



REENTRY

National Media Outreach Campaign

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OMAR & PETE Community Events

Reentry colleagues in San Antonio, Texas; Providence, Rhode Island; and Staunton, Virginia, will have the opportunity to meet William “Pete” Duncan, featured in the award-winning documentary, OMAR & PETE at local events in the coming weeks.

On **October 3, 2006**, public television station, KLRN, along with *Making Connections* San Antonio, will host a Community Summit on issues addressing offender reentry in the San Antonio community. The summit addresses the question, *Where do formerly incarcerated men and women go to reconnect with jobs and housing and access needed substance abuse and health care treatment?*



Participants will:

- Hear from representatives of several local service organizations
- Watch clips from OMAR & PETE
- Meet William “Pete” Duncan, featured in the documentary
- Attend a Resource Fair of local organizations that provide services to individuals with incarceration histories in San Antonio

The event will take place at the Frank Garrett Community Center, 1226 NW 18th Street, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Please visit <http://www.klrn.org/MoreThanTv/events.aspx?EventType=1> or contact Amy Rames, 210-270-9000, ext. 2247, arames@klrn.org for more information. This event is free and open to the public.

On **October 23, 2006** from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, *Making Connections* Providence will host a screening of OMAR & PETE at the Met School's Black Box Theater, 325 Public Street, Providence. William “Pete” Duncan will participate in a panel discussion, along with local Providence professionals working with recently released men and women. A family member of a formerly incarcerated individual will also sit on the panel. This group will examine the role that communities and families play in supporting former prisoners who live in local neighborhoods. Following the panel discussion, audience members will participate with their questions and experiences.



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For more information, or to sign up for the Reentry bi-monthly e-newsletter, please contact:

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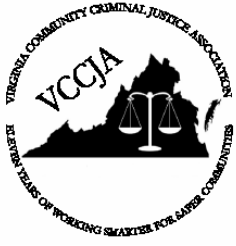
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OMAR & PETE COMMUNITY EVENTS, CONT.

This series of community forums on reentry continues the work that *Making Connections* Providence has been engaged in to inform and educate residents, community leaders, and policymakers in the City of Providence about the issues that impact the neighborhoods and families of former prisoners.

Finally, the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, featuring OMAR & PETE, will be presented at the **10th Annual Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association (VCCJA) Conference**, to be held at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton, Virginia, **November 1 - 3, 2006**. The VCCJA conference provides training for local probation, pretrial services, and reentry staff in the state of Virginia. Denise Blake and William "Pete" Duncan will present an intensive workshop on Wednesday, November 1st from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.



The workshop will provide an overview of The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to view clips from several documentaries, and see the award-winning documentary, OMAR & PETE. William "Pete" Duncan will share his testimony of incarceration and successful reentry. Attendees will also have the chance

to apply for films in the campaign pipeline to use in their own work. For more information, please visit VCCJA's Web site at <http://www.vccja.org/index2.htm>

REENTRY PROGRAM PROFILES

TEXAS HOPE LITERACY

In 1997, Lucy Smith founded **Texas HOPE Literacy**, a unique faith-based non-profit organization dedicated to empowering at-risk children, youth, and adults to become productive citizens in today's world. For nine years, HOPE has implemented peer-driven educational programs that target functional illiteracy. HOPE has three successful models that are adaptable for prisons throughout the United States.

New to HOPE is the concept of *city governance*, whereby inmates learn to govern themselves under the auspices of prison governance. This prototype operates at the Dawson State Jail in downtown Dallas. Since Dawson has limited programming space, Warden Chuck Keeton asked Lucy Smith to implement the HOPE Literacy program in a dorm setting of 54 female inmates. In order to provide quality programming in this environment, there needed to be a structure that would engage the inmates to take ownership in the HOPE program.

The intent is to empower the inmates by placing them in a structured living and workplace environment that gives them autonomy and teaches them to coexist in a community. In this environment, they are held accountable and learn to hold each other accountable for their behaviors and actions. They learn to plan and think before speaking or acting out, maintain respect for staff and peers, encourage and uplift each other, become positive role models, and make necessary adjustments in their lives prior to release.

Volunteers knowledgeable in city government came to Dawson to help the women learn how to campaign to elect their own mayor, city council members, review board, resolution committee, and city manager. Following the election, the women formed committees so that everyone would be an active participating member. The 54 residents in Dorm 10A held their first election in 2004 and voted to name the city *Unity*. The Dorm is divided into three neighborhoods and nine families, with names being voted on for each. Permission was granted for the women to paint their walls with pictures that depict HOPE. *Unity City* has enabled HOPE to implement the educational component in an effective manner. The women are motivated by the potential for growth within this innovative concept. Warden Keeton says it is the best dorm on the unit. *Unity City's* first mayor is now in college, majoring in psychology. Another former *Unity City* student is also in college and has a 3.0 grade average. Previously incarcerated HOPE inmates are encouraged to maintain contact following their release.



Unity City Peer Educator and Student

REENTRY PROGRAM PROFILES, CONT.

In June 2005, Unity City held a second election since most of their elected officials had been or were being released. They gave campaign speeches, and several of the candidates had campaign managers. Due to the high success and low recidivism rate of HOPE inmates, the warden has asked HOPE to expand by adding eight female dorms on two floors as well as five dorms on a male floor. The second female dorm city opened in 2005, and a third dorm will be added this fall.

Future projections are to stabilize existing city dorms while preparing inmates for employment prior to release, open one transitional home for HOPE females by the end of 2007, and add a dorm for HOPE male inmates in 2008. These models and a description can be found on the organization's Web site at www.hopelit.com.

Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Program (IVOP)

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) mission is to serve America's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and to be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive medical care, benefits, social support, and lasting memorials promoting the health, welfare, and dignity of all veterans in recognition of their service to this nation. What many in the general public don't know is the number of veterans represented in America's criminal justice system.

Since 1987, the VA has been addressing the needs of the homeless veteran population with authorized appropriations to support clinical teams to conduct outreach to homeless veterans and with community providers. As part of these outreach efforts, the VA has launched an initiative to address the needs of incarcerated veterans through reentry outreach and homeless prevention.

Incarcerated veterans represent a unique subgroup of the general inmate population. The vast majority of these inmates are veterans from the Vietnam-era, single, minority, poor, from disadvantaged communities, and suffer from mental illness and/or substance abuse. Comparable to America's homeless veterans, incarcerated veterans are estimated to constitute 14.5% of Federal, 12.5% of State and 11.7% of local jail populations, for an estimated total of 225,000.

Nationally, a variety of VA Medical Centers and Vet Centers have coordinated, formalized agreements with local penal institutions either to provide direct services to incarcerated veterans, or, more commonly, like the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, Incarcerated Veteran

Outreach Program (IVOP), to provide pre-release outreach and coordination of clinical and social services upon release. Veterans under charges, incarceration, or on parole do not forfeit their eligibility for VA medical care, but VA does not, and never has, operated health care facilities that are equipped to care for individuals who require criminal incarceration.

In 2004, the Department of Labor (DOL) awarded \$1 million for four pilot programs under the President's new Incarcerated Veterans' Transition Program. The grantees were: Volunteers of America (VOA) of Los Angeles Inc., CA; VOA of Kentucky Inc., KY; Joint Efforts Inc., San Pedro, CA; and Quad Area Community Action Agency, Hammond, LA. The emphasis of the IVTP program is to prepare veterans, up to 18 months before release, for employment from a curriculum developed by the National Veterans Training Institute of Denver, Colorado.

Currently, VAs are continuing to develop reentry initiatives with a goal of facilitating the transition of veteran prisoners to a productive life in the community. In 2006, each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) developed an incarcerated veterans' guide and designated an incarcerated veteran's point of contact. The point of contact coordinates dissemination, and tracks and assesses the effectiveness of the incarcerated veteran's guides with corrections staff and re-entering incarcerated veterans. Within VISN 10 (Ohio), Mr. Bradley Schaffer is the point of contact.

In Cincinnati, Mr. Schaffer directs incarcerated veteran services provided through the Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Program (IVOP) to southern Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction facilities and Northern Kentucky prisons/county jails. The IVOP staff has encountered 151 incarcerated veterans via outreach and has begun providing the incarcerated veterans' guide to facilitate reentry. As an adjunct to the IVOP, a Domestic Relations Clinic Program is available in Cincinnati for veterans that have domestic abuse (batterer) problems. The IVOP is also an Urban Institute Re-Entry Mapping Network affiliate, which pinpoints the locations that formerly incarcerated persons return to.

The IVOP is an example of a powerful collaboration between the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, the VA Healthcare Systems and their Health Care for Homeless Veterans Programs, along with a number of community partners. Outreach and treatment of the incarcerated veteran is developed and evaluation by the following objectives:

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REENTRY PROGRAM PROFILES, CONT.

- Reduce homeless and prison recidivism rates.
- Coordinate outreach to assess veteran's treatment needs and transition.
- Collect demographic and statistical data to determine incidence and prevalence of incarcerated veterans.
- Form a profile of incarcerated veterans.
- Enhance partnership and collaboration efforts between VA, Vet Centers, DOL, VSO's, community, county jails, halfway houses, OH & KY Departments of Rehabilitation and Corrections and KY State Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Homeless Coordinator.

The service coordination provided to these incarcerated veterans includes:

- Residential Programs
- Transitional Assistance
- Medical Care
- Housing Resources
- Substance Abuse
- Domestic Relations
- Discharge Upgrades
- Mental Health
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Case Management
- Veterans Benefits Help
- Vet Center Information
- Vocational/Employment/ Compensated Work Therapy
- Reentry Support

These veterans are benefiting from creative partnerships and approaches that are cultivated beyond the traditional norm. Veterans do have diverse levels of criminality, clinical and social problems that are likely to present significant community re-adjustment issues upon release. Ideally these efforts need to begin at their entrance to the penal system, administered in partnership through the vehicles of rehabilitation and not as a short-term exit strategy.

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign thanks Mr. Bradley Schaffer for submission of this article and raising awareness of the unique challenges of incarcerated veterans. Mr. Schaffer is the Divisional Director of Community Psychiatry at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center and has over 20 years federal service. He is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), Board Certified Diplomat (BCD) in Clinical Social Work and an Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychiatry, University of Cincinnati. For more information about incarcerated veterans and the work of the Incarcerated Veteran Outreach Program in Cincinnati, please contact Mr. Schaffer at Bradley.Schaffer2@va.gov or visit: <http://www.visn10.med.va.gov/VISN10/cincinnati/HelpSvc.htm>. You may also request a copy of Ohio's Resource Guide for Incarcerated Veterans and Their Families.

*Have you missed an issue of the Reentry e-newsletter?
Past issues can be found on the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign Web site
(<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/enewsletter.htm>)!*

REENTRY CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Sixth Annual Transitional Jobs Conference in Atlanta

The 6th Annual Transitional Jobs Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA, **October 12-13, 2006**. The National Transitional Jobs Network advocates for better outcomes for returning offenders through the expansion and promotion of transitional jobs (TJ) as an employment strategy for reentering offenders.



The 6th Annual Transitional Jobs Conference will highlight TJ programs working with offenders and provide resources for providers and advocates to continue to promote better outcomes for those reentering communities across the country. Registration information is available at www.transitionaljobs.net.

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign will present a workshop entitled *Using Media to Frame the Reentry Dialogue* at the **5th Annual Transition of Prisoners National Prisoner Reentry Conference** in Dallas, TX, **October 13 – 15, 2006**, the country's largest faith-based reentry conference. The conference provides:

- A chance to meet hundreds of people from across the country committed to serving the formerly incarcerated population
- Opportunities to view program models covering various prisoner reentry areas
- A panel discussion by formerly incarcerated people who will talk about challenges and victories during their transitions
- Over 20 workshops covering various reentry issues
- Videos highlighting reentry programs and other invaluable reentry resources
- Testimonies by former prisoners
- Inspiring praise and worship and much more!

To find out more about this conference or to register online, please visit <http://www.topinc.net>.

In order to address the many issues of prisoner reentry, The Performance Institute is hosting **The 2006 National Summit on Prisoner Reentry**. A comprehensive jurisdiction-wide approach to reducing recidivism and reintegrating former prisoners into society, this conference integrates the concerns of Law Enforcement, Corrections and Social Services in tackling this difficult problem that affects all of us. Keynote and workshop sessions include: *How Can we Balance Justice and the Needs of Former Prisoners?*; *Job Transition and Experience Learning Programs for Former Prisoners*; and *The Effectiveness of Reentry Courts*.



The conference will be held **November 8 – 9, 2006**, in Arlington, Virginia. Learn more or register online at www.performanceweb.org.

Community ReConciliation, a Reentry Policy and Practice Seminar will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on **November 17, 2006**. The event is co-sponsored by:



- Workplace ReConnections, Inc.
- Powernet of Dayton
- United Church of Christ
- Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program Dayton
- ARIA GROUP, Inc.

Learn more about the event and register online at <http://www.workplacereconnections.org/>.

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REENTRY CONFERENCES AND EVENTS, CONT.

On **March 8 - 10, 2007** in Baltimore, Maryland, the University of Maryland School of Law will present *The Deeper End of the Pond: Innovative Practices in Community Justice*, a national symposium recognizing the innovative work being done in many arenas of community justice. Community Justice partners invited to the symposium include youth advocates, community-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement, judges, public health professionals, prisoner reentry advocates, and prosecutors.



The goals for the symposium are to:

- Share strategies to reduce violence in local communities,
- Strengthen interactions between communities and justice system stakeholders, and
- Reinforce to youth the impact that an individual can have in advancing social justice where none exists.

Conference organizers are currently seeking workshop presenters who will present innovative practices in one of the following aspects of community justice:

- Problem-Solving Courts
- Community Capacity Building
- Community/Government Collaboration

To learn more about the conference or to submit a workshop proposal, please visit: http://www.law.umaryland.edu/conference_detail.asp?conf=31).

**Have you received a film courtesy of the
Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign?
If so, please remember to turn in your user feedback form!!**



W. Wilson Goode, Sr. Nominated for Purpose Prize

Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.! Rev. Goode is the recipient of a **Purpose Prize** which is given to Americans over 60 who have reinvented themselves in what are traditionally retirement years and who have dedicated themselves to solving America's problems in innovative ways. "I had success as mayor, but what I have now is significance in this point of my life," said Goode of his work with the [Amachi](#) program, designed to mentor children of incarcerated parents. "I achieved many successful things as mayor. But beyond success is a state in life, finding real purpose beyond any titles, and getting real, true meaning out of what you're doing. That's my definition of significance." Goode will contribute his \$100,000 award to his efforts to mentor children.

Amachi (http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/sp_faith_am.htm) is featured on the Reentry Campaign outreach production, *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs*. Copies of the production are available in VHS and DVD formats. You may apply for a copy by downloading and completing the application form: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/otworder.htm>.

Alabama Court Declares Disenfranchisement Policy Unconstitutional

A Jefferson County circuit court judge in Alabama ruled this week that the state's felon disenfranchisement policy is unconstitutional due to the failure of the legislature to define which crimes are considered ones of "moral turpitude." Alabama law calls for the loss of voting rights only for crimes involving moral turpitude, but the state has never developed a clear list of which crimes fall in that category. In practice, disenfranchisement has generally been applied to all felony convictions. In his ruling, in the case of *Gooden v. Worley*, Judge Robert Vance Jr. stated that "neither this Court nor any other court has the constitutional authority to decide whether an individual must surrender his right to vote," and ordered registrars to cease enforcing disenfranchisement until the legislature defines which crimes are to be covered. The judge also stayed implementation of the order pending review by the Justice Department under provisions of the Voting Rights Act. Read the entire ruling at: <http://www.votelaw.com/blog/blogdocs/final%20judgment%202006%2008%2023.pdf>.

Source: The Sentencing Project

Hawaii Supreme Court Overturns Firing Over Past Crimes

Employers cannot terminate workers just because they have a past criminal conviction, the Hawaii Supreme Court has ruled. The high court overturned a lower court decision that threw out an anti-discrimination complaint filed by Jon S. Logan Wright in April 2004. In it he claimed the Kahului Home Depot fired him after a background check conducted more than a year after he began working revealed he had a 1996 Nevada drug conviction. In that case he served no jail time and was placed on probation, which ended in November 1997. The entire court ruling can be viewed at: http://www.njsj.org/documents/HawaiiSupremeCourtRuling_Wrightv.HomeDepot.doc

Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Occasional Series on Reentry Research—Fall 2006 calendar

All events will take place at John Jay College (899 Tenth Avenue, between 58th and 59th Streets) in Room 630. Please RSVP to Debbie Mukamal (212-484-1327; dmukamal@jjay.cuny.edu).

Wednesday, October 18th at 8:30 am: California's Prison Reform

Speaker: Joan Petersilia, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society, University of California at Irvine

Friday, November 17th at 8:30 am: Domestic Violence and Reentry

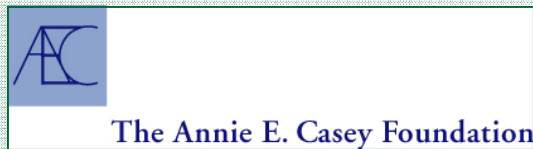
Speakers: Creasie Finney Hairston, Dean, Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago; Mike Bobbitt, Associate Managing Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Family Justice; former Director of the Safe Return Initiative, Vera Institute of Justice

Friday, December 15th at 8:30 am: Women and Incarceration

Speakers: Natasha Frost, Assistant Professor, Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice; Ann Jacobs, Executive Director, Women's Prison Association

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) is supporting the **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign** as part of the Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative (MCMOI), which is designed and managed by Outreach Extensions. This vital effort links media broadcasters to local stakeholders and their diverse constituencies, providing outreach strategies and media resources that support their efforts to strengthen youth and families and build effective communities.

The Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative offers media support to local coalitions that are part of AECF's *Making Connections*, a multi-faceted, long-term effort to improve the life chances of vulnerable children by helping to strengthen their families and neighborhoods. The Foundation's intent is to stimulate and support a local movement that engages residents, civic groups, political leaders, grassroots groups, public and private sector leadership, and faith-based organizations in an effort to help transform tough neighborhoods into family-supportive environments.



This e-Newsletter is an electronic publication intended to keep you informed about news and events relating to the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. **Please let us know how we're doing through the feedback form on the Reentry Web site (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/contactus.htm>).**

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We welcome the names/e-mail addresses of your colleagues so that we can send copies of this e-Newsletter to them as well.