

REENTRY UNIT

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Without hard work, nothing grows but weeds.

~ Gordon B. Hinckley ~

MRP FLASH

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Let's Start a support process for women

Let's Start aims to break the cycle of incarceration in families by working with formerly incarcerated women and their children to support recovery and reentry, mitigate the impact of parental imprisonment, educate the public and inform policy.

Let's Start began in 1989 when Sr. Jackie Toben SSND and 3 formerly incarcerated women began meeting informally. Since that time Let's Start has developed a support process for women in transition.

Women coming out of prison immediately face a number of challenges: housing, education, employment, dysfunctional families, or addictions. They are faced with overwhelming demands which often leave them feeling alone and powerless.

Let's Start is a process dedicated to assisting women in transition from prison life to society. It is unique in that it is coordinated by women who themselves have been through the criminal justice system.

What we do...

Let's Start supports female offenders and their children, while

promoting policy changes. The following are some of the resources Let's Start provides for:

Female Offenders

- Weekly support groups at Let's Start and the Clayton jail with follow-up and re
- referrals for housing and employment;
- Monthly parenting sessions;
- Monthly legal clinic that offers free legal advice.

Children & Caregivers

- Prison visitation program so children can visit their moms;
- Individual and group therapy sessions for children;
- Field trips for children to provide respite time for caregivers;
- Monthly group sessions for caregivers;
- Structured activities for children when their moms are at support group.

Outreach and Advocacy

- Talks in the community about issues that impact their lives;
- "Stories of Hope" – true stories relayed through dramatic presentations;

Discussions with legislators about policies that affect female offenders' lives and their children's.

Contact us:

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Find MRP on the web at www.doc.mo.gov

HELLO
my name is

Victoria

Victoria McBride, Restorative Justice and Reentry Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Corrections, has served the Missouri Department of Corrections since 2012. As a Probation and Parole Officer she Chaired the Community Re-entry efforts in Crawford, Dent, Phelps, Maries, and Pulaski Counties while instituting several innovative partnerships with faith based entities to promote intrinsically motivated change in offenders. Ms. McBride served as an investigator with the Inspector General's Office in an effort to hold offenders accountable for their actions. Ms. McBride was promoted to Restorative Justice and Reentry Coordinator in April 2016. Ms. McBride obtained a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Psychology from Missouri State University.

Let us welcome
Victoria McBride
to the
Reentry Unit



Performance Support launched in DOCOTA



Steven Medrow, Curriculum Design Manager, and Stephanie Greiner, Curriculum Design Specialist at the Training Academy have developed and launched a new feature in DOCOTA to provide additional learning resources for any staff member to access. In our agency, training occurs in a variety of places and on a daily basis. Professional experiences between co-workers, through online searches and personal experience are all a part of the ongoing training within corrections.

Performance Support in DOCOTA provides additional resources for any staff member to access to learn more on topics such as: contra-band, motivational interviewing, grammar, and computer software. The Training Academy will continue to add additional resources for you to be able to learn more about the hot topics and trends in the field of corrections, leadership, staff wellness and professional development. Check out what has already been loaded into DOCOTA by logging into DOCOTA and clicking on "Performance Support" from the list of course categories and stay tuned for more information to assist in new learning opportunities for you as a corrections professional within the Missouri Department of Corrections!

Steven Medrow, Curriculum Design Manager, and
Stephanie Greiner, Curriculum Design Specialist



David Nelson, MS, Reentry Training
Manager

Missouri Department of Corrections Training Academy



MRP
Missouri Reentry Process

WERDCC Painting for Puppies

Women's Eastern Reception and Diagnostic Correctional Center's Restorative Justice Program began a partnership with the Animal Protection Association of Missouri (APA) located in St. Louis. The APA is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing people and pets together, advancing humane education and creating program beneficial to the human/animal bond. The offenders at WERDCC have created custom pet portraits from photographs provided by the APA. These painting are then given to the APA to raise money for their programs offered, education, Veterinarian services, adoption, and animal rescue. The

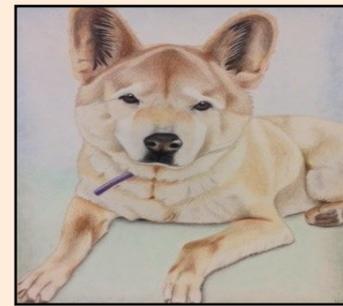


St. Louis "Art Mart" has graciously donated paint and canvas for this noble cause. Jennifer Bloom, Director of Humane Education for the APA, indicated the APA is thankful for the artwork and plans to expand the partnership with the Missouri Department of Corrections in the

future. The offenders participating in Restorative Justice at WERDCC have been excited to serve the St. Louis area in this capacity.



Pictured Jennifer Blome, Director of Humane Education, and Patricia Stathem, Restorative Justice Coordinator, WERDCC.



A Guide for Working with Missouri's Justice-Involved Veterans

People who infrequently work with service members and veterans may not understand their unique challenges and the specific resources available to them in Missouri. The MO Department of Mental Health-Veterans Services, in partnership with nine other state and community agencies, has created a guide to aid people working with justice-involved veterans. This guide will help them understand various state-wide veteran programs and how to access them. Resources include how to assist veterans seeking access to VA benefits, legal assistance, behavioral health, education, housing, transportation and more.

The guide development team is comprised of representatives from Arthur Center, Columbia VA Medical Center, MO Behavioral Health Alliance, MO Department of Corrections, MO Department of Mental Health, MO Veterans Commission, and Pathways. Additional project contributors include the Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare and MO Department of Economic Development-Division of Workforce Development. To view the guide visit: <http://dmh.mo.gov/veterans/>, under *For Clinicians*.



Spring has sprung and Gardens are Growing!!

When completely planted, the gardens at FCC will encompass approximately 2.25 acres. Although that sounds as if we have a large garden, we actually have eight different areas throughout the camp, and those areas are broken up into smaller plots to accommodate sidewalks. The largest plot is over 28,000 sq. ft. and the smallest is 306 sq. ft. If there is an unused space, it gets tilled and planted!



We currently have approximately 3000 cabbage, 1000 broccoli, 2000 kohlrabi, 2000 lbs of potatoes, 2500 tomato plants, 5000 onions, and 18 rows of radishes in the ground. There is still more to go in the ground...including green beans, watermelon, cantaloupe, zucchini, yellow squash, okra, peppers, beets, eggplants, carrots, and cucumbers. FCC has a seed germination chamber and we keep it working.



In addition to our own garden needs, we provide plants to a number of other groups, such as ERDCC, District 12 CSC, community gardens, and food banks for distribution to those in need to allow them to grow their own fresh vegetables. FCC's garden crews are hard-working offenders who are anxious to give back to the communities. The classification and custody staff are very supportive of the offenders' efforts which helps in our efforts to serve all those that we can.

Submitted By : Dee Gordon



Please continue to send the Reentry Unit ideas and/or articles you would like to have considered for upcoming FLASH publications

Community Coming Together

The Pettis County Community Partnership (PCCP) has a mission centering on improving the quality of life for the citizens of Pettis County. The goals include matching community assets with community needs, acting as a catalyst for community action, and being a clearing house for information availability and exchange.

Programs offered:

- ABC (Activity Builders for Children)
- Baby Think It Over-Parenting Simulation
- Caring Communities
- Family Nutrition Education Program
- Healthcare Access & Wellness Initiatives
- MO Reentry Process Steering Group
- MRCC Food Co-op
- PROP (Putting Roofs Over People)
- ROC (Reentry Opportunity Center)
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- West Central MO Multicultural Forum
- "Blue Ribbon Vision" Partner



Our History

In 1995, representatives from Pettis County Counseling, Pettis County Health Center, the Center for Human Services, and Central MO Regional Center came together to look at the possibility of working together on community issues in an effort to avoid duplication of services. The Pettis County Community Partnership was born out of this collaboration. A community needs assessment was conducted and published in 1996. The first full-time employee was hired in October of 1996. The Pettis County Community Partnership (PCCP) evolved into an umbrella organization where many programs and services fit comfortably beneath, but yet are tied to the six core results.

In 1997, PCCP was invited to partner in Missouri's Caring Communities initiative involving seven state agencies. Capacity building activities during 1997 resulted in Caring Communities sites being selected and staff hired in January of 1998.

The efforts of PCCP have grown rapidly during the past few years. Through the receipt of five grants (Robert Wood Johnson, VISTA, RSVP, Educare, and Putting Families First) the partnership has been off and running. In October of 1998 we moved into an office located at 515 S. Kentucky, which allowed for a large conference room which is used by many different local agencies as a neutral meeting ground for collaboration and by others such as the Sedalia 200 School District, DFS, Foster Parent Association, and Reality Therapy for trainings. We provide in-kind office space for the State Fair Community College Family Literacy Center and University Outreach and Extension for their Family Nutrition Specialist.

We work with many different populations, but the one seeing the most change is the Hispanic population. It is growing rapidly and is very fluid. We have supported the community in dealing with the impact of this trend by providing aides for elementary classrooms, full-time translators, and Español for Gringos classes, just to name a few.

In response to public concerns, local state legislators convened a group of community, state, and federal agency representatives to discuss the impact and issues associated with the burgeoning Hispanic population in the Pettis County area. The group chose to call itself the West Central Missouri Multicultural Forum and continues to be a vital working group. PCCP now has the responsibility of being the coordinating agency for this initiative. Efforts were made to include participation of members from the Hispanic families. Focus groups for the following issues were formed: Law Enforcement, Business and Industry, Health and Welfare, Education, Transportation, and Government. These groups meet to consider the needs, concerns, and opportunities then recommend appropriate community solutions and actions. The Multicultural Forum has a membership of over 200.

PCCP's efforts to secure a Missouri Migrant Education Center office in Pettis County were successful. We worked with the main office in Monet, Missouri and were able to secure the location of the satellite office in Sedalia rather than Marshall in Saline County. The Migrant Education Center was housed at PCCP until the Fall of 2001 when they needed space for a preschool and moved to a bigger building.

Contact the Pettis County Community Partnership at
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