-based program, is another partner in the Prison Release Program. Set up to improve the medical continuity of care for HIV-positive offenders, it assists them in other areas where they need it. Results of the program in the first year were that the recidivism rate for HIV-positive individuals was reduced by 50 percent. Many still ended up back in prison, but over 12 months, it was 17 percent compared to about 35 percent before the program was started.

### **Tuerk House Incorporated (MD)**

*“The disease of addiction just took me from who I knew I always wanted to be to somebody whom I just flat out could not stand.”* – Anonymous Peer Group Participant, Tuerk House

Tuerk House Incorporated provides substance abuse treatment through a variety of drug treatment programs, an intermediate care facility, an outpatient treatment program, and two halfway houses. The Tuerk House was established in Baltimore in 1970 as a residential alcohol and drug treatment program. Some of its clients attend on their own volition; others are mandated by the courts or parole and probation. The Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, Inc. conducted a study in 2002 called Steps to Success, which showed how addiction-related crimes decreased significantly as a result of effective treatment.

Official arrest records saw a 38 percent decline in the number of treatment participants whose arrest led to an imprisonment in the 12 months prior to treatment compared to 12 months after treatment. Tuerk House was one of the treatment centers that participated in the study.

### **Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender Program (WA)**

*“We have risk management specialists both in the institution and in the field who work for the Department of Corrections. We basically all collaborate and start serving offenders while they are still in prison.”* -- **Thomas Saltrup**, Program Manager, Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender Program, Washington State Department of Corrections

The Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender Program began in March 2000 in response to a 1999 Substitute Senate Bill by the Washington State Legislature. This bill sought to improve the screening and assessment, as well as the mental health treatment, of dangerous mentally ill offenders (DMIO) released from incarceration. Corrections administrators find it difficult to transition this population into the community safely and

successfully. In order to identify, monitor and maintain the continued treatment of high-risk mentally ill people upon release, the Department of Corrections works with the Department of Social and Health Services, the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health Regional Support Networks, and treatment providers, including Seattle Mental Health. The Washington State Institute of Public Policy published an interim report on the implementation of the DMIO law. Preliminary results show that the program is making an improvement in providing pre and post release mental health services. After a year, 93 percent of DMIO participants were receiving post release services compared to 45 percent of non-DMIO participants.

## **HOUSING**

### **The Fortune Society and The Fortune Academy (NY)**

*“It’s already so hard for somebody to make the transition from prison to being a member of the community. When you throw homelessness into the mix, the odds just tilt overwhelmingly against the person.”* -- **JoAnne Page**, Executive Director, The Fortune Society

The Fortune Society was established as a self-help and advocacy organization. It eventually expanded its mission to include educating the public on criminal justice issues and providing comprehensive direct services to former prisoners.

The Fortune Academy is transitional supportive housing, built by The Fortune Society, which has been in the business, for more than 30 years, of assisting prisoners and men and women who were formerly incarcerated. In addition to providing 50 emergency and long-term beds, the Academy provides numerous services, including drug treatment, HIV and mental health services, alternatives to incarceration, and housing. Since most of the staff are former offenders in recovery, the organization offers powerful role modeling for its clients.

#### **Bethel New Life, Inc. (IL)**

*“I wouldn’t be where I am, if not for Bethel allowing me to keep my son with me [in supportive housing] and to grow as I have grown. I wouldn’t have him.”*  
– **Linda Dortch**, Tenant Information Specialist and Former Client, Bethel New Life

Bethel New Life is a faith-based organization that provides family support services, economic development, community organizing, and housing. It employs 340 individuals and has a budget of \$10 million dollars. In 1979, the members of Bethel Lutheran Church decided to address the shortage of affordable and safe housing in their community.

They invested in three apartment buildings to fix up and have been building affordable housing ever since. They also provide supportive housing, including a 25-unit building for families. BNL realized that, of the population of homeless needing transitional housing, 40 percent were formerly incarcerated. With over 3,000 former prisoners being released into its West Side Chicago community each year, BNL began an initiative in July 2002 to reduce recidivism and to support the reentry of individuals who were formerly incarcerated back to several communities.

#### **Health, Housing and Integrated Services Network (CA)**

*“The program brings health and social services into subsidized housing.... We offer the services free of charge to the residents in those buildings.”*  
-- **Robert Ratner**, Supportive Housing Program Director, Life Long Medical Care

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) supports local nonprofit agencies in developing service-supported housing for those most in need – people coping with extreme poverty and mental illness, addiction, or HIV/AIDS, including individuals who were formerly incarcerated. With eight offices around the country and a staff of nearly 100, CSH works with a network of 332 nonprofit partners that have assisted in the development of more than 8,000 supportive housing apartments.

In 1994, CSH established a program called the Health Housing and Integrated Services Network. HHISN built partnerships with housing providers, community clinics, and nonprofit organizations to integrate high quality health, social, and vocational services to tenants. The California Hotel in Oakland is permanent supportive housing created by CSH.

## **FAMILY**

#### **John C. Inmann Work & Family Center (CO)**

*“I have to make different choices. So I go down there and speak with my caseworker, Angela, and set a plan and see where I’m going to start off for that day.”*  
-- **Nakia Germany**, Client, Inmann Work & Family Center

The John C. Inmann Work and Family Center is a multi-agency program that provides holistic services to men and women who were formerly incarcerated and are returning to the Denver Metro area. The Center opened its doors in August 1998 and serves between 1,000 to 1,500 clients annually. The comprehensive services and programs provided by the center include case management, job development, child support and family reunification, support services, and legal services.

### **Families in Crisis, Inc. (CT)**

*“I think programs such as ours are very much a complement to what Judicial and Corrections are charged with doing. I really think we need to bring all of our resources together and everyone has to approach it as their issue and their problem. And I think that’s when it’s most likely to be successful.”*

– **Susan Quinlan**, Executive Director, Families in Crisis, Inc.

Families in Crisis was founded in 1977 to address the role that families play in helping men and women who were formerly incarcerated to make successful transitions back into the community. Its services focus on rebuilding families, reducing crime, and preparing former offenders to be productive citizens. The four Families in Crisis offices in Connecticut offer family counseling and support, after-school programs for children with incarcerated parents, domestic violence offenders programs, and the Fathers and Children Together program.

### **La Bodega de la Familia (NY)**

*“Traditionally, people know of case management where you focus on an individual. What we look at is the context in which individuals live and how they relate to one another.”*

-- **Carol Shapiro**, Founder, La Bodega de la Familia

Since 1996, La Bodega de la Familia has been supporting families and their loved ones while they are in prison and when they are released. A project of Family Justice, Inc., La Bodega is located in a storefront in a low-income Latino community on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. Eligibility requirements include living in the immediate community; having a history of substance use; a family member who is willing to participate; and some justice involvement. A year-long evaluation by the Vera Institute of Justice suggests that La Bodega’s family-based approach to working with people under criminal justice supervision for drug charges works. Illegal drug use of parolees and identified substance users decreased significantly for those involved in La Bodega’s programs as compared with those in a control group; and a smaller segment of the La Bodega group was sent back to prison in the first six months of parole.

### **Community Re-Entry (OH)**

*“People need to be connected [and] supported. They need to be visited while they are incarcerated. When they come home, they need to be welcomed back into the community and given opportunities to become full-fledged members again.”* – **Charles See**, Executive Director, Community Re-Entry

The Community Re-Entry Program was an outgrowth of the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, which was formed in response to the urban unrest in the 1960s. The mission of the Community Re-Entry program is to resettle individuals who were formerly incarcerated back into the community in such a way as to reduce recidivism and enhance their quality of life and that of the community. Launched in 1971, this faith-based program has partnered with federal, county, and city justice systems on a number of programs, as well as with other community-based organizations to provide comprehensive care for its clients. Services are delivered through 14 different programs that address a number of reentry needs and challenges.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Southside Day Reporting Center Reentry Program (IL)**

*“It’s obvious that we can’t do it on our own. If we could, then we wouldn’t keep coming back and forth to jail.”* -- **Donald Coney**, Former Client, Southside Day Reporting Center

In 1998, the Illinois Department of Corrections opened a new program called the Southside Day Reporting Center Reentry Program (DRC) in the Englewood community in Chicago. The target population for this program is high-risk parolees returning to neighborhoods in south Chicago.

Operated by Behavioral Interventions, the DRC provides a continuum of intense supervision, monitoring, treatment, and educational services for these program participants immediately upon release from prison, with the aim of reducing recidivism and thereby increasing public safety. Research indicates that parolees placed in the Southside reentry group were re-incarcerated for new criminal convictions at a much lower rate than a comparable group of parolees who went into regular parole supervision without day reporting. This represents a 40.6 percent reduction in new criminal convictions.

### **Boston Reentry Initiative (MA)**

*“This is not hug-a-thug. I will tell you that right now. We are not warm and fuzzy. However, the one thing that I think the police department has learned in the past ten years is the importance of partnership and knowing what we’re good at and then reaching out to those people [in the community] who are good at doing other things.”* -- Blake Norton, Operations Director, Public Affairs, Boston Police Department

In the summer of 2000, the Boston Police Department, in partnership with the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department, developed the Boston Reentry Initiative (BRI) to focus its reentry resources on inmates who pose a public safety risk to the communities that they will reenter. This community-wide project involves the collaborative efforts of social service providers, faith-based organizations, and other law enforcement agencies. Using a public safety and social service strategy, the BRI seeks to prevent high-risk former prisoners from reoffending through comprehensive and effective transitional resources as well as through increased vigilance in monitoring their reentry process.

### **Maryland Reentry Partnership Initiative (MD)**

*“Like I say, I come home intent on not going back. Not being able to get employment, you become depressed and stressed out. Then you go back to your old habitat and do things that you know well.”* – Daniel Woodrum-el, Maryland Reentry Client

The Maryland Reentry Partnership Initiative (REP) is a public-private collaborative seeking to engage community members, government organizations, and service providers in developing strategies to reduce recidivism and successfully reintegrate individuals who were formerly incarcerated into the community. Key partners include the Maryland Department of Corrections, the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, Parole and Probation, the Baltimore Police Department, the Enterprise Foundation, and local community development corporations. Beginning while offenders are still in prison, REP aims to provide a seamless, comprehensive network of services to prisoners returning to three target communities with particularly high levels of returning offenders in the Baltimore area: Sandtown/ Winchester, Historic East Baltimore, and Druid Heights.

### **Citizens’ Circles, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (OH)**

*“When an offender is admitted into a Citizens’ Circle, you’ve got full participation at the community level.”*  
-- Edward Rhine, Chief, Office of Offender Reentry and Correctional Best Practices,  
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has received a federal grant, under the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, of about \$2 million dollars to develop and implement the Ohio Community-Oriented Reentry Project (C.O.R.E). Part of a larger strategy known as the Ohio Plan for Productive Offender Reentry and Recidivism Reduction, C.O.R.E provides a collaborative and comprehensive case management approach that begins during incarceration and continues into the community once the individual is released to supervision. An example of how the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction engages the citizenry in reentry is through the formation of Citizens’ Circles. The Circles, which are increasing in number throughout the state, are made up of representatives from law enforcement, social services, faith communities, and victims. They meet regularly with people, who were formerly incarcerated, not only to keep an eye on their activities in the community, but also to offer resources that can aid in their successful reintegration.

# FAITH

## **Episcopal Social Services – Network Program (NY)**

*“Well, I started at the reentry end in East Harlem. We were just dealing with guys coming out of prison, and women, and then decided that that wasn’t enough. We had to be in prison.”*

-- Father Stephen Chinlund, Executive Director, Episcopal Social Services

Episcopal Social Services (ESS) is a nonprofit, nondenominational social service agency begun by the Episcopal Mission Society. They received permission to reintroduce the Network Program, patterned after the original program operated by the New York State Department of Corrections, in which inmates participate in daily group meetings. The Network Program is built on the therapeutic community model of behavior modification, a group-method approach typically used in substance abuse treatment settings. The ultimate goal of this approach is to change participants’ lifestyle and identity -- in this case, move them away from a life of crime and substance abuse.

Participants primarily run the meetings in both prison (nine facilities) and community settings with little interference from ESS or corrections staff. Another ESS program is its College Initiative, which assists people who want to enroll in a college.

## **Woman at the Well House Ministries (TX)**

*“Oh, it changed my whole life around. I’m no longer homeless. I have my own place now. I’m working. I got a job while I was here. It was a spiritual awakening for me.”*

-- Julie, Former Resident, Woman at the Well House Ministries

Woman at the Well House Ministries in San Antonio provides services to female prisoners released from the Texas State Prison System and the local county jail.

Objectives of this Methodist and Episcopalian operated faith-based residential community include enhancing the development of spirituality and physical and emotional health. Since 1996, over 250 women have been ministered to and provided with counseling, clothing, food, mentoring, life skills training, and support until they are able to get back on their feet. Woman at the Well House Ministries targets women who are on probation or parole and are having difficulty transitioning and meeting the terms of their release. Clients are usually homeless, have no money, and have no family or weak family ties since being incarcerated.

## **Islamic Health & Human Services (MI)**

*‘I feel an obligation because when I left, I told them that I would come back.’*

-- Imam Sharif Muhammad, Islamic Health & Human Services

Islamic Health and Human Services (IHHS) is a nonprofit agency founded by Imam Sharif A. Muhammad in 1992 to fulfill a promise to his late wife, A'isha. Her request was that Sharif work toward a time when Muslims could have health care according to the needs dictated by their religion. In addition to providing services to Muslims who are incarcerated, those who are released to the Detroit Metro area, and request assistance, may participate in the Shadow program. Managed by Aassyyid Umar Yefunu, the Shadow program assigns a mentor to returning former prisoners; mentors provide information, support, and an introduction into the Muslim community.

## **AMACHI (PA)**

*“The Church is there, I believe, with a mission to reach out to those people in that community who are suffering, who have needs. They have a mandate to do something about these children, and they have. They have the resources in terms of people who can do it.”*

-- Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., Director, Amachi

A West African word, Amachi means “who knows but what God has brought us through this child.” Recognizing that an estimated 20,000 children in Philadelphia have parents who are incarcerated, the Amachi program was developed to support these at-risk children by providing them with caring adult mentors. The Amachi program is a

partnership between secular and faith-based institutions, including 71 congregations; Public/Private Ventures, a social policy think tank; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Pennsylvania; and the Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society at the University of Pennsylvania. Since the inception of the Amachi program, over 600 matches have been made, with 75 percent remaining active. Many matches have been active for more than 18 months.