



Cuyahoga County Reentry Review

Citizen Circle Training held at North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center

A Citizen Circle training class was held at the "North Star" Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center in April. About 50 participants attended a one day, 8-hour class that was facilitated by Joyce Chisar, Regional Services Coordinator, Cleveland Adult Parole Authority and Edward Little, Consultant, Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs/Office of Reentry.

The objective of the training was to become familiar with Citizen Circles and the goals of the Citizen Circles. Citizen Circles create partnerships that promote positive social interaction and accountability for formerly incarcerated people returning to the community. The goals are:

- To create a forum that builds better relationships between the communities and the formerly incarcerated who return.
- To involve local citizens in the rehabilitation process while clearly communicating community expectations.
- To develop a plan to assist the formerly incarcerated person in becoming a productive citizen.
- To help formerly incarcerated people understand that acceptance into a community demands certain responsibilities and obligations.

The participants that attended were from all walks of life, faith-based organizations, parole officers, returning citizens and citizens from the community. Citizen Circles are made up of community members committed to helping formerly incarcerated people make the transition from "offender" to "citizen."

Joyce Chisar and Ed Little used several different exercises to engage the participants in activities to make them become familiar with what obstacles, pressures and challenges re-

turning citizens face upon their release from prison. Joyce and Ed also emphasized how important Citizen Circles are in helping with that transition.



Citizen Circles focus on eight dynamic domain areas:

1. Employment
2. Education
3. Family/Marital
4. Associates/Social Interactions
5. Substance Abuse
6. Community Functioning
7. Personal/Emotional Orientation
8. Attitude

Many of the participants commented that they found the training very informative and it made them think more about a lot of things they see daily. Another participant commented on the idea of the community becoming involved in assisting the returning citizens' transition back into the community.

There are currently 5 Circles in the Cleveland area. Please see the back cover of this issue for dates, times and locations. Currently we have 25 Citizen Circles across the state. Our goal is to establish 5 more Citizen Circles this year. If you are interested in becoming a Citizen Circle member please contact us at:

reentryinfo@cuyahogacounty.us

or

216.698.2501

Cuyahoga County 6th Annual Fatherhood Conference

June 18 - 19, 2010

"Nothing I've ever done has given me more joys and rewards than being a father to my children."
- Bill Cosby

The Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative will hold its annual two-day event "A Celebration of Fatherhood" on Friday June 18 and Saturday June 19, 2010. On Friday, there will be a Fatherhood Conference which includes a Resource Fair, Town Hall Meeting, Awards Luncheon and Informational Workshops. This is an

all-day event from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Cleveland. Ed Little of the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry will be presenting at one of the workshops. Saturday, June 19, 2010 is the Father & Family Day at the Zoo which features food, fun, entertainment and admission to the zoo and rainforest. The hours are from 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

All events are free with registration. To register for the Conference and the Father and Family Day at the Zoo, please go to www.fatherhoodinitiative.cuyahogacounty.us. or call the Fatherhood Initiative office at 216-348-3967. Registration for the conference is now open.

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North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center - Open House April 20, 2010

Renovations to the North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center (NRRC) building are complete. The Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners and Oriana House are pleased to announce that the NRRC is now in full operation. A number of local elected officials, community leaders and activists, and other veterans of local reentry efforts celebrated with an Open House held on April 20, 2010.

Phil Nunes of Oriana House, James McCafferty of the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners, Luis Vazquez of the Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs Office of Reentry, Alicia Handwerk of the Ohio Bureau of Community Sanctions and Judge C. Ellen Connally, retired Judge from Cleveland Municipal Court, all made brief remarks. Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs Director Gary Holland was also in attendance, along with Greater Cleveland Reentry Strategy Leadership Coalition Chairs William M. Denihan and Vincent Holland.

"It is time to make serving the needs of reentering citizens a high priority in Cuyahoga County," Mr. McCafferty said. "We are very happy and proud to partner with Oriana House in opening this unique facility. We want the reentry community to know that North Star is your place."

North Star is currently offering a variety of services and will continue to add more to their monthly calendar. In addition to the computer lab, library and meeting space, the following programs and services are available: Mentoring, Big Book Study and Discussion, HIV screening and awareness classes, and parenting and life skills classes. North Star staff are working hard to also get Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous sessions started in addition to faith-based programs and educational classes. For more information, please call the Center at 216-881-5440. You can also visit or write them at North Star Reentry Resource Center, 1834 East 55th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44103.



State and Local Leaders Enjoyed the Open House, Pictured left to right:
 Alicia Handwerk - Chief of the Bureau of Community Sanctions ODRC
 Phil Nunes - Vice President of Community Corrections in Cuyahoga County Oriana House
 Jim Lawrence - President and CEO Oriana House
 Judge C. Ellen Connally - retired, Cleveland Municipal Court
 Jim McCafferty- County Administrator Board of County Commissioners Cuyahoga County



The Reception Area at North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center



A view from the Front Desk in the NRRC Lobby and Reception Area as guests arrive for the Open House.



The Library is available for reading and quiet study. A number of books have been donated from area libraries and the collection includes a set of the Ohio Revised Code law books.



The Conference Room at North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center is available for Community Meetings.



Events and classes can be held in the Large Classroom. The classroom can accommodate up to 100 people with chairs only and 50-60 with chairs and tables.

Community Assessment & Treatment Services (CATS) New Women's Center

Among the traffic and passer-bys at the corner of Harvard and Broadway in Slavic Village is the rising of a new LEED Silver certified building, a place where women will begin their recovery from alcohol and drugs...Community Assessment & Treatment Services, Inc. (CATS) Women's Center. Celebrating 20 years of service this year, CATS specializes in treating adult men and women who are involved in the criminal justice system. With 70 beds for men and 48 beds for women and an outpatient department for both, CATS is able to provide over 1,500 individuals and their families with assessment, counseling, referrals, and case management each year.

Founded in 1990 by Roxanne Wallace, Executive Director and Dan Cratcha, Associate Director as a driver intervention program, CATS has developed into a holistic treatment provider that helps to coordinate substance abuse treatment with mental health care, education, employment, family reunification and other services that truly impact recidivism and relapse. CATS is accredited by the Ohio Department of Alcohol

and Drug Addiction Services, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, The American Correctional Association, and is a contract agency of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County.

In addition to embarking on its first capital campaign to build the women's center, CATS began CATS Plus in 2007. Supported by the philosophies of the Therapeutic Community, which focuses on changing criminal / addictive attitudes and behaviors through community governance, and mirroring programs such as TROSA (Triangle Residential Opportunities for Substance Abusers) in Durham, NC, CATS Plus is an opportunity for individuals to continue treatment in a safe, sober environment, while building skills and knowledge in various industries in order to obtain employment.

Over the past year, CATS Plus has assisted over 35 men in continuing their recovery from alcohol and drugs and refrain from engaging in criminal behavior. These men reside

in an apartment building in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. The program satisfies basic needs so that participants are able to focus on recovery, work ethic and skill training. By the end of the program, participants have money saved in accounts, a positive work history, employable skills in construction, as well as experience in customer service, marketing, and administrative areas of business. CATS staff assist in connecting individuals with employment opportunities so that upon graduation, individuals are employed. The new facility will offer an opportunity for women to be involved in CATS Plus as well.

On June 3, 2010, CATS will host its first annual gala that will celebrate 20 years of service and the grand opening of the new women's center. Festivities will be held at the Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Avenue at 5:30 pm and will include dinner by Luxe, a silent auction and Broadway-style entertainment. CATS will recognize the Third Federal Foundation as its 2009 Foundation Partner of the Year and Dr. Luis Ramirez and Myrtle Muntz as its 2009 Community Partners of

the Year. Individual tickets are \$75.00. Opportunities for sponsorship and silent auction items are available. Please contact Natalie Friedl, Development Director at 216-441-0200 ext. 111 or nfriedl@communityassessment.org or visit CATS website at www.communityassessment.org for more information about CATS and its June 3rd event.



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Fatherhood Conference *(Continued from Front Cover)*

If you are unable to participate in the 2010 Fatherhood Conference but want information on the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative, please call the office number above, call the 211 First Call for Help Fatherhood Line or go to the website above and get information on all of the CCFI's 14 funded fatherhood programs. There are programs ranging from job training and placement assistance, to Boot Camp for New Dads, to parenting classes to help with custody and visitation issues or simply opportunities to spend quality time with your children such as the "Cooking with Dads" class and many other services that prepare fathers meet the psychological and financial needs of their children. All of the programs are available to any father in Cuyahoga County.

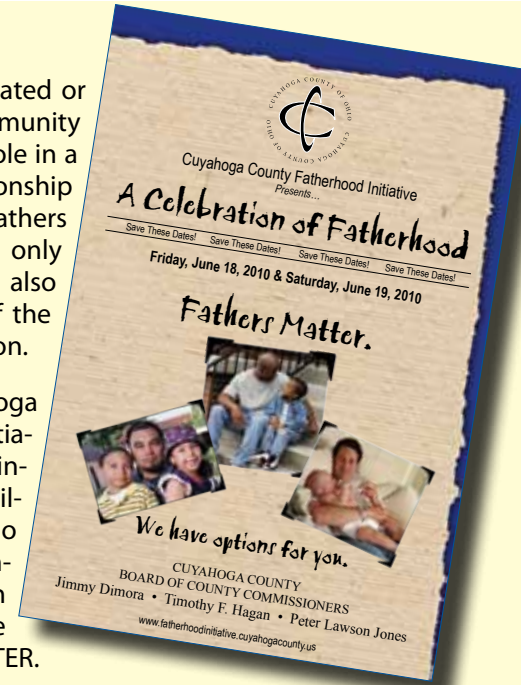
President Barack Obama noted the negative impact that an absent father can have on children at a speech he gave to the congregation of the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago on June 18, 2008. "We know the statistics - that children who grow up without a father are five times more likely to live in poverty and commit crime; nine times more likely to drop out of schools and twenty times more likely to end up in prison. They are more likely to have behavioral problems, or run away from home, or become teenage parents themselves. And the foundations of our community are weaker because of it," President Obama said.

Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones has been a long-time advocate for fathers and their families. When he was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives during the 2000-2001 session, Commissioner Jones wrote the amendment that created the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood. As a Cuyahoga County Commissioner, he led the successful effort to establish the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative which has been managed by Aldonis Grimes since its creation in 2004. Raising awareness of the importance of father involvement and addressing the concerns of all fathers, including those who have been involved in the justice system, are among the goals of the Initiative.

"Fathers make unique and irreplaceable contributions to the lives of children. Indeed, both mom and dad must be engaged if a child is to mature into a psychologically well adjusted and productive adult. For that reason, society must do all it can to ensure that reentering fathers and mothers receive the support they need to successfully transition," said County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones.

Fathers who are incarcerated or are reentering the community can have a meaningful role in a child's life. A strong relationship between reentering fathers and their children not only helps the children but also improves the chances of the father staying out of prison.

The mission of the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative is to significantly increase the number of children in the county who grow up with a responsible, involved father in their lives because we know that FATHERS MATTER.



Please join us at the 2010 Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative's Celebration of Fatherhood which is an annual forum created specifically to celebrate healthy father-child relationships, address the social problems that result from "father-absence" and strategize as to what we must do, as a community, to ensure that every child has a dad in his or her life.

Citizen Circles Locations

The Euclid Avenue Citizen Circle The Church of the Covenant

Kathleen Farkas
11202 Euclid Ave.
2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 pm
216.421.0482 ext. 282

East Cleveland

Andrea Graham
1850 Belmore Ave.
Last Wednesday of every month
at 5:00 pm
216.249.0330

Zion Chapel

Rev. Dennis Jonel
4234 Lee Rd.
3rd Monday of every month at 6:00 pm
216.752.2743

CEOGC Medical Arts Building

Lewis West
2475 E. 22nd St.
(Lower level)
2nd Monday of every month at 11:30 am
216.357.2621

Mt. Pleasant Murtis Taylor Center

Diane Cox
13411 Kinsman Ave.
1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm
216.751.1085



COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS:
Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry
email: ReentryInfo@cuyahogacounty.us
phone: 216.698.2501

To receive a copy of
**Going Home
to Stay**

contact First Call for Help at 216.436.2000
or go online and download a copy at
www.211cleveland.org/pdfs/communityreentry.pdf

