



# Viewer Resource Guide

For clergy and lay leaders



 The Annie E. Casey Foundation





The *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* Viewer Resource Guide was developed by Outreach Extensions in collaboration with the National Alliance of Faith and Justice of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice. *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* and this Viewer Resource Guide are part of the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign.

Learn more about the Reentry Campaign by visiting  
**[www.reentrymediaoutreach.org](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org)**

Photo Art - Barbara Smith

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign is funded by a generous grant from The Annie E. Casey Foundation.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

*“Remember to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you  
when I laid my hands on you.”*

II Timothy 4:6

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
<i>To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith</i>	4
Background	
A Call to Action	5
Feedback Form	7
Suggestions for Using <i>To Serve This Present Age:     Reentering Through Faith</i>	8
<b>MODULE 1 - Reentry Support and Mentoring of Formerly Incarcerated Men and Women</b>	<b>9</b>
Profiled Program Summaries	11
Strategies	13
Scriptural References	13
<b>MODULE 2 - Mentoring Children Of Prisoners</b>	<b>15</b>
Profiled Program Summaries	17
Strategies	19
Scriptural References	19
<b>MODULE 3 - Partnerships and Collaborations</b>	<b>20</b>
Profiled Program Summaries	22
Strategies	26
Scriptural References	26
<b>MODULE 4 - Strengthening Families and Communities</b>	<b>28</b>
Profiled Program Summaries	29
Strategies	30
Scriptural References	30
<b>MODULE 5 - Disproportionate Minority Confinement</b>	<b>32</b>
Profiled Program Summaries	35
Strategies	36
Scriptural References	36
<b>A Reentry Case Study – OMAR &amp; PETE</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Handouts and Additional Resources</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Production Credits for <i>To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith</i></b>	<b>53</b>

## ***To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith***

### **Background**

Outreach Extensions has partnered with the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ) of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) in order to develop critically-needed media and training tools for the faith community and, in particular, culturally-competent resources for African-American clergy and laypersons.

Inspired in title by the Charles Wesley hymn, “A Charge to Keep I Have,” *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* is a result of this collaboration. In addition to being widely distributed to faith leaders across the nation, the video/DVD will supplement existing training conducted by the NAFJ and others to provide an introduction and orientation on reentry issues facing formerly incarcerated men and women. NAFJ has found that clergy and laypersons, who have compassionate feelings for people who were formerly incarcerated, may not have any formal knowledge or training to support their needs adequately. Thus, the goal of the video/DVD is capacity building and competency training for interfaith and interdenominational lay people and clergy. Our hope is that their commitment and new knowledge will lead them to engage in local ministries and programs to assist former prisoners and their families.

Produced by Dean Radcliffe-Lynes, *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* capitalizes on the growing awareness among clergy of the significant impact of crime and imprisonment on families and communities and the active role they need to play in addressing reentry. The need for the video is based on the large numbers of people who are returning home following incarceration. Many seek assistance from houses of worship; clergy and lay persons are striving to meet this demand.

*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* is structured around five modules:

- Reentry Support and Mentoring of Formerly Incarcerated Men and Women
- Mentoring Children of Prisoners
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Strengthening Families and Communities
- Disproportionate Minority Confinement

In the video/DVD and in this Viewer Resource Guide, faith-based reentry programs have been selected to illustrate practices and strategies for each of the five modules.

## A Call to Action

### *A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE*

*A charge to keep I have,  
a God to glorify,  
a never-dying soul to save,  
and fit it for the sky.*

*To serve the present age,  
my calling to fulfill;  
O may it all my powers engage  
to do my Master's will!*

*Arm me with jealous care,  
as in thy sight to live,  
and oh, thy servant, Lord,  
prepare a strict account to give!*

*Help me to watch and pray,  
and on thyself rely,  
assured, if I my trust betray,  
I shall forever die.*

**Text:** Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

**Music:** Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

We are hopeful that *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* (video/DVD) will be a **call to action** to interdenominational and interfaith lay people and clergy. It offers compelling examples of ministries and programs that can assist formerly incarcerated men and women – and their families – in achieving stability. The public safety benefits in helping those struggling to rebuild lives free from crime are considerable. Individuals, families, congregations, and communities will become stronger and healthier.

As you view the film, ask yourself how you can become involved:

- Is that a ministry or program that would help our congregation and others who may want to find their way through faith?
- How well does the ministry or program fit with our spiritual mission and programmatic goals?
- What capacity do we have to conduct such a program or ministry?
- What skills or resources do members of our congregation offer?
- What other faith- or community-based organizations may want to partner with us in providing needed services and resources?
- What impact can we achieve in helping to turn around the lives of individuals and family members?

Page 8 of this Viewer Resource Guide describes different settings in which you may use the film. Convene a group that is prepared to take action together to create a new program or ministry or enhance an existing program or ministry that focuses on reentry services and supports.

## Steps to take in mobilizing action:

- Discuss each module in the film and consider which area (or areas) of reentry support your congregation, organization, or partnership wants to address? Is there a particular program or ministry that fits the purpose you want to achieve. Use the questions above to discuss capacity, resources, needs, and commitment.
- Read the **overview text** for each module in this Viewer Resource Guide to gain more understanding of the issues. Use additional **resources** in the guide to assist you in building knowledge and making decisions. Consider whether you want to contact any of the groups presented in the film and guide – especially if you want to replicate parts of the work they are doing.
- Review the **strategies** that are presented with each module. Which one(s) offer the best opportunity for your group, congregation, or partnership to make a difference to families?
- Decide the level of action that you know can be successful and sustainable based on your resources and community needs.

Example: If you're a small church, synagogue, or mosque, you may want to focus on mentoring or providing discipleship to one or more formerly incarcerated people.

Example: If your church, synagogue, or mosque is sufficiently large, and your community has an organization with an effective mentoring program for youth, you may want to establish a mentoring ministry in partnership with them. They could provide training and support. Your church, synagogue, or mosque could organize interested congregational members who want to serve as mentors. Both groups could recruit youth who could benefit from mentoring, including children of prisoners.

- Inform key stakeholders and the community about your work. This may lead to more partnerships and the development of additional resources. Make sure that you can provide information on the impact or results of your faith-based work – children doing better in school through mentoring, families able to be financially independent through job training and employment, and a lower recidivism rate among people assisted through your reentry efforts. You'll need numbers as well as personal stories to convey what you're able to achieve.
- **Tell us what you're doing.** On the next page, we've provided a Feedback Form so you can tell us about your reentry work – especially if it was inspired by the video/DVD. We will share the information with others through the Reentry E-Newsletter and other reports.



**Feedback Form**  
*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*

Please return this completed form to Denise Blake, Outreach Extensions  
Fax: 770.964.5046 ■ E-mail: [Denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org](mailto:Denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org)

Your Name

Title

Name of Organization

Address

City

State

ZIP Code

Phone

E-mail

**Please take a moment to answer the following few questions.**

1. How useful to you / your group was *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* video/DVD? (circle or highlight your response):            not useful / useful / very useful

Please comment.

2. Tell us something you learned from (or liked about) the video/DVD:

3. Tell us something you did (or plan to do) as a result of watching the video/DVD:

4. What was the total number of people who watched the video/DVD? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Other comments or results.

***Thank you for sharing your thoughts!***  
***This information will help us to continue offering useful media resources to faith-based groups.***

## **Suggestions for Using *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith***

Choose a setting or convene a group that is prepared to take action together to create a new program or ministry or enhance an existing program or ministry.

1. Host a screening event or reentry workshop for congregants, board or trustee members, or the general public
2. Use in your fund raising presentations as examples of the kinds of work or ministry that you do
3. Tell your own stories through your Web site, newsletters, annual reports, or create your own short films
4. Host a screening and panel discussion for partners, elected officials, and other community stakeholders
5. Use at a staff or religious retreat to stimulate discussion or reconfirm your mission and vision
6. Use in classroom or professional development settings to strengthen your peers' knowledge base
7. Present to staff for action planning
8. Use in one-on-one client settings
9. Use with youth groups or in juvenile detention settings
10. Use critical thinking skills to analyze media with positive images versus negative ones



## Reentry Support and Mentoring of Formerly Incarcerated Men and Women

*“It is absolutely necessary for churches to now redefine their role in relation to incarcerated people and ex-inmates in a more ‘outside the wall’ support network and not simply going to prisons to visit or conduct worship services. That’s too easy. It’s important ministry. It’s important work, but it’s too easy.”*

**Dr. Robert M. Franklin, Jr.**

Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics  
Candler School of Theology, Emory University

*Mentor* is a Greek term meaning “adviser” or “wise person.” As mentors, persons of faith are able to motivate, encourage, and guide those whom they mentor. For formerly incarcerated persons, the role of a mentor is critical in easing the adjustment to reconnecting with family and community.

In many locales, churches are partnering with governmental and nonprofit organizations to strengthen mentoring relationships, like the Philadelphia-based Amachi Mentoring Program or one in Washington, DC sponsored by the Court Services and Offenders Supervision Agency (CSOSA), a federal agency designed to help offenders return to society.

Faith institutions and other community groups have historically played a critical role in providing support for both incarcerated and released prisoner populations. Thousands of faith-based and community organizations currently provide emergency and long-term shelter, job training, substance abuse treatment, and mentoring for released prisoners and their families. All of these services can ease the reintegration of the former prisoner. Faith-based institutions typically have



strong neighborhood ties, putting them in a good position to help returning prisoners and their families in a way that is grounded both in the individual and in the community.

Partnering with established organizations allows faith-based mentors to utilize existing infrastructure and expertise within partner organizations, while faith-based mentors are able to bring to the table their experience with communication skills, personal integrity, and other life skills. Such mentoring programs typically include a training element and a background clearance check before mentors and former prisoners are matched.

### Discussion Questions

1. Does your faith tradition have a spiritual mandate to minister to those who are incarcerated or recently released from prison or jail?
2. Perform an internal assessment. Which reentry supports is your organization best suited to provide – mentoring, health-related services, housing, education, employment? Discuss ways to strengthen or implement a reentry ministry or program around this area.

While there is, to date, little research data to support it, it is believed that in-prison and post-release exposure to faith and faith-based organizations reduces recidivism. Prison Fellowship Ministries (PFM), a national nonprofit prison-based ministry, has conducted a number of studies evaluating the effectiveness of their in-prison programs on reducing post-release recidivism. Results from these studies reveal some potentially promising outcomes. In one study, inmates who attended ten or more PFM Bible study sessions in a year were nearly three times less likely to be rearrested during the 12 months after release than a matched comparison group of inmates who did not participate in the PFM program<sup>1</sup>. It can further be anticipated that formerly incarcerated persons matched with faith-based mentors will be increasingly more successful.

Further, additional supports to formerly incarcerated persons by faith- and community-based groups, including job training, health care, education, and housing, lead to even more successful reentry. For example, an unemployed former prison is three times more likely to return to prison than one who is employed. A 1996 study in New York State showed that 89 percent of parole and probation violators were unemployed at the time of re-arrest<sup>2</sup>.

Urban faith leaders have identified the problem of reducing recidivism as the most important issue facing urban communities<sup>3</sup>. The persistently high levels of crime in these communities causes physical harm to residents, retards economic development, negatively affects families, and undermines the social services efforts of both government and private organizations. By using strategies explored in *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering through Faith* and other media resources in the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, faith-based organizations have an opportunity to help augment reentry services and supports provided by traditional approaches.



---

<sup>1</sup> Johnson, Byron R., David B. Larson, and T. Pitts. 1997. "Religious Programs, Institutional Adjustment, and Recidivism among Former Inmates in Prison Fellowship Programs." *Justice Quarterly*, March.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Texas Department of Justice, 1990 and State of New York Department of Labor, 1996

<sup>3</sup> Prisoner Reentry: Issues and Answers. U.S. Department of Labor, Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. [http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/images/Prisoner\\_Reentry.pdf](http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/images/Prisoner_Reentry.pdf)

## Profiled Program Summaries – Reentry Support and Mentoring of Formerly Incarcerated Men and Women

### **Cornerstone Family Church**

Pastors Dan and Anne Berry  
3114 SW 61st Street  
Des Moines, IA 50321  
Phone: 515-243-2852  
Fax: 515-243-2958  
Pastor Dan Berry  
pastor.dan@cfcministries.org  
Pastor Anne Berry  
pastor.anne@cfcministries.org  
www.cfcministries.org

Through uplifting music and practical messages, nondenominational Cornerstone Family Church presents the ageless truths of the Bible in a format that's easy to understand, even if you've never been to church. Cornerstone's ministries include a prisoner letter-writing program called *Jeremiah's Letter* and mentoring programs for men and women. One called *Shalom-Shalom* provides mentors to men who live at the Bridges of Iowa facility, a faith-based reentry program providing substance abuse treatment.

### **Rhode Island Family Life Center**

Sol Rodriguez, Director  
841 Broad Street  
Providence, RI 02907  
Phone: 401-781-5808  
Fax: 401-781-5361  
Email: flc@ri-familylifecenter.org  
www.ri-familylifecenter.org

The purpose of the nonprofit Rhode Island Family Life Center (FLC) is to support and advocate for the reintegration of former prisoners into the community. The organization's goals are to:

- Stabilize offenders returning to the community so that they are less likely to recidivate.
- Strengthen families to help offenders reintegrate and reconnect with their loved ones.
- Remove barriers to reintegration for formerly incarcerated men and women.

The Family Life Center's reentry program uses a holistic, family-based approach to support individuals as they prepare to leave prison, return home, and stabilize in the community. The FLC begins to work with clients while they are still incarcerated and then offers a one-stop center for them (and their families) as they reintegrate into the community.

### **Hansen House of Hospitality**

Mario Hayslett, Director  
1521 6th Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
Phone: 515-282-0549  
Email: hansenhouse@mchsi.com

Providing affordable housing is a critical component in assisting in the reentry of adult offenders. In Des Moines, Iowa, the Hansen House of Hospitality was founded 25 years ago by Bob Cook, a Presbyterian minister, who opened his home to men who were coming out of prison. They may stay here absolutely free, as long as they remain drug-free, find a job, and save their money so they can move into their own places. The House is able to accommodate only ten residents, including its current director, Mario Hayslett.

### **New Life for Girls**

Rev. Edwin and Susan Matos, Directors  
806 Littlestown Pike  
Westminster, MD 21157  
Phone: 410-848-1360  
www.newlifeforgirls.org

Founded in 1972, New Life for Girls is a non-denominational Christian discipleship program geared to meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of women and children trapped in alcohol and drug addiction. The Westminster facility houses 12 women at a time and is celebrating its 18th year in Maryland. For three to five months, the student resides in a home-like environment called an Introduction Center. During this time she receives the maximum amount of personal attention and guidance

from staff members. She immediately begins Bible Study and is given the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior. After successful completion of the introduction phase, she moves on to phase two of New Life's program in Dover, PA for the remaining nine months. During her final months at the training center, a student's readiness to re-enter society is evaluated. She is assisted in making future plans by her guidance counselor and the Dean of Women. After graduation from the program, she may choose to return to her home or to stay and assist in the New Life for Girls ministry.

**Peace Baptist Church**

Rev. Michael T. Bell, Pastor  
712 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
Phone: 202-399-3450  
Fax: 202-398-8836  
Email: [pastormtb@verizon.net](mailto:pastormtb@verizon.net)  
[www.peace-baptist.org/](http://www.peace-baptist.org/)

**River of Life Church**

Rev. Janice Thompson, Pastor  
75 N. Main Street  
Providence, RI 02903-1307  
Phone: 401-462-2411  
Email: [JanThomp@aol.com](mailto:JanThomp@aol.com)

While a small congregation, the entire church has pledged to adopt a released inmate and his/her family, when appropriate, to navigate the difficult challenges of reentry including employment, housing, family reconciliation, and educational attainment.

**Teen Challenge**

P.O. Box 1015  
Springfield, MO 65801 (national office)  
Phone: 417-862-6969  
Fax: 417-862-8209  
[www.teenchallenge.com](http://www.teenchallenge.com)

Teen Challenge is the oldest, largest, and most successful program of its kind in the world. Established in 1958, Teen Challenge has grown to more than 160 centers in the United States and 300 centers worldwide. Many of the centers offer a one-year residential program for adults designed to help men and women learn how to live drug-free lives. During their stay, they do not hold outside jobs, as all of their attention is focused on the program. The program challenges the residents to embrace the Christian faith. They believe that when they do, their lives are transformed and they find true meaning and purpose. While most of its centers are for adults, some do offer residential programs for teenagers. Residents follow strict rules and discipline. They adhere to a daily schedule that includes chapel, Bible classes, work assignments, and counseling.

Teen Challenge offers a number of services to the community, many times free of charge. For over 40 years, Teen Challenge has been going into schools around the world working with teens to educate them about the dangers of drugs. Teen Challenge reaches out to people in juvenile halls, jails, and prisons. Its "jail teams" help show inmates that there is hope for them to turn their lives around. More importantly, they educate them on how to change their lives.

## Strategies for Reentry Support and Mentoring of Formerly Incarcerated Men and Women

The criminal justice system weighs most heavily upon communities of color, particularly the black community. Over 70 percent of those in attendance at any worship or faith event respond that they have a family member, friend, or neighbor who is currently, or has been, in jail or prison. Supporting reentry should be viewed as a public safety, not a “soft-on-crime” initiative. When men and women reentering their families and communities are provided with the tools and encouragement to become self-sufficient, they are moved one step closer to becoming productive citizens and are potentially less vulnerable to re-offend. Here are some ways your faith community may begin to provide reentry supports and mentoring.

- Build partnerships with community-serving organizations; consider creating a reentry coalition.
- If feasible, establish a separate nonprofit organization to support your reentry activities.
- Develop a strong volunteer program of dedicated volunteers; recruit, train, support, and monitor volunteers.
- Contact the Corporation for National and Community Service ([www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov)) to find out about human resources available through AmeriCorp\*VISTA, SeniorCorps, and other programs which may enhance your efforts.
- Work with departments of corrections, probation or parole officers, reentry programs, and houses of worship to identify reentering individuals.
- Conduct formal or informal needs assessments of populations to determine areas of need, i.e., housing, job training, health issues, or employment counseling.
- Identify local contacts and sources willing to provide needed services to reentering former prisoners, e.g., housing, job training, as well as those able to provide resources such as expertise, funding, or space, to support your congregation’s reentry efforts.
- Obtain specialized training and materials to establish a sound mentoring program; provide ongoing support to mentors and program monitoring.
- Evaluate results and refine ministries or programs.



Hansen House of Hospitality

## Scriptural References

<sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee

hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' <sup>46</sup> And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Matthew 25: 36-46

Holy Bible, King James Version

<sup>1</sup> Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; <sup>4</sup> And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Romans 5: 4

Holy Bible, King James Version

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

Genesis 4:9

Holy Bible, King James Version

12:36 Now with him there came into the prison two young men. Said one of them: "I see myself (in a dream) pressing wine." said the other: "I see myself (in a dream) carrying bread on my head, and birds are eating, thereof." "Tell us" (they said) "The truth and meaning thereof: for we see thou art one that doth good (to all)."

Surah 12:36

Holy Quran



Steven Levitt and Ricky

## MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

*“I look at all these men and these women, that’s the message that they have for folks in prison. Yeah, you messed up, but you have a future, it’s bright, your future is bigger. And that’s the message we want to get to those children of those prisoners. To let them know, because your daddy’s in jail doesn’t mean you got to go to jail.”*

**Rev. Benjamin Powell, Pastor**  
59<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church, Philadelphia

The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that 2.8 percent of all children under age 18 have at least one parent in a local jail or a state or federal prison – a total of 1,941,796 children. One in 40 has an incarcerated father, and one in 359 has an incarcerated mother<sup>4</sup>.

The publication, *People of Faith Mentoring Children of Promise: A Model Partnership Based on Service and Community*<sup>5</sup>, says that, in one sense, a parent’s imprisonment can serve as an opportunity for proactive, preventive measures – that is, other caring adults may enter a child’s life. For several reasons, mentoring is one of the most effective ways to do this:

- Mentoring is an idea upon which we can all agree – these children face difficult circumstances through no fault of their own and therefore deserve help.
- Mentoring is a prevention tool that works well with younger children, whom volunteers are likely to find more appealing and easier to work with than teenagers.
- Mentoring provides an avenue for dealing with related concerns such as family- and community-strengthening efforts.

For communities of faith, children of prisoners provide a unique opportunity for ministry – both to the children and to their caregivers. Many of these caregivers are in informal guardianship arrangements and do not receive appropriate assistance related to health care, child care, or child welfare subsidies including food stamps and housing benefits.

### Discussion Questions

1. What kinds of youth-serving programs or ministries does your organization have? Do you have special services for children of incarcerated parents? If so, how do you identify these children?
2. How would you suggest providing necessary support for children of prisoners without embarrassing or ostracizing them compared to children in households with one or more parents?
3. Do you provide special support for non-parental caregivers?

<sup>4</sup> Source: Greenfield, Lawrence A., and Snell, Tracy L., U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Women Offenders (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, December 1999), p. 8, Table 18.

<sup>5</sup> [www.fastennetwork.org](http://www.fastennetwork.org)

In its publication, *Families Left Behind: The Hidden Costs of Incarceration*<sup>6</sup>, the Urban Institute reminds us that with incarceration rates in America at record high levels, the criminal justice system now touches the lives of millions of children each year. The



**Mentor Joyce Jones and Mentee**

imprisonment of nearly three-quarters of a million parents disrupts parent-child relationships, alters the networks of familial support, and places new burdens on governmental services such as schools, foster care, adoption agencies, and youth-serving organizations. Few studies have explored the impact of parental incarceration on young children or identified the needs that arise from such circumstances. Little attention has focused on how communities, social service agencies, health care providers, and the criminal justice system can work collaboratively to meet more effectively the needs of the families left behind.

---

<sup>6</sup> Urban Institute. October 2003. [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310882\\_families\\_left\\_behind.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310882_families_left_behind.pdf)

## Profiled Program Summaries - Mentoring Children of Prisoners

### **Amachi Mentoring Program**

Reverend Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.  
Public/Private Ventures  
2000 Market Street, Suite 600  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Phone: 215-557-4400  
Fax: 215-557-4469  
www.ppv.org

Amachi is a West African word meaning, "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child." The Amachi Mentoring Program is a collaborative effort to provide mentoring to a very special group of Philadelphia's children and youth – those with a parent currently or formerly incarcerated. Amachi is a partnership of Public/Private Ventures, Big Brothers Big Sisters, local congregations, and the Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society at the University of Pennsylvania.

Amachi's goals are twofold: to assist these specific children and youth in achieving their highest potential by engaging them in transformational mentoring relationships with people of faith; and to identify, evaluate, and report to policy leaders, public officials and funders the most effective strategies and practices of urban faith-based mentoring.

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of America**

National Office  
230 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Phone: 215-567-7000  
www.bbbsa.org

Founded in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States. Today, Big Brothers Big Sisters serves over 200,000 children, ages 6 through 18, in 5,000 communities across all 50 states. National research has shown that the positive relationships between Big Brothers and Big Sisters and their Littles have a direct, measurable, and lasting impact on children's lives. Research and anecdotal evidence show specifically that

BBBS one-to-one mentoring helps at-risk youth overcome the many challenges they face. Little Brothers and Sisters are less likely to begin using illegal drugs, consume alcohol, skip school and classes, or engage in acts of violence. They have greater self-esteem, confidence in their schoolwork performance, and are able to get along better with their friends and families.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has partnered with the Amachi Mentoring Program. Amachi congregation members serve children of incarcerated parents. BBBS screens and matches church members with children who have been identified and enrolled by their custodial parent or guardian. An onsite church volunteer coordinator provides a point of contact for ongoing volunteer support and information. Because the church is a common meeting ground, there are enhanced opportunities for group events involving matches, or for support and training activities for volunteers.

### **Bright Hope Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. William H. Gray III, Pastor  
1130 Cecil B. Moore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
Phone: 215-232-6004

Bright Hope Baptist Church was part of a 15-city pilot for the Amachi program, in cooperation with the Corporation for National Community Service and the Department of Health and Human Services. This grant was part of the \$9 million awarded to 52 faith-based and community organizations to mentor 6,000 children of prisoners in FY 2003. This year \$50 million will be available to help 30,000 of these children.

### **Federal Resource Center for Children of Prisoners**

Arlene Lee, Director  
Child Welfare League of America  
440 First Street NW, Third Floor  
Washington DC 20001-2085  
Phone: 202-638-2952  
childrenofprisoners@cwla.org

[www.cwla.org/programs/incarcerated/cop\\_default.htm](http://www.cwla.org/programs/incarcerated/cop_default.htm)

Located in Washington, DC, the Resource Center is conducting research and evaluation, collecting and disseminating information, providing training and technical assistance, and increasing awareness among the many disciplines and service systems that come in contact with families separated by incarceration. The Center's ultimate goal is to improve the quality of information available about children with incarcerated parents and to develop resources that will help create better outcomes for children and their families.

**59<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church**

Rev. Benjamin F. Powell, Pastor  
315 S 59th St  
Philadelphia, PA 19143  
Phone: 215-474-8750  
[www.geocities.com/revbfpowell/](http://www.geocities.com/revbfpowell/)

In addition to its services to children, 59<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church has an adult, computer-based literacy program in Philadelphia.

**Galilee Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. Lloyd McGriff, Pastor  
2252 Minnesota Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20020  
Phone: 202-583-4030  
[www.galileebaptistchurch.net](http://www.galileebaptistchurch.net)

Galilee Baptist Church features a number of ministries and programs for adults, and young people, including the Stir up the Gift youth ministry. This ministry exists to equip, disciple, empower, motivate and release youth to share the good news with non-believers, help them grow in their faith, discover their ministry gifts, and to become mature and productive Christians.

**Trinity Universal Center, Inc.**

Dr. M. Jeanne Dolphus Cotton,  
Founder/Director  
709 North Genesee Street  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085  
Phone: 847-263-9630  
Fax: 847-263-9632  
[mail@trinityuniversalcenter.org](mailto:mail@trinityuniversalcenter.org)  
[www.trinityuniversalcenter.org](http://www.trinityuniversalcenter.org)

Trinity Universal Center (TUC) is designed to serve as a prevention, support, and developmental facility for individuals, youth, and families by facilitating the transition from one life style to another that is easier, more effective, and permanent; and by promoting healing, self-esteem, relationship building, and self-empowerment. TUC's Re-entry Mentoring Project offers training to prepare interfaith and community mentors: (a) to work with persons preparing for release from prison, (b) to work with persons faced with the day-to-day transition and challenges associated with a successful return to their families or to a new start, and (c) to mentor children of prisoners and juvenile offenders.

**U.S. Dream Academy**

Wintley Phipps, President and CEO  
10400 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 300  
Columbia, MD 21044  
Phone: 800-USDREAM  
Fax: 847-263-9632  
[jransom@usdreamacademy.org](mailto:jransom@usdreamacademy.org)  
[www.usdreamacademy.org](http://www.usdreamacademy.org)

Rising to a challenge to help ensure that America's children would not fall behind in the information age, Wintley Phipps built on his vision to create a values-centered Internet based learning program for at-risk children and youth. This vision would place special emphasis on the children of prisoners and those children in danger of school failure due to a lack of proper academic, social, and financial support.

## Strategies for Mentoring Children of Prisoners

Mentoring – the presence of caring individuals who, along with parents or guardians, provide young people with support, counsel, friendship, reinforcement, and a constructive example – is a strategy that can help young people of all circumstances to achieve. Successful mentors understand that positive changes in the lives of young people do not happen quickly or automatically. If they are to happen at all, the mentor and youth must meet long enough and often enough to build a relationship that helps the youth feel supported and safe, develop self-confidence and self-esteem, and see new possibilities in life. The following strategies can support your development of a mentoring ministry or program to youth, including children of prisoners.

- Contact local human service agencies and organizations such as the National Crime Prevention Council to determine the availability of resource guides for adult volunteers who mentor children of incarcerated parents. Include tips for activities they can do together.
- Develop relationships with youth-serving community organizations. These might include schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cool Girls, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and local community centers.
- Put appropriate measures in place for recruitment, background screening, training and support systems, and matching and monitoring of mentor-child relationships.
- Invite a psychologist, psychiatrist, or social worker to meet with your volunteers to discuss youth with special needs, including having a parent who is incarcerated, and effective ways to communicate with youth.
- Consider commemorating Justice Sunday by hosting a local day of recruitment for mentors or to receive a designated offering to support prison ministry and specialized training.
- Be aware that experiential learning and academic mentoring are unique strategies.
- Minimize additional stigma to children of incarcerated parents by establishing mentoring of youth as a core outreach ministry with special emphasis on crime intervention.
- Provide emergency contacts such as health care providers and social service agencies that can be crisis responders. To support their use in an emergency, obtain permission forms from each child's caregiver.

## Scriptural References

<sup>4</sup> One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.  
Psalm 145:4  
Holy Bible, King James Version

## MODULE 3

### PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

*“The reason that we are reaching out to the faith-based community for our ex-offenders now is that we recognize that, no matter how good the training is for an ex-offender, if they don’t have a good social support system, they are not likely to succeed. We can put together good housing, but there’s not a good job. So unless we start looking at these problems in a way that looks at all the needs that have to be addressed, we won’t get real success with the people that we are working with.”*

**Dr. Anthony Grasso, Executive Director**  
Director’s Council, Des Moines, IA

In *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*, we see several examples of interfaith and community partnerships, including those between public and private institutions, challenging the stereotypes of territorialism and parochialism among faith-based organizations. One of the benefits of these types of collaborations is the ability to help “level the playing field.” That is, collaborations can help address perceived or real issues related to increasing capacity and accountability by the nonprofit sector. Partnerships and collaborations, particularly among



public and private groups, accomplish wider service delivery strategies and assist partner organizations in filling gaps in performance.

Worth noting is the fairly recent trend of increased partnerships between faith-based and community groups and government. The Bush White House has identified barriers to traditional faith-based collaborations and is addressing strategies to help faith-based and community organizations to access federal programs and services. Prior to that, during the Clinton Administration in 1996, Section 104 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act permitted government agencies to contract with faith-based organizations for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. The provision, commonly known as “charitable choice,” specified that states cannot eliminate exclusively religious social service providers (i.e., churches, mosques, and temples) from consideration for government contracts. This permits them to compete for government funding on a level playing field with other not-for-profit organizations, including traditional religiously affiliated organizations such as Lutheran Social Services and United Jewish Communities.

#### Discussion Questions

1. You may want to conduct a congregational assessment of in-house resources to address reentry needs in your community. Do you have access to legal support? Housing experts? Health care providers? Counselors? If there are service delivery gaps, who might you partner with to fill them?
2. Has your faith-based organization partnered with non-religion-affiliated groups, like community organizations or government entities? In what ways did the partnership succeed? How might barriers be resolved in order to achieve successful collaboration?

Charitable choice is unique because it allows churches, mosques, and temples to provide services without diluting their religious attributes. The federal law also includes safeguards to protect the liberties of exclusively religious service providers and potential clients. Although federal law does not require states to contract with exclusively religious entities, 22 states adopted the charitable choice language into their own contracting process. Policymakers in many states are examining opportunities to engage sectarian organizations and work with them in new ways. In their deliberative sessions, many legislatures weighed the value of contracting with exclusively religious organizations against concerns about building their capacity to administer and provide services, challenges to maintaining accountability in contracting, and questions about the separation of church and state.



**The Directors Council, Des Moines, IA**

Faith-based groups are also partnering on a peer-to-peer basis. Across the nation, groups of churches are collaborating on major community issues such as mentoring, job training, and health services and referrals, pooling financial resources and human capital. Rather than each ministry taking on the same task, but addressing it in small ways, these collaboratives are providing more “muscle” to achieve greater impact.

## Profiled Program Summaries – Partnerships and Collaborations

### **Beaches Chapel**

Rev. Steve McCoy, Pastor  
610 Florida Boulevard  
Neptune Beach, Florida 32266  
Phone: 904-241-4211  
Fax: 904-249-2046  
Chapel1@bellsouth.net  
www.beacheschapel.com

Until August 2003, Florida's Department of Corrections paid for inmates' pursuit of a high school equivalency diploma at Lawtey Correctional Facility. Now, teachers and textbooks are supplied by religious volunteers. So are the ceiling fans in the dorm. So are other physical improvements, plus educational, counseling, and recreational programs for all of Lawtey's 780 inmates. On Christmas Eve 2003, Gov. Jeb Bush rededicated the 30-year-old, minimum-security state penitentiary in Lawtey, Florida as the nation's first entirely "faith-based" prison, where every inmate has signed up for intensive religious instruction.

Since then, Rev. McCoy's 1,000-member evangelical church has injected more than \$30,000 into a dorm at the prison, and that does not begin to count the value of volunteers' time. More than 100 Beaches Chapel members visit Lawtey each month, teaching inmates about computers and job hunting as well as about the Bible.

### **Corporation for National and Community Service**

1201 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20525  
Phone: 202-606-5000  
www.cns.gov

For more than a decade, the Corporation for National and Community Service—through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs—has mobilized a new generation of engaged citizens. This year, more than 1.6 million individuals of all ages and backgrounds will serve through those programs to help thousands of national and community

nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and local agencies meet local needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other critical areas. National and community service programs work closely with traditional volunteer organizations to broaden, deepen, and strengthen the ability of America's volunteers to contribute not only to their communities, but also to our nation.

### **The Directors Council**

Dr. Anthony J. Grasso, Executive Director  
620 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone: 515-697-5704  
Fax: 515-697-5701

The Directors Council has gone through an evolution from a loose group of independent Executive Directors and/or CEOs who focused primarily on their individual organization's needs, into a coalition of leaders collectively dedicated to improving the conditions of the individuals in the neighborhoods they serve. Through this process, The Directors Council has formalized its mission, developed by-laws, and identified a common purpose resulting in joint program planning for key neighborhoods in Polk County, IA. Additionally, this planning process has allowed The Directors Council to identify efficiencies of scale in joint service provisions that eliminate duplication and decrease service costs.

The Directors Council is currently involved in the Ex-Offenders' Re-Entry Project, a multi-agency effort to provide a wraparound approach to the case management of formerly incarcerated men and women and their families. This approach combines the skills of a caseworker with the empowerment of the client to develop an individualized plan that focuses on housing, health and substance abuse issues, educational and employment needs, and a connection to the faith-based community to promote successful reentry into the

community. Through dissemination of information, this project has already begun to increase public awareness and educate the community about the obstacles former prisoners face upon returning to their respective communities.

### **Federal Bureau of Prisons Community Corrections**

<http://www.bop.gov/locations/cc/index.jsp>

Community Corrections is an integral component of the Bureau's correctional programs. Community corrections staff develop and administer contracts for community-based correctional programs and serve as the Bureau's local liaison with the Federal courts, the U.S. Marshals Service, state and local corrections, and a variety of community groups.

The Bureau contracts with community corrections centers (CCCs), also known as halfway houses, to provide assistance to inmates who are nearing release. CCCs provide a structured, supervised environment and counseling, job placement, and other services. CCCs help inmates gradually rebuild their ties to the community and facilitate supervising prisoners' activities during this readjustment phase. An important component of the CCC program is transitional drug abuse treatment for inmates who have completed residential substance abuse treatment while confined in a Bureau institution.

### **Jefferson Parish Black Church Taskforce Initiative on Crime and Criminal Justice (Cops and Clergy)**

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office

[www.jpso.com](http://www.jpso.com)

Administered by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice

[www.nafj-nabcj.org](http://www.nafj-nabcj.org)

Challenged by the lack of specialized knowledge and resources, years of individualism, theological, and denominational divides have stifled the church's ability to serve this present age. Perhaps more sensitive has been the need for the church to forgive its own leaders when offenses have occurred. Encouraged by Dr. John J. Dilulio, Jr., first Director of the

White House Office of Faith and Community Based Initiatives, the National Alliance of Faith and Justice created a model for faith-based community organizing. Ultimately named the National Black Church Taskforce Initiative on Crime and Criminal Justice, the model encourages stakeholders to build partnerships and mobilize volunteers while achieving civil goals such as mentoring offenders and their children. Led by its Sheriff, Harry Lee, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana became one of several demonstration sites.

### **Oasis of Hope Baptist Church**

Rev. Frank Alexander, Pastor

1701 East 25th Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46218

Phone: 317-925-6970

Fax: 317-925-6972

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

The mission of Oasis Of Hope Baptist Church is to bring individuals into a maturing relationship with God, as sons and daughters, through praise centered worship, Bible centered preaching and teaching, and to enhance the quality of the life of people through Christ centered caring ministries.

### **Oasis of Hope Development Corporation, Inc.**

[www.oasisohbc.org/Development.htm](http://www.oasisohbc.org/Development.htm)

The mission of the Oasis of Hope Development Corporation, Inc. is to expand opportunities available to low to moderate income and other disadvantaged residents; obtaining adequate housing through constructing, rehabilitating, and providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for residents who otherwise would not be able to find or afford a suitable place to live.

### **PACE - OAR**

J. T. Ferguson, Executive Director

1426 W. 29th Street, Suite 101

Indianapolis, IN 46208

Phone: 317-612-6800

Fax: 317-612-6811

Public Action in Correctional Effort (PACE) was founded in Indiana in 1960. Its original mission was to provide volunteer visitors to prisoners at what was formerly known as the

Indiana Reformatory at Pendleton. A short time later, PACE broadened its activities to include advocacy as well as work in other penal institutions throughout the state. In the role of advocate, PACE works to ensure that the treatment of those incarcerated is humane and that those reentering the community have opportunities for success. The cornerstone of PACE activity continues to be a network of volunteers who work with prisoners in a one-on-one relationship. Volunteers and staff also work with the Indiana Department of Corrections to provide pre-release information and workshops to thousands of inmates each year who are nearing release.

Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) started its work in 1968, after a state prison riot in Richmond, Virginia. This incident prompted citizens to band together in search of a solution. Their search led them to the doorstep of the local jail. OAR chose jails as its focus because it is there that people first and most often experience incarceration. OAR/Marion County (Indianapolis) began operating in 1982 as a nonprofit organization. PACE and OAR officially merged in December 2002, combining two of Indianapolis' oldest nonprofit criminal justice agencies.

#### **Safer Foundation**

Diane Williams, President and CEO  
571 W. Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60661  
Phone: 312-922-2200  
Fax: 312-922-0839  
[www.saferfoundation.org](http://www.saferfoundation.org)

The Safer Foundation was established in 1972 by two former priests who received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to provide vocational training to inmates in an effort to help them enter unions and private industry after release. They leveraged this financial support into an opportunity to develop a nonprofit organization focused on preparing former prisoners to become productive law-abiding citizens after their release from prison or jail. The focus of the Safer Foundation has remained virtually unchanged: to prepare former offenders for the world of work by helping them find and keep meaningful employment through a full

range of employment services. Safer also provides clients with the additional services they often need to be ready for employment such as housing, substance abuse treatment, education, and life skills.

One of the largest community-based providers of employment services for former prisoners in the country, Safer has programs in six locations in Illinois and Iowa. It runs two secured residential sites: The PACE (Programmed Activities for Correctional Education) Institute is a private school in the Cook County Jail, which provides inmates with basic skills classes, literacy tutoring, and life skills training. The other residential site is the Crossroads Community Correctional Center in Chicago, a work-release program Safer runs for the Illinois Department of Corrections. Walk-in post-release services are provided at two locations in Chicago; an office in Rock Island, Illinois; and an office in Davenport, Iowa. Each of these locations provides intake and assessment for the full spectrum of Safer support services, job referral, and follow-up. Safer has deliberately defined its target population broadly to include a wide range of former offenders: juvenile and adult probationers, parolees, community corrections residents, and people in the county jail are all eligible for Safer services.

#### **St Paul AME Church**

Rev. Derek Bastian, Pastor  
1201 Day Street  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
Phone: 515-288-4419  
[DerekBastian@aol.com](mailto:DerekBastian@aol.com)

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, located in Des Moines, is the oldest established AME congregation in Iowa. St. Paul has a long history of ministry to the nation, state, and city of Des Moines. In August 1925, St. Paul's membership was involved in the incorporation of the National Bar Association, a professional legal association that includes more than 5,000 lawyers and judges throughout the nation and several foreign countries. St. Paul's membership has also been involved in federal and state government posts that have had a positive impact on the lives of

#### ***Partnerships and Collaborations***

*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*

children and residents in distressed communities.

Under the direction of the current pastor, Rev. Derek E. Bastian, the 200-plus member congregation is involved in several ministries consistent with the church's mission. "To bring Good News to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free." Those ministries include feeding the homeless, urban ministries for the elderly, a prison ministry, and visitation of the sick and shut-in.

**St. Sabina Catholic Church**

Rev. Dr. Michael Pflieger, Pastor  
1210 W. 78th Pl.  
Chicago, IL 60620-0000  
Phone: 773-483-4300  
Fax: 773-483-7583  
pastorpflieger@ameritech.net  
www.saintsabina.org

St. Sabina is a proud African American Catholic Community of faith, education, and witness that sees itself at the service of the entire community. Members are called and charged to be followers of Jesus Christ – ministers of the gospel, instruments of peace, witnesses of love, and drum majors for justice. They are dedicated to forming a world community that sees itself as family to one another. St. Sabina is a Word-based, Bible teaching church that believes in the power of praise and worship. It is a spiritual hospital in which all are welcome and invited to "taste and see the goodness of the Lord." Its purpose is to nurture and develop spiritually mature Christians who are not confined by the walls of the sanctuary, but

can penetrate the world in order to present God's way of living as a divine option.

St. Sabina is home to the CHOICES Prison Ministry, which is committed to sowing seeds of new life into the hearts of those incarcerated in prisons and jails and those reentering their communities. The Ministry works in one of two areas of focus:  
1. Visiting inmates in Cook County Jail and other detention facilities.  
2. Providing resources, encouragement and accountability to those in the community.

**The Salvation Army National Headquarters**

615 Slaters Lane  
P.O. Box 269  
Alexandria, VA 22313  
Phone: 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)  
www.salvationarmyusa.org

In this new century, The Salvation Army is serving more people in the USA than ever before. They are already seeing large increases in the number of Americans seeking the basic necessities of life – food, shelter, and warmth. More than 33 million people received help from The Salvation Army in 2004. Some of the Salvation Army's many programs include:

- Transitional Housing
- Social Services
- Casework and Counseling
- Youth Services
- Rehabilitation Services
- Senior Centers

## Strategies for Partnerships and Collaborations

The willingness to partner has often been a challenge between many clergy and bodies of faith. In addition, aggressive attempts to locate financial resources and grants to fund ideas rather than established programs often detract from the possibility of valuable partnership opportunities. The value of collaborations must take root in communities of faith in order to maximize available talents and resources to serve the present age. Here are suggestions for partnerships and collaborations that can become a tool to build ministry and financial capacity.

- Inventory the number and types of businesses, agencies, organizations, and other potential partnerships represented by members of your congregations. Identify expertise, services, and resources. Determine ways to meet the needs of your reentry ministry through partnerships forged through these members.
- Once you've decided the types of reentry services your faith-based organization is confident it can create, and program stability and sustainability have been established, contact departments of corrections, law enforcement personnel, probation and parole officers, and legal professionals to alert them to your reentry services. They can act as referral agents to your program or ministry.
- Collaborate with former prisoners who have successfully transitioned to serve as liaisons to assist others who are beginning their transition.
- Develop collaborative arrangements with other faith-based and community organizations. In exchange for their technical expertise, for example, your house of worship might provide facilities or spiritual counseling.
- Find out whether your community has a reentry coalition and which organizations/ stakeholders are involved. If one exists, approach the coalition's leadership and find out how your faith-based organization can become involved. If a coalition has not yet been formed, convene other interested organizations and build one in order to provide comprehensive and coordinated services to reentering former prisoners and their families. Your group may consider establishing itself as an independent nonprofit organization.
- Establish a faith-based program or dormitory in a prison facility, which is paid for by private funds raised by your church, synagogue, or mosque. Develop a strong volunteer program to support faith-based activities.

## Scriptural References

<sup>14</sup> Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.  
[Proverbs 11:14](#)  
[Holy Bible, King James Version](#)

<sup>1</sup> Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

<sup>2</sup> It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; <sup>3</sup> As the dew of Hermon,

and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Psalm 133

Holy Bible, King James Version

<sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Philippians 2:4

Holy Bible, King James Version

<sup>10</sup> As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10

Holy Bible, King James Version

49:13 O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other).

Surah 49:13

Holy Quran

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

*“This is a church, it’s a regular church. But our main outreach mission is to ex-inmates and their families. So we’re persons who know what that’s all about and the adjustments that need to be made. And we have persons who have been successful in transitioning and have become stabilized in society and are willing to give this effort as part of their ministry.”*

**Rev. Janice Thompson, Pastor**  
River of Life Church, Providence, RI

The Annie E. Casey Foundation defines *developing social networks* as “connecting families to networks of friends, neighbors, kin, community organizations, role models, mentors, faith-based institutions, and other positive social relationships that encourage and provide neighbor-to-neighbor support and mutual aid and make people feel less isolated and alone.”<sup>7</sup>

We know that the most vulnerable families are frequently isolated – families with few friends, who may not know their neighbors or trust them – families who may move frequently because they have few resources to help them build a stable home. In a difficult time, such as an illness or through the incarceration of a loved one, these families have few resources to turn to. They may have difficulty caring for their children and supporting their learning and development. Connecting these families to social networks, schools and other community organizations can make natural supports in the community accessible to them and help them have opportunities to give as well as receive.

In the African-American faith tradition, as well as many others, the church is often considered to be “family.” Its historic nature has been one of gathering, solace, trust, fellowship, and celebration, often characteristics ascribed to healthy families. Now, the church may offer counseling, resources and referrals, and crisis management. The key is to be able to adapt to the changing needs of today’s social and economic challenges in families and communities.



**Natalie Palmer and Daughter**

### Discussion Questions

1. What kinds of services and supports does your organization provide to the families of prisoners or those formerly incarcerated? Are they making a difference in supporting healthy families? What else may be needed?
2. Discuss your definitions of “family” and “community.” Is your program or ministry reaching out to groups or individuals affected by incarceration?

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.aecf.org/initiatives/mc/sf/families/networks.htm>

## Profiled Program Summaries – Strengthening Families and Communities

### **Rhode Island Family Life Center**

Sol Rodriguez, Director  
841 Broad Street  
Providence, RI 02907  
Phone: 401-781-5808  
Fax: 401-781-5361  
Email: flc@ri-familylifecenter.org  
www.ri-familylifecenter.org

The purpose of the nonprofit Rhode Island Family Life Center (FLC) is to support and advocate for the reintegration of former prisoners into the community. The organization's goals are to:

- Stabilize offenders returning to the community so that they are less likely to recidivate.
- Strengthen families to help offenders reintegrate and reconnect with their loved ones.
- Remove barriers to reintegration for formerly incarcerated men and women.

The Family Life Center's reentry program uses a holistic, family-based approach to support individuals as they prepare to leave prison, return home, and stabilize in the community. The FLC begins to work with clients while they are still incarcerated and then offers a one-stop center for them (and their families) as they reintegrate into the community.

### **John P. Craine House**

Suzanne Milner, Executive Director  
3535 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
Phone: 317-925-2833  
Fax: 317-925-2834  
CAJustice1@AOL.com

Craine House offers a multi-phase supervision program for adult female offenders. Participants are placed on electronic monitoring 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Participants must be gainfully employed. Programming includes

supervision of daily activities, employment monitoring, vocational and educational referrals, drug and alcohol surveillance/treatment, and parenting classes.

### **River of Life Church**

Rev. Janice Thompson, Pastor  
75 N. Main Street  
Providence, RI 02903-1307  
Phone: 401-462-2411  
Email: JanThomp@aol.com

While a small congregation, the entire church has pledged to adopt a released inmate and his/her family, when appropriate, to navigate the difficult challenges of reentry including employment, housing, family reconciliation, and education.

### **Trinity Universal Center, Inc.**

Dr. M. Jeanne Dolphus Cotton,  
Founder/Director  
709 North Genesee Street  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085  
Phone: 847-263-9630  
Fax: 847-263-9632  
mail@trinityuniversalcenter.org  
www.trinityuniversalcenter.org

Trinity Universal Center (TUC) is designed to serve as a prevention, support, and developmental facility for individuals, youth, and families by facilitating the transition from one life style to another that is easier, more effective, and permanent; and by promoting healing, self-esteem, relationship building, and self-empowerment. TUC's Re-entry Mentoring Project offers training to prepare interfaith and community mentors: (a) to work with persons preparing for release from prison, (b) to work with persons faced with the day-to-day transition and challenges associated with a successful return to their families or to a new start, and (c) to mentor children of prisoners and juvenile offenders.

## Strategies for Strengthening Families and Communities

In 2001, approximately 400,000 mothers and fathers finished serving their prison or jail sentences and returned home to rebuild their families and their own lives. Returning prisoners face a host of challenges, including substance abuse, homelessness, and finding stable jobs. Since families of prisoners typically must navigate on their own the challenges of having a family member return home from prison, faith-based institutions can play a pivotal role in providing services, supports, and hope.

- Explore ways to start or collaborate with others on starting a supervised transitional housing/work release site for women with young children, as an alternative sentencing program.
- Establish a community support ministry with weekly or monthly meetings that are open to all families of former prisoners; add issues of reentry to your ministry's existing family counseling services.
- Provide welcome packages to recently released men and women. These might include toiletries, transportation passes, a flyer on the nearest food pantry or clothes "closet," instructions on obtaining a drivers license and social security card, and information about the family services provided by your faith-based organization.
- Develop a resource guide of community services, i.e., health care providers, mental health services, job training, public assistance, housing counselors, family money management/ budgeting advisors, to aid families reforming following incarceration.
- Design inserts for bulletins and special program activities that speak to the value of family continuity.
- Set up a van service to transport family members to visit inmates in designated prisons within a reasonable driving distance.
- Work with other local institutions to help support a Family Day at the nearest prison.
- Observe National Family Week and offer special outreach activities to families of inmates, reentering former prisoners, and victims.



Gerald and Nancy

## Scriptural References

<sup>3</sup> Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

[Psalms 127:3](#)

[Holy Bible, King James Version](#)

<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. <sup>2</sup> Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; <sup>3</sup> That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. <sup>4</sup> And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4

Holy Bible, King James Version

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

1 John 4:7

Holy Bible, King James Version

24:32 Marry those among you who are single, or the virtuous ones among yourselves, male or female: if they are in poverty, Allah will give them means out of His grace: for Allah encompasseth all, and he knoweth all things.

Surat 24:32

Holy Quran

## DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONFINEMENT

*“The statistics say that 12 percent of the black males in this country between the ages of 20-30 are in prison or jail.”*

**Addie Richburg, Chief Domestic Strategist**  
National Alliance of Faith and Justice  
of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice

***Disproportionate Minority Confinement* is a condition that exists when a racial/ethnic group's representation in confinement exceeds their representation in the general population.**

It has become almost impossible to discuss alternatives to sentencing or criminal justice reform without focusing on the disproportionate numbers of people of color in our nation's jails and prisons. Several factors enter into this debate, including harsh drug sentencing laws, disparate economic opportunities for ethnic and racial minorities, and racial profiling. Each week, houses of worship witness this dearth of men in our pews, in part because of high incarceration rates.

At first glance, America's War on Drugs would seem to be a logical step in protecting the public against criminal issues associated by the use and sale of illegal substances. In 1970 the modern "War on Drugs" was born as the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act. In 1973, President Nixon reorganized various federal drug law enforcement agencies into the Drug Enforcement Agency, or DEA. In 1986 First Lady Nancy Reagan began the "Just Say No" campaign. While there was an initial drop in drug use, drug use again rose rapidly within a few years. In 1988 the Office of National Drug Control Policy was formed.

With the new drug enforcement agencies came stringent drug sentencing policies, many of which are now being challenged in federal courts, and a string of arrests among men and women of color, with charges ranging from simple possession to accessory to intent to distribute.

Federal law requires a mandatory minimum five-year sentence without parole for a first time offender's simple possession of five grams of crack cocaine, worth about \$400. It takes trafficking in 100 times as much powder cocaine - 500 grams, worth \$10,000 - to trigger the same five-year sentence. This 100-to-1 quantity ratio in cocaine sentencing means that low-level crack offenders receive arbitrarily severe sentences compared to high level powder cocaine offenders. A 1993 report on federal sentencing commissioned by the Department of Justice found that the high proportion of African Americans charged with crack offenses is the "single most important difference accounting for the overall longer sentences" imposed on African Americans relative to other racial groups.

### Discussion Questions

1. In your city or state, are minority adults disproportionately represented in jail or prison? What about youth?
2. Does your organization have strategies in place to address this issue? Have you incorporated advocacy into your program or ministry? Why or why not?
3. What unique qualities does your organization possess that could make a difference in your community with regard to disproportionate minority confinement?

In the field of criminal justice policy, The Sentencing Project is widely known for its reports and analyses highlighting inequities in the criminal justice system. According to information obtained from its Web site<sup>8</sup>, two-thirds of the people in prison are now racial and ethnic minorities, and for black males in their twenties, one in every eight is in prison or jail on any given day. Moreover, black males born today have a one in three chance of going to prison during their lifetime, compared to a one in seventeen chance for white males. These trends have been exacerbated by the impact of the war on drugs, with three-fourths of all drug offenders being persons of color, far out of proportion to their share of drug users in society. Racial disparity in the criminal justice system is a product of a number of factors - higher rates of involvement in some offenses, social and economic disparities, legislative policies, and the use of discretion by criminal justice decision makers.



Female incarceration rates, though significantly lower than male rates at every age, reveal similar racial and ethnic differences. Black females (with a prison and jail rate of 359 per 100,000) were 2½ times more likely than Hispanic females (143 per 100,000) and nearly 4½ times more likely than white females (81 per 100,000) to be incarcerated in 2004. These differences among white, black, and Hispanic females were consistent across all age groups<sup>9</sup>.

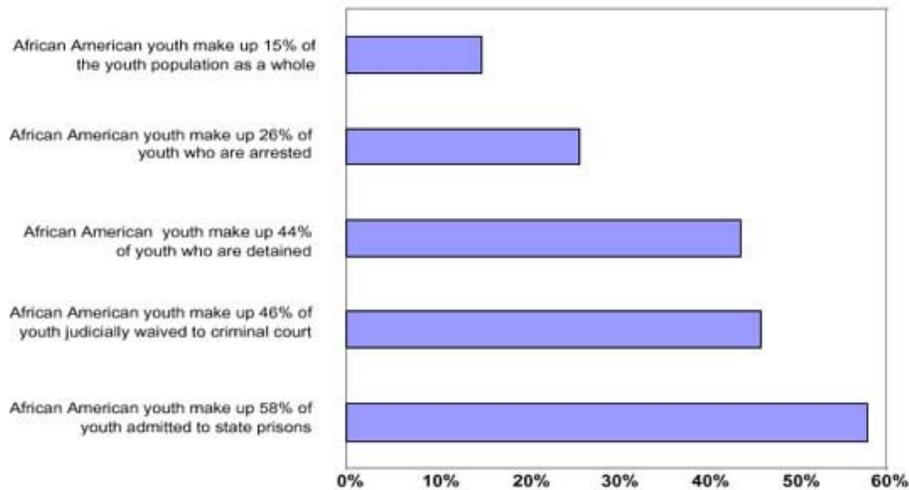
---

<sup>8</sup> The Sentencing Project, [http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues\\_07.cfm](http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues_07.cfm)

<sup>9</sup> Source: Harrison, Paige M., & Allen J. Beck, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2004* (Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Justice, April 2005), p. 11.

The numbers in the juvenile justice system are just as staggering. By 1997, in 30 out of 50 states (which contain 83 percent of the U.S. population) minority youth represented

**Figure 1: The Proportion of African American Youth Increases at Every Stage of Involvement in the Justice System**



Source: Yamagata, Eileen Poe and Michael A. Jones. *And Justice for Some: Differential Treatment of Minority Youth in the Justice System*. Washington, DC: Building Blocks for Youth, April, 2000.

the majority of youth in detention. Even in states with small ethnic and racial minority populations, (like Minnesota, where the general population is 90 percent white, and Pennsylvania, where the general population is 85 percent white) more than half of the detention population are youth of color<sup>10</sup>.

In recent years Drug Courts have become a popular, widely praised, and rapidly expanding alternative approach of specialized courts that deal with drug offenders and sometimes with people charged with nonviolent crimes who are drug users. Drug Courts substitute mandatory treatment for incarceration. Because drug courts are new, much of the research on their effectiveness is recent, incomplete, and inconclusive.

<sup>10</sup> Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, <http://www.cjcj.org/pubs/portland/portland.html>

## Profiled Program Summaries – Disproportionate Minority Confinement

### **The Sentencing Project**

Marc Mauer, Director  
514 Tenth Street, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington DC 20004  
Phone: 202-628-0871  
Fax: 202-628-1091  
[www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org)

Established in 1986, The Sentencing Project works for a fair and effective criminal justice system by promoting alternatives to incarceration, reforms in sentencing law and practice, and better use of community-based services and institutions. The Sentencing Project is organized according to the three activities in which it engages: research on sentencing and related issues; advocacy for reforms in criminal law and practice; and public education through media, internet, and other communications.

#### **For More Information:**

***Resources Not Featured in To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith***

### **Building Blocks for Youth**

Youth Law Center  
1010 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 202 637-0377  
Fax: 202 379-1600  
Email: [info.bby@erols.com](mailto:info.bby@erols.com)  
[www.buildingblocksforyouth.org](http://www.buildingblocksforyouth.org)

In response to current research on the overrepresentation, in almost every state, of African-American, Latino, and Native American youth in the juvenile justice system, and recent trends in more than 40 states to increase prosecution of youths in adult court - the impact of which falls disproportionately on youth of color - the *Building Blocks for Youth* initiative's goals are to: 1) Reduce overrepresentation and disparate treatment of youth of color in the justice system; and 2) Promote fair, rational and effective juvenile justice policies.

The initiative's partners include the Youth Law Center, American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center, Juvenile Law Center, Justice Policy Institute, Minorities in Law Enforcement, National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and Pretrial Services Resource Center.

The *Building Blocks for Youth* initiative is supported by grants from The Annie E. Casey, Ford, William T. Grant, Jeht, Walter Johnson, MacArthur, Mott, and Rockefeller Foundations, and Open Society Institute.

### **The Justice Policy Institute**

Vincent Schiraldi  
4455 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Phone: 202-363-7847  
Fax: 202-363-8677  
Email: [vschiraldi@justicepolicy.org](mailto:vschiraldi@justicepolicy.org)  
[www.justicepolicy.org](http://www.justicepolicy.org)

The Justice Policy Institute, a project of the Tides Center, is a Washington, DC-based think-tank that is committed to reducing society's reliance on incarceration. Vincent Schiraldi, former president and founder of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, formed the Justice Policy Institute in 1996. Since then, JPI has evolved into one of the nation's most thoughtful and progressive voices for crafting workable solutions to age-old problems plaguing our juvenile and criminal justice systems.

### **Reducing Disproportionate Minority**

**Contact** – Addressing the overrepresentation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system at all points in the juvenile justice process  
[www.reducingdmc.com](http://www.reducingdmc.com)

## Strategies for Addressing Disproportionate Minority Confinement

Disproportionate minority confinement, commonly referred to as DMC, exists when the percentage of an ethnic group in prison exceeds the percentage of the same ethnic group in the general population of the immediate community, state, or other jurisdiction. It is imperative that the church begin to ask why this problem exists and to use its influence to change the variables that exacerbate the problem. It is for this reason that the black faith community must address the high number of black men in prisons and jails nationwide. The following recommendations are only a few ways your religious institution or organization might become a catalyst for change.

- Identify criminal justice professionals within your membership and establish an advisory committee to recommend and design alternative to incarceration programs.
- Investigate the ratio of people of color in your state's prisons. If they are disproportionate, compared to the general population, discuss strategies to address this issue.
- Contact the National Alliance of Faith and Justice ([www.nafj-nabcj.org](http://www.nafj-nabcj.org)) to implement "The Law and You" curriculum within your youth ministry as a strategy to reduce the number of youth who engage in confrontational exchanges that may lead to arrest and subsequent incarceration.
- Ask NAFJ about establishing a local partnership with a college or university to launch a Pen or Pencil campaign to increase the number of black males who enter higher education.
- Conduct human services fairs in your community to inform congregational members and formerly incarcerated men and women about legal assistance they might receive. Identify attorneys willing to form partnerships with your religious institution or organization to provide pro bono legal representation to your referrals.
- Establish relationships with state and federal prosecutors and judges to offer defined programs that provide alternatives to prosecution when discretion can be offered to nonviolent or first time defendants.

## Scriptural References

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the prisoners go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke 4:18-19

Holy Bible, King James Version

## A Reentry Case Study

For an opportunity to apply the strategies learned in *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*, you may wish to view the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign documentary, OMAR & PETE. An excerpted community version of OMAR & PETE is included on the DVD version of *To Serve This Present Age*. VHS copies of the community version may be ordered by contacting [Denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org](mailto:Denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org)

## OMAR & PETE

### Broadcast – September 13, 2005 on PBS

Omar and Pete are determined to change their lives. Both had been in and out of prison for over thirty years — never out longer than six months. This intimate and penetrating film follows these two long-time friends for several years after what they hope will be their final prison release. In that time, their lives take divergent paths as one wrestles with addiction and fear while the other finds success and freedom through helping others.

Omar was just weeks away from the end of a ten-year prison sentence for armed robbery when Oscar-nominated filmmaker Tod Lending began filming him. At the time, Omar had been drug-free for eight years. He was a devout Muslim (he even learned Arabic in prison), and was participating in a new prison release program designed to help long-term recidivists stay out of prison for good. Upon release, the Maryland Re-Entry Partnership supported Omar with case managers, transitional housing, healthcare, employment assistance, and educational opportunities.



Leon “Omar” Mason

Like nine out of 10 men incarcerated in Baltimore, Omar’s past crimes were closely tied to his drug addiction. Through the reentry program, substance abuse treatment was available as well. If there was ever a time to break the cycle, this was it.

On the day of his release, Omar reconnects with Pete, a long-time friend, at the transitional house to which he’s assigned. Both men had grown up in the same blighted Baltimore neighborhood and struggled with addiction. Pete had been out of prison for ten months and was doing well. Through the Maryland Re-Entry Partnership, he was managing the transitional house and had a job counseling others at a mental health clinic. When Omar arrives, the two rekindle their friendship, become roommates, and support each other through the transition back into society.

The film, OMAR & PETE, provides a rare glimpse into an intense and very personal web of support. Case managers, many of them former addicts and former prisoners themselves, dedicate themselves to the mission of redemption — empowering one man at a time. They want to help each take hold of his opportunity, resurrect misused talents and build a satisfying, productive life in society.

This honest and unflinching portrait shows how challenging life on the outside can be for men who’ve lived much of their lives behind bars. It is a story of what can happen when support is offered — and accepted. And it reveals that no matter how much support is given — pride, pain and fear are the demons that every man must face in himself.

OMAR & PETE and the community video of excerpts created for the outreach campaign are produced by Tod Lending, Nomadic Pictures.

**OMAR & PETE and the community video of excerpts created for the outreach campaign are produced by Tod Lending, Nomadic Pictures.**

## Campaign Media Tools and Resources

### ▪ Discussion Guide

Outreach efforts are supported by a Discussion Guide developed by Outreach Extensions, in collaboration with Dr. John Hickey of Tuerk House and Ms. Rada Moss of the Enterprise Foundation's Maryland Re-Entry Partnership.



**William "Pete" Duncan**

- Reentry statistics in Baltimore City
- Reentry links and resources

The Discussion Guide features:

- Profiles of Leon "Omar" Mason and William "Pete" Duncan
- Overviews of Tuerk House and the Maryland Re-Entry Partnership, key supports in the reentry of Omar and Pete
- An interview with William "Pete" Duncan
- Discussion questions on critical elements of a successful reentry; substance abuse; challenges related to employment and housing; alternatives to recidivism
- Case study on mentoring

### ▪ Web site

Information on the OMAR & PETE production, including producer's notes, is housed on the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign Web site (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/r>). All outreach resources are also available on the site, including the Discussion Guide. In addition, the Web site will also feature stories from other men who have successfully completed the Maryland Re-Entry Partnership course and remain in society.

### ▪ Communications / Technical Assistance

Outreach Extensions provides customized technical assistance to all stations, *Making Connections* sites, and other organizations conducting local grant-funded campaigns. Campaign participants are informed about activities and resources via e-mail on an ongoing basis. Information related to the campaign is also provided in the Reentry E-Newsletter, which is distributed bimonthly.

## **HANDOUTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Reentry: Glossary of Terms

Resources for Community- and Faith-Based Programs

Overview of Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign

Reentry Campaign Documentaries

## REENTRY: Glossary of Terms

### **Acquittal**

A legal judgment, based on the decision of either a jury or a judge, that an accused is not guilty of the crime for which he or she has been charged and tried.

### **Adjudication**

The judicial decision that ends a criminal proceeding by a judgment of acquittal, conviction, or dismissal of the case.

### **Appeal**

Following a conviction, the offender may appeal the judgment of conviction to the state appellate with jurisdiction over the case.

### **Arraignment**

The first appearance before the court by a person charged, at which time he or she is advised of the pending charges, the right to counsel, and the right to trial by jury.

### **Arrest warrant**

An order made on behalf of the state, based on a complaint, and signed by a judge authorizing police to arrest a person thought to have committed a crime. A person arrested on a warrant stays in jail until bail is posted or until released by order of the court.

### **Bail**

Money or property promised or given to the court as security when a defendant is released before and during his or her trial with the agreement that he or she will return to court when ordered to do so. The court sets the bail amount or value depending on several factors, including seriousness of the charges and the likelihood that the defendant will attempt to flee prior to the required court appearances. Bail is forfeited to the court if the defendant fails to return to court.

### **Beyond a Reasonable Doubt**

The degree of proof needed for a judge or jury to convict an accused person of a crime.

### **Burden of Proof**

In the criminal context, the State carries the burden of establishing beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused committed the offense for which he or she is charged.

### **Charge**

A formal accusation filed by the prosecutor's office that a specific person has committed a

specific crime; also referred to as "pressing charges."

### **Complaint**

A preliminary charge made by the state that a person has committed a specified offense.

### **Concurrent Sentences**

Running together -- concurrent sentences run, or are served, at the same time.

### **Consecutive Sentences**

Sentences run one after the other.

### **Continuance**

A delay or postponement of a court hearing; the case is said to be "continued" when it has been delayed or postponed. A case can be continued for good cause, such as illness or witness unavailability, or by agreement of the parties.

### **Conviction**

A judgment of the court, based either on the decision of a jury or judge that the defendant is guilty of the crime for which he or she was tried.

### **Crime**

A violation of the law.

### **Defendant**

A person who has been formally charged with committing a specific crime.

### **Defense Attorney**

The lawyer who represents the defendant in a legal proceeding.

### **Deposition**

Sworn testimony of a witness taken outside of court in the presence of the attorneys for the defense and prosecution. A deposition can be used at trial to impeach or discredit a witness's testimony or can be read to a jury if the witness is unavailable.

### **Dismissal**

A decision by a judicial officer to end a case for legal or other reasons.

### **Disposition**

The final decision which ends a criminal proceeding by judgment of acquittal or dismissal or which sets the sentence if the defendant has previously been convicted.

**Felony**

A serious crime punishable by more than one year in prison.

**Grand Jury**

A body of persons, selected and convened upon order of a judge, to inquire into and return indictments for crimes. The grand jury has the power to request that the circuit clerk issue subpoenas to bring people testify before it.

**Habeas Corpus - federal**

Refers to a proceeding wherein a prisoner challenges the lawfulness of his or her imprisonment. An action by way of writ of habeas corpus does not function to determine the prisoner's guilt or innocence. When the proceeding is brought by a state inmate, review extends to the constitutionality of the imprisonment.

**Hearing**

A legal proceeding in which arguments, witnesses, and/or evidence are heard by a judicial officer or administrative body.

**Hearsay**

Testimony of an individual that is not from his or her personal knowledge, but from what the witness has heard another person say.

**Implied Consent**

If one is granted the privilege of possessing a driver's license, one has automatically given "implied consent" to submit to alcohol or drug testing.

**Indictment**

Formal charging document presented by the prosecuting attorney to a grand jury. The grand jury may then issue the indictment if it believes that the accusation, if proved, would lead to a conviction.

**Information**

Formal charging document issued by a prosecuting attorney (with no grand jury involvement).

**Infraction**

A violation of a statute in which the only punishment authorized is a fine and which is expressly designated as an infraction.

**Jail**

Local facility where persons in lawful custody are held; defendants awaiting trial and defendants convicted of minor crimes usually

are held in jail, as opposed to prison.

**Judicial Officer or Judge**

An officer of the court who determines causes between parties or renders decisions in a judicial capacity. The judge generally decides questions of law, except in the case where a jury-trial is waived, the court also then functions as a fact-finder.

**Misdemeanor**

A crime that is less serious than a felony and for which the punishment is usually imprisonment for one year or less, usually in a jail or other local facility, and/or a fine.

**Nolle Prosequi**

Voluntary dismissal of criminal charges by the state.

**Parole**

Release of a prisoner from imprisonment, but not from legal custody.

**Personal Recognizance**

The promise of an accused person to the court that he or she will return to court when ordered to do so. The promise is given in exchange for release before and/or during his or her trial.

**Plea**

A defendant's formal answer in court to the charge(s) that he or she is accused of committing.

**Plea Agreement / Plea Negotiation**

An agreement between the State and defendant wherein the defendant agrees to plead guilty under certain terms and conditions. Since both the State and the defendant risk losing should the case go to trial, plea agreements are a means of arriving at a reasonable disposition without the necessity of going to trial.

**Plea of Guilty**

Admission of guilt in open court.

**Postconviction Proceedings**

Following conviction and direct appellate review, many states provide for procedures for postconviction review. Typically the grounds for relief under these proceedings are both limited and different from those on appeal from a conviction.

**Preliminary Hearing**

The hearing for a person charged with a felony before an associate circuit judge, wherein the

State must establish that there is probable cause to believe that the accused committed the specific crime charged, and which may require witness testimony.

**Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI)**

The PSI is usually conducted by a probation officer after a plea or verdict of guilty. Done before sentencing to enable the judge to learn more about the defendant so that he or she is better able to impose a proper sentence. The PSI includes information about the defendant's criminal history and personal background. The individual conducting the PSI will contact the victim(s) of the crime to determine how he or she has been impacted by the defendant's actions.

**Prison**

State facilities where persons convicted of the commission of a felony are held.

**Pro Se**

When the defendant is not represented by counsel, as he or she has waived the right to counsel in a criminal proceeding, or is otherwise not represented in a civil proceeding.

**Probable Cause**

Degree of proof needed to arrest.

**Probation**

Conditional freedom granted to an offender by the court after conviction or a guilty plea with requirements for the offender's behavior, and which any violation of such requirements may result in revocation of the probation. Supervision is usually by a probation officer.

**Prosecutor**

A lawyer employed by the government to represent the general public's interests in court proceedings against people accused of committing crimes.

**Public Defender**

An attorney that is employed by a government agency to represent defendants who are unable to hire private counsel.

**Restitution**

Payment made by a defendant to the victim as reimbursement for monetary losses incurred as a result of the crime. Restitution may be ordered by the court as part of a sentence.

**Subpoena**

A court order requiring a person to appear in court on a specified day and time to give testimony. May also include an order to produce documents or records. Failure to appear constitutes contempt of court.

**Summons**

Court order used to bring a person accused of a minor crime to court.

**Suspended Execution of Sentence (SES)**

Disposition of the criminal case where the defendant is actually sentenced to a specific period of incarceration, but is placed on probation without having to serve that sentence if the conditions of probation are met.

**Suspended Imposition of Sentence (SIS)**

Disposition of a criminal case where the defendant is placed on probation without an actual sentence or period of incarceration being imposed. The defendant may be later sentenced and incarcerated if the conditions of probation are not successfully met.

**Victim Impact Statement**

A statement given by the victim(s) which details how the crime has affected him or her, and in noncapital cases, what sentence the victim believes would be appropriate. The statement is the only time that a victim will have to address the judge, who imposes the sentence on the accused. The statement is given to the prosecuting attorney, who forwards it to the judge after a verdict is reached and prior to sentencing.

**Voir Dire**

Procedure in which the prosecutor and defense attorney question prospective jurors to pick a jury.

This glossary of terms was provided, with permission, by:

**Missouri Victim Assistance Network**

P.O. Box 2232, Jefferson City, MO 65102  
1-800-698-9199, [www.mova.missouri.org](http://www.mova.missouri.org)

## Resources for Community- and Faith-Based Programs

This handout was developed, in part, from the Department of Justice's Web Site:  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry)

### ***Federal Funding Sources***

Funding resources from a variety of federal departments may be applied toward a comprehensive reentry program.

U.S. Department of Justice - [www.doj.gov](http://www.doj.gov)

U.S. Department of Labor - [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

U.S. Department of Education - [www.doe.gov](http://www.doe.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Commerce - [www.commerce.gov](http://www.commerce.gov)

U.S. Department of the Interior - [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - [www.va.gov/index](http://www.va.gov/index)

Small Business Administration - [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

Social Security Administration - [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives -  
[www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci](http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci)

### ***Other Funding Sources***

The Foundation Center – [fdncenter.org](http://fdncenter.org)

Funding Exchange - [www.fex.org](http://www.fex.org). The Funding Exchange—a network of 15 community foundations throughout the United States, with a national office in New York City—funds community-based efforts that address a wide range of social problems, with an emphasis on grassroots organizing.

FundsNet - [www.fundsnetsservices.com](http://www.fundsnetsservices.com)

### ***Grant Writing Tutorials***

The Foundation Center's Proposal Writing Short Course -  
<http://fdncenter.org/learn/shortcourse/prop1.html>

Developing and Writing Grant Proposals – a guide developed by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance - <http://www.cfda.gov/public/cat-writing.htm>

### ***National Resource Organizations***

The following national organizations provide resources that may be helpful in developing a reentry initiative in your state or community.

**American Correctional Association ([www.corrections.com/aca](http://www.corrections.com/aca)).** ACA is a multidisciplinary organization of professionals who represent all aspects of corrections and criminal justice, including federal, state, and military correctional facilities and prisons; county jails and detention centers; probation/parole agencies; and community corrections/halfway houses.

**American Probation and Parole Association ([www.appa-net.org](http://www.appa-net.org)).** The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) explores issues relevant to the field of community-based corrections. APPA is an international association of members from the United States, its Territories, and Canada who are involved with probation, parole, and community-based corrections in both adult and juvenile sectors at all levels of government.

**The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents ([www.e-ccip.org/index.htm](http://www.e-ccip.org/index.htm)).** The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents (CCIP) documents and develops model services for children of criminal offenders and their families. CCIP seeks to prevent intergenerational crime and incarceration through activities in four component areas: education, family reunification, therapeutic services, and information.

**Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking (<http://2ssw.che.umn.edu/rjp/>).** The University of Minnesota Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking, located at the School of Social Work on the University's St. Paul campus, was established to provide technical assistance, training, and research in support of restorative justice practices and principles in the State of Minnesota, nationally, and internationally.

**Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators ([www.corrections.com/cjca](http://www.corrections.com/cjca)).** The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators is an organization dedicated to the improvement of youth correctional services and practices.

**Corporation for National and Community Service ([www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov)).** The Corporation for National and Community Service engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to help strengthen communities.

**CRAFT (Community Restitution Apprenticeship Focused Training) ([www.hbi.org](http://www.hbi.org)).** Developed and initiated by the Home Builders Institute, the educational arm of the National Association of Home Builders, CRAFT is a national training program for high-risk and adjudicated youth.

**CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) ([www.curenational.org](http://www.curenational.org)).** CURE is a membership organization of current and former prisoners, their families, and other concerned citizens. CURE's two goals are to use prisons only for those who have to be in them and to provide prisoners all the rehabilitative opportunities they need to turn their lives around.

**GAINS Center for People with Co-Occurring Disorders in the Justice System ([www.gainsctr.org](http://www.gainsctr.org)).** The GAINS Center is a national technology transfer organization for dually diagnosed criminal justice populations. The project gives technical assistance to justice systems that try to improve intervention by targeting mental health disorders and addictions.

**Justice Research and Statistics Association ([www.jrsainfo.org](http://www.jrsainfo.org)).** The Justice Research and Statistics Association is a national organization of State Statistical Analysis Center directors, analysts, researchers, and practitioners.

**National Association for Community Mediation ([www.nafcm.org](http://www.nafcm.org)).** The National Association for Community Mediation is a membership organization comprising community mediation centers, their staff, and volunteer mediators, and other individuals and organizations interested in the community mediation movement.

**National Center for Victims of Crime ([www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)).** The mission of the National Center for Victims of Crime is to forge a national commitment to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The center serves individuals, families, and communities harmed by crime.

**National Commission on Correctional Health Care ([www.ncchc.org](http://www.ncchc.org)).** The National Commission on Correctional Health Care's mission is to improve the quality of health care provided in jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement facilities.

**National Correctional Industries Association ([www.nationalcia.org](http://www.nationalcia.org)).** The National Correctional Industries Association's Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program encourages states and units of local government to establish employment opportunities for prisoners that approximate private sector work opportunities.

**National Juvenile Detention Association ([www.njda.com](http://www.njda.com)).** The National Juvenile Detention Association exists exclusively to advance the science, processes, and art of juvenile detention services through the overall improvement of the juvenile justice profession.

**National Organization for Victim Assistance ([www.try-nova.org](http://www.try-nova.org)).** The National Organization for Victim Assistance is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization of victim and witness assistance programs. It comprises practitioners, criminal justice agencies and professionals, mental health professionals, researchers, former victims and survivors, and others committed to the recognition and implementation of victim rights and services.

**National Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities ([www.nationaltasc.org](http://www.nationaltasc.org)).** National Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities is a membership organization representing individuals and programs dedicated to the professional delivery of treatment and case management services to substance abusing populations.

**Offender Preparation & Education Network, Inc. (OPEN, INC.) ([www.openinc.org](http://www.openinc.org)).** OPEN, INC., a small, nonprofit organization founded in Dallas, TX, in 1979, develops educational materials and programs that are used by correctional agencies to help offenders prepare to live as law-abiding citizens.

**PEPNet: Promising and Effective Practices Network ([www.nyec.org/pepnet](http://www.nyec.org/pepnet)).** Administered by the National Youth Employment Coalition and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, PEPNet assists organizations working with juvenile offenders in both residential and community settings.

**Public/Private Ventures ([www.ppv.org](http://www.ppv.org)).** Public/Private Ventures is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the effectiveness of social policies, programs, and community initiatives, especially as they affect youth and young adults.

**Street Law, Inc ([www.streetlaw.org](http://www.streetlaw.org)).** In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Crime Prevention Council, Street Law has developed several educational programs and curriculums for use with juvenile justice and young offender reentry programs. Street Law works with local programs to effectively produce and implement educational programs dealing with violence, substance abuse, family issues and parenting, conflict resolution, and legal issues.

**Time Dollar Institute ([www.timedollar.org](http://www.timedollar.org)).** Time Dollars are a new, tax-exempt kind of money. People can convert their personal time into purchasing power by helping others and by rebuilding family, neighborhood, and community. An hour spent helping another earns one Time Dollar.

**United States Parole Commission ([www.usdoj.gov/uspc](http://www.usdoj.gov/uspc)).** The United States Parole Commission promotes public safety by exercising its authority regarding the release and supervision of criminal offenders under its jurisdiction in a way that advances justice.

**The Urban Institute ([www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)).** The Urban Institute is a nonprofit policy research organization established in Washington, DC, in 1968. The Institute's goals are to sharpen thinking about society's problems and efforts to solve them, improve government decisions and their implementation, and increase citizens' awareness about important public choices.

**Vera Institute of Justice ([www.vera.org](http://www.vera.org)).** Vera pioneers development of unexpected, yet practical and affordable, solutions to some of the toughest problems in criminal justice to make the system more fair, humane, and efficient.

**Volunteers of America ([www.voa.org](http://www.voa.org)).** Volunteers of America's corrections services help inmates and offenders rebuild their lives. The services provide the tools ex-offenders need to rejoin mainstream society, make positive contributions, and avoid future incarceration.

**Welfare Information Network ([www.welfareinfo.org](http://www.welfareinfo.org)).** The Welfare Information Network provides information on policy choices, promising practices, program and financial data, funding sources, federal and state legislation and plans, program and management tools, and technical assistance.



## Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign Overview

More people are leaving prisons across the country to return to their families and communities than at any other time in our history. The potential “ripple effects” of the prisoner reentry process for returning prisoners, their families, and communities have sparked a growing level of activity among national, state, and local policymakers, researchers, and practitioners that is unprecedented. At the same time, some of the most important and innovative work in the reentry field is occurring at the community level.

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign seeks to highlight some of these efforts, as well as reentry issues, using the power of media to motivate and mobilize 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. Its media resources are designed to facilitate discussion and decision making about solution-based reentry programs.

A long-term effort, the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign is unique in that it incorporates several public television documentaries and outreach videos/DVDs that span a time period of at least three years. The stepped broadcast and release dates support a comprehensive campaign that will effectively reach multiple audiences. All productions incorporate the theme of reentry into family and community by individuals who were formerly incarcerated, which provides the title “Reentry” for this enhanced umbrella initiative.

The campaign is designed to engage the following groups: faith and secular organizations, parole and probation departments, departments of correction, government agencies, community leaders, advocates and crime victims, policymakers working to improve public safety and strengthen families and communities, and formerly incarcerated men and women seeking to lead productive lives. Key campaign issues are education and employment, health, housing, family, public safety, and faith.

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. The campaign is generously supported by a grant from The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

To learn more about the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, please visit the Web site at **[www.reentrymediaoutreach.org](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org)**. In addition, published by Outreach Extensions, and disseminated bimonthly, the **Reentry E-Newsletter** features information on the ongoing Reentry Campaign, offers free media resources, and profiles reentry activities and programs. Subscribe by sending your e-mail address to **[Denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org](mailto:Denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org)**.

## Reentry Campaign Documentaries

The **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign** incorporates the following television and radio documentaries as well as outreach videos. Additional media resources may be added as the campaign progresses.

### ***Outside The Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs* (outreach video, not for broadcast)**



The *Outside the Walls* videotape highlights several reentry programs in each of six categories – education and employment; health; housing; family; public safety; and faith. Produced by D. R. Lynes, Inc., the video profiles each program—presenting a description of services, highlighting partnerships and collaborations, and providing outcomes that document why the program is effective. In addition to staff and partners of the various reentry programs, diverse viewpoints are presented, including individuals who were formerly incarcerated, crime victims and their advocates, as well as policymakers, parole and probation departments, departments of correction, government agencies, and community leaders. Transcripts of the video as well as the companion resource guide are on the Reentry Web site ([www.reentrymediaoutreach.org](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org)). The resource guide contains briefing papers on the six categories as well as profiles of almost 100 reentry programs.

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

This 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. The film 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?



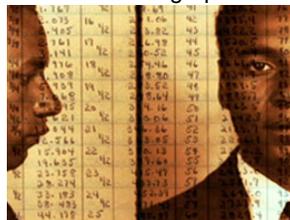
### **WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO TO YOU / PBS Broadcast December 16, 2003**

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 writings by acclaimed actresses Glenn Close, Marisa Tomei, Rosie Perez, Hazelle Goodman, and Mary Alice. It 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 1930's through the 1960's: 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 teen-age 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* includes rare archival footage and still photographs, contemporary verité documentary sequences, and provocative mixed-media artwork, as it examines Thomas' use of creative expression as a means of confronting poverty, racism, violence, and



#### ***Handouts and Supplemental Material***

*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*

isolation. Pulsating with an original Latin Jazz score, EVERY CHILD IS BORN A POET 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.

#### **MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL /**

**Distributed to local public television stations by American Public Television, May 2, 2004**

Hudson River Film & Video produced 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, and then follows the men when they return to their communities.



#### **DEADLINE / DATELINE NBC Broadcast July 30, 2004**



In 2002, a group of Northwestern journalism students discover that three Illinois death row inmates received wrongful convictions. As a statewide debate on capital punishment ensues, Governor George Ryan, a longtime death penalty advocate, is the only person capable of granting clemency to 167 death row inmates. With remarkable access to the clemency hearings and insightful interviews with key figures, DEADLINE delivers a taut, pulsing narrative that follows Ryan to his astonishing decision.

#### **CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND (Satellite feed to Public Radio Stations, November 9, 2004)**

A 59-minute program produced by David Freudberg, "Children Left Behind" is part of Freudberg's weekly Humankind radio series. Part one provides background information on issues related to children whose parents are incarcerated. Freudberg talks to Chesa Boudin and Emani Davis, along with Bill Ayers, a professor of education at the University of Illinois, who is Chesa's adoptive father. Chesa was 14 months old when his parents, members of the radical Weather Underground, were arrested in 1981. Emani Davis has a degree in sociology and works for an organization that serves children of prisoners. Part two presents community supports for children whose parents are incarcerated and the viewpoints of experts and practitioners. Reverend Dr. Wilson Goode, Sr. describes the Amachi Mentoring Program; Rachel Keller and Corey Monroe talk about programs offered by Community Works. Jeremy Travis, president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice, is also interviewed. The Humankind series is produced and disseminated through an alliance of The Network, Inc. and Human Media. Hear the full documentary on the Human Media Web site at [www.humanmedia.org](http://www.humanmedia.org). Distributed by Public Radio International.



#### **JAIL HIGH SCHOOL / November 9, 2004**

Jail High School is the story of two teenagers working toward their high school diplomas while they await trial for armed robbery. Both volunteered to continue their education at York Alternative High School, a Chicago Public School that is inside the Cook County Jail. But there are many distractions to their education here. It is hard for these kids to divert their attention away from their court cases, and many of them are facing charges that carry lengthy sentences.



#### **READING RAINBOW, "Visiting Day" / PBS Broadcast December 15, 2004 and January 17, 2005**

Reading Rainbow, hosted by LeVar Burton, is a critically-acclaimed award-winning half-hour PBS series that turns children on to books and reading. The series targets 4-8 year olds, and is based on research that identifies these early years as the optimum time for children to learn to read, and to adopt positive reading habits, skills, and attitudes. In a new episode of Reading Rainbow, "Visiting Day," LeVar introduces a family separated by a prison sentence. The viewing audiences join the family for visiting day and find out what life is like for kids when a parent is incarcerated and what it's like for a parent who can't be at home with his family. Reading Rainbow plans to create a teacher's guide with discussion questions to accompany the show.



#### **PRISON LULLABIES / TBD**

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



#### **Handouts and Supplemental Material**

*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*

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.

#### **AIMEE'S CROSSING / 2006**

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, 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.

#### **BORDERLINE / 2005**

BORDERLINE is a 52-minute documentary that tells the story of Eunice Baker, a borderline mentally retarded woman who was sentenced to 15-years-to-life in prison for murdering three-year old Charlotte Kurtz, despite evidence that the death was accidental. After nearly five years in prison, The New York State Appellate Court recently reduced Eunice's sentence to criminally negligent homicide, and she was released on time served. From day one, Eunice was tried in the media and found guilty. Not until the midst of the trial were any articles printed that were sympathetic to her, though evidence supporting her innocence had surfaced. With no audio or video recording of Eunice's confession, jurors were forced to decide whether or not she possessed the intelligence to have understood her Miranda rights or realized that Charlotte was in danger.

Produced and directed by Slawomir Grunberg, Log In Productions.



#### **GIRL TROUBLE / 2005**

GIRL TROUBLE chronicles four years in the lives of a group of 13–23 year-olds who have built the first youth-run organization for girls in trouble, the Center for Young Women's Development in San Francisco. These young women are living very adult lives with adult responsibilities. The film follows them as they negotiate a myriad of complex issues in the courts, continuation schools, hospitals, and social service agencies. The girls at the Center are fighting for the human rights of their peers, challenging the system. Through their words and daily struggles, they reveal just how badly the system is failing girls, while offering more effective alternatives to it. GIRL TROUBLE

is produced by Critical Images Inc. in association with Independent Television Service and KQED Public Television, San Francisco.



#### ***The Center for Young Women's Development / 2004 (outreach video, not for broadcast)***

This outreach video documentary provides additional information on the programs and practices of the Center for Young Women's Development (CYWD). *"All of the Center's programs have been designed with a holistic approach and recognizes that each young woman already has the experience and strength necessary to become a powerful leader and an agent for change."* The video can assist youth-serving or youth-directed organizations in developing local strategies to work with young women from the streets and the juvenile justice system, providing them with educational and employment opportunities and helping them build healthier lives and healthier communities. Produced by Dean Radcliffe-Lynes, this 14½ minute video may be used on its own or as a companion to GIRL TROUBLE.

#### **RED HOOK JUSTICE / May 24, 2005**

Each year, America's courts process over 11 million low-level crimes, many of which involve repeat offenders. In 2000, an experimental court opened its doors in Red Hook, Brooklyn – a neighborhood plagued by a cycle of unemployment, poverty and crime. This new court seeks to stop the cycle of crime and heal the surrounding community. It is at the center of a legal revolution – the community justice movement.

RED HOOK JUSTICE profiles nearly two years of the daily activities of the Red Hook Community Justice Center, a pilot project in Brooklyn that houses a court and an array of social services. This is a court that wants to give offenders a second chance. Before resorting to jail, the Red Hook judge mandates extensive drug treatment, job training and community service. But it's no easy way out. The Justice Center has an



#### ***Handouts and Supplemental Material***

*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*

unprecedented involvement in defendants' lives, and cases that would be closed quickly in traditional courts can extend over many months. RED HOOK JUSTICE takes an in-depth look at the defendants and staff who are part of this experiment.

#### **XIARA'S SONG / June 19, 2005 on Cinemax**

Like many girls her age, seven-year-old Xiara likes to make up songs, eat ice cream and play with her best friend. A real "daddy's girl," she's pretty and independent, and dreams of being a superstar one day. And like ten million other American children, Xiara is the child of a prison inmate. Xiara idolizes her father, Harold – who is serving a ten-year federal prison sentence after a third-strike weapons possession conviction – from afar. But her mother tries desperately to keep her daughter from following him down the brutal and self-destructive path that led to his incarceration. Combining modern-day footage with family home movies, XIARA'S SONG finds the sadness, joy, anger, love, loneliness and fear in the haunted eyes of a precocious seven-year-old coming to grips with the fact that her father won't be free until she's 17. Producer and director Liz Garbus and producer Rory Kennedy are the co-founders of independent documentary production company Moxie Firecracker Films.



#### **REENTRY: FROM PRISON TO HOME / Late 2005**

This film follows parole and corrections officers who are addressing the high rate of African-American recidivism through the creation of a unique, culturally based program for inmates in the Oregon State correctional system. The aim of the program is to teach these prisoners how to reintegrate themselves into their communities without becoming entangled in the activities that led to their original incarceration. REENTRY: FROM PRISON TO HOME was produced by Jigsaw Films, LLC.



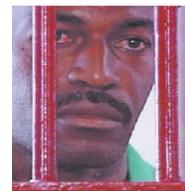
#### **A JUSTICE THAT HEALS / Previously broadcast**

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 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; 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 six percent 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.



#### **GETTING OUT / Broadcast on MSNBC December 28, 2003**

Veronica Flournoy, Ray Diaz, and Jasper Kelly are three of the 600,000 men and women who are released from prison each year. Each of them is on parole in New York City, and only a missed curfew or a dirty urine test away from landing back in a cell. None of them had lived a tranquil, stable life before prison, and they are not returning to a structured world set to propel them into constructive citizenship. Two of the three are addicted to cocaine. Two of them don't even have homes to return to – and the other only has a home because of his girlfriend. GETTING OUT humanizes a segment of the population that is arguably one of the most beleaguered of all – convicted felons. It's a phrase that evokes little sympathy, yet this film leaves viewers challenging every presumption they've ever brought to it. Each of these characters wants what we all want – stability, love, opportunity ... fairness. Through the choices the



#### **Handouts and Supplemental Material**

*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*

characters make, the hardships they face, and the support they do or do not have, GETTING OUT offers three perspectives of regaining freedom after paying for it. A Crystal Stair production.

**REENTRY: LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE (not for broadcast)**

REENTRY: LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE documents the first-hand accounts of former prisoners who have made the transition from prison to the community, citing their struggles, successes, and failures. During this fifty-minute video, a diverse group of formerly incarcerated men and women speak openly and honestly about post-release issues related to housing, substance abuse, employment, education, and family. In addition, their children provide powerful, moving testimonials that reflect the emotional and psychological trauma they've experienced as a result of their parents' incarceration. The program features in-depth interviews and analysis from educators, practitioners, and program directors on factors that are predictors for relapse, re-offending, and recidivism. The film was produced by Reentry Productions, Keith Thomas, executive director.



# **PRODUCTION CREDITS FOR *TO SERVE THIS PRESENT AGE: REENTERING THROUGH FAITH***

## *Strategic Partners*

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign
- National Alliance of Faith and Justice of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice

## *Special Acknowledgements (in order of appearance)*

- Dr. Robert Franklin, Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
- Rev. Warren Dolphus, President & COO, National Alliance of Faith and Justice, Washington, DC
- Rev. Robyn Frye, Community Relations, West Elmwood Housing Development, Providence, RI
- Addie Richburg, National Director of Training & Administration, NAFJ, Washington, DC
- Rev. Benjamin Powell, Pastor, 59<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA
- Rev. Jesse White, Pastor, First Church of the Living God, Hartford, CT
- Dr. M. Jeanne Cotton, Director, Trinity Universal Center, Waukegan, IL
- U.S. Representative Danny Davis, District 7 (D-Illinois)
- Stewart Rowles, Administrator, Community Corrections and Detention, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Washington, DC
- Rev. Derek Bastian, Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Des Moines, IA
- Sheriff Harry Lee, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department, Jefferson Parish, LA
- Chief Deputy Newell Norman, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department, Jefferson Parish, LA
- Veronica Ballard, Executive Director, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Chicago, IL
- Rev. Steven McCoy, Pastor, Beaches Chapel, Jacksonville, FL
- U.S. Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, (D-District of Columbia)
- U.S. Representative Rob Portman, District 3 (R-Ohio)

Special thanks to the following organizations, their staffs, collaborating partners and clients:

- Amachi, Philadelphia, PA
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
- Big Brothers Big Sisters, National Capital Area, Washington, DC
- Bright Hope Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA
- Community Coalition Ex-Offenders Project, Des Moines, IA
- Cornerstone Family Church, Des Moines, IA
- The Craine House, Indianapolis, IN
- Des Moines Community College, Des Moines, IA
- The Directors Council, Des Moines, IA
- The Family Life Center, Providence, RI
- Hansen House of Hospitality, Des Moines, IA
- Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department, Jefferson Parish, LA
- Keys Program, Des Moines, IA
- Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters, Hartford, CT
- Oasis of Hope Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN
- PACE-OAR, Indianapolis, IN
- Peace Baptist Church, Washington, DC
- Rhode Island Department of Corrections, Providence, RI
- River of Life Church, Providence, RI
- Safer Foundation, Chicago, IL
- Salvation Army Halfway House, Chicago, IL
- St. Sabina Catholic Church, Chicago, IL
- US Dream Academy, Columbia, MD

## *Handouts and Supplemental Material*

*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*

## *Production Credits*

Dean Radcliffe-Lynes  
Producer

Ed Reahl Productions, Inc.  
Production and Post production Facilities

Greg Williams  
Narration

Danielle Bourassa  
Editor

Barbara Schultz Smith  
Keep Sake Photography  
Graphic Designer

Opening Music  
“A Charge To Keep I Have”  
Performed by:  
Dr. M. Jeanne Cotton and the Cotton Sisters

Closing Music  
“A Charge to Keep I Have”  
Arranged by Rev. Wallace S. Hartsfield II,  
Field of Hearts Productions  
Soloist: Sharon D. Colvin

## *Additional Footage provided by:*

Birtaud Abraham  
Lynn, MA  
Tod Lending  
Nomadic Pictures, Chicago, IL

Rev. Steven McCoy  
Beaches Chapel, Jacksonville, FL  
Bethel New Life, Inc.  
Chicago, IL

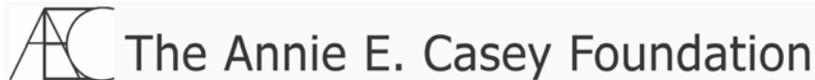
Judy Ravitz, President  
Outreach Extensions

Ken Ravitz, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Outreach Extensions

Denise Blake, Project Director  
Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign  
Outreach Extensions

Anne Llewellyn  
Principal Consultant  
Outreach Extensions

A Production of D.R.Lynes, Inc.



Funding for “*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*” is provided by The Annie E. Casey Foundation as part of its support for the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign.

***To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*** is one of the media resources showcased in the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. All productions incorporate the theme of **reentry into family and community by individuals who were formerly incarcerated**. These and other programs are elements of the Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative (MCMOI), an outreach project supported by The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF). Launched in February 2001, MCMOI links media broadcasters to local stakeholders as a means to promote the Foundation's mission to help build strong and connected neighborhoods for children and families. Visit the Reentry Web site at: [www.reentrymediaoutreach.org](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org).

MCMOI campaigns are managed by Outreach Extensions, a national consulting firm that specializes in comprehensive, high profile educational and community outreach campaigns for media projects. Please visit the MCMOI Web site at [www.mcmoi.org](http://www.mcmoi.org) for more information and community-use materials for these exciting programs.

For more information on the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, please contact:

**Denise Blake**, Reentry Project Director  
Outreach Extensions  
TEL: 770.964.5045 FAX: 770.964.5046  
E-mail: [Denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org](mailto:Denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org)



OUTREACH EXTENSIONS (Main Office)  
7039 Dume Drive  
Malibu, CA 90265  
Tel: 310.589.5180  
FAX: 310.589.5280  
E-mail: [outext@aol.com](mailto:outext@aol.com)