

A Community Success Initiative Publication

Community Success Initiative is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Corporation, Tax ID# 16-1702165
P.O. Box 61114 Raleigh, NC 27661 (919)834-7626 www.communitysuccess.org
Dennis W. Gaddy, Executive Director

Improving Prisoner Reentry Services Through Faith-Based Partnerships



Long time CSI supporters, Pastors Ronald & Marjorie Sharpe of Powerhouse Church of Jesus Christ

Each year hundreds of thousands of inmates are released from Federal and State prisons to be reunited with their communities and families. Community service intervention is critical to this group to avoid potential relapse back into criminal activity. According to the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, two out of three formerly incarcerated individuals are likely to be re-arrested for new crimes

within three years of their release from prison and more than half will be re-incarcerated.

Numerous challenges contribute to their return to criminal activity, re-arrest and/or re-incarceration. Some of these challenges include joblessness, substance abuse, mental health problems, low levels of educational attainment, lack of stable housing and poor family connections.

It's often the faith-based institutions that provide the bridge between the returning offender and family. Many offer the basic survivor services (food, clothing, shelter) as well as mentoring, coaching, training/skill development, and an influential connection to the business community. They can also influence the community's attitudes toward those with a criminal background.

Pastors Ronald and Marjorie Sharpe and the Powerhouse Church of Jesus Christ congregation have been a strong influence within the community for many years and provide outreach services far beyond the walls of the church. Powerhouse supports many community organizations by providing food to the poor, tutoring area youth, and mentoring.

For the last 3 years, Pastors Ronald and Marjorie Sharpe, and Powerhouse have been supportive of the work of Community Success Initiative (CSI). Their support has enabled CSI to continue helping formerly incarcerated persons get back on their feet and reduce crime in the community.

CSI's Faith-Based Partners

CSI believes that the faith community serves as a viable entity and support system to helping men and women entangled in the criminal justice system get connected to needed services that will indeed lead to a better life.

Powerhouse Church of Jesus Christ
Raleigh, NC
Pastors: Ronald & Marjorie Sharpe

St. Matthews A.M.E.
Raleigh NC
Pastor: Dr. Marion Robinson

Martin St. Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC
Pastor: Dr. Earl Johnson

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Durham, NC
Pastor: Cornelius Battle

Grace A.M.E.
Raleigh, NC
Pastor: Dr. Staccato Powell

Popular Springs Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC
Pastor: Charles Brooks

Cathedral of Love
Spring Hope, NC
Pastor: Bishop Thomas Davis

Raleigh International Church
Raleigh, NC
Pastor: Olden Thornton

First Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC
Pastor: Dr. Dumas Harshaw

Triangle Pointe Fellowship
Durham, NC
Pastor: Clarence D. Maynor

Raleigh Mennonite Church
Raleigh, NC
Pastor: Duane Beck

Millennium Revival Center
Raleigh, NC
Pastor: Lamont Cooper

Antioch Baptist Church
Durham, NC
Pastor: Rev. Michael Page

St. Matthew Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC
Pastor: Rev. Ronald Avery

North Raleigh United Methodist
Church
Raleigh, NC
Contact: Sheldon Howard

Christian Faith Center
Lumberton, NC
Pastor: Michael Fields

Any faith-based organization, interested in being added to this list, please contact Dennis Gaddy—(919)834-7626 ex. 11 or email—dgaddy1@communitysuccess.org

In This Issue

Fighting Recidivism.....	Cover
CSI Staff	Page 2
The Mentee's Corner.....	Page 2
Faith-Based Partner	Page 3
RAGS Production.....	Page 3
Reentry Facts.....	Page 4

Ho Haryadi——One Of A Kind



CSI is most fortunate to have a very talented staff that is devoted to assisting the organization in achieving its overall goals and mission. Ho Haryadi is one of those staff members. Ho has been with CSI for 4 years and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that CSI relies on for organizational stability. His project management expertise and his strong strategic operations and organizational development skills help to ensure CSI's longevity.

These technical skills are vitally important to any organization, but when it comes to a non-profit organization providing services for formerly incarcerated individuals, humanitarian efforts are of equal importance. Ho is quick to offer transportation services to program participants in need. He is one of the first to arrive at and participant in special events honoring our clients. Mr. Gaddy can always count on Ho to have his camera ready to capture lasting memories. Recently, Ho worked tirelessly helping a participant find housing after he had lost his bed at a local shelter.

Time and time again, Ho shows his dedication to the reentry effort. He is one of a kind.

The Mentee's Corner



Meet Christopher (Chris) Chavis. Articulate, confident, serious about his future, determined to succeed in spite of many challenges. Since Chris signed up for CSI's reentry program in 2010, he has been actively engaged in enhancing and gaining new skills to support his career goals and obtain long-term employment.

Although Chris is a skilled barber, performs refrigeration repair work, a skilled painter, and a talented disc jockey, he realizes that in today's job market, he must be as competitive as possible. Therefore, he is quick to take advantage of as many

training opportunities as he can. He is currently taking classes at Wake Tech in hopes of further enhancing his job marketability.

One bit of advice that he gives to other CSI participants is -----*"One of the biggest things you need is a plan. Have a long term and short term goal. Once you have set the long term goals, achieve the short term goals. Get your credit score; see what you have to do to bring it up to speed."*

Although his days are full: working (when the opportunity arises) and attending training, Chris still finds time to volunteer and give back to the community. He is a CSI volunteer and is frequently known to tell other CSI participants, *"If I can do it...And I did it.... The field is wide open...all you got to do is show forth the initiative that you have got it. You can't allow your past to dictate your future."*

CSI solutes Chris for his fortitude and determination to move forward. Way to go, Chris.



Do You...

Have a Caring Heart?

Want a New Friend?

Want to Help Someone in Need?

Have 1 Hour a Week to Volunteer?

Follow thru with Commitments?

Have the Ability to be Non- judgmental?

Answered **"YES"?**
CSI needs **YOU** as a mentor.

Call (919) 834-7626
for more information.

Contributing to CSI is Easy!

Your generosity helps to continue the work of Community Success Initiative. You can use your debit or credit card to make a tax-deductible donation today, at www.communitysuccess.org or you can still mail your check payable to:

Community Success Initiative
P.O. Box 61114
Raleigh, NC 27661



Fighting Recidivism



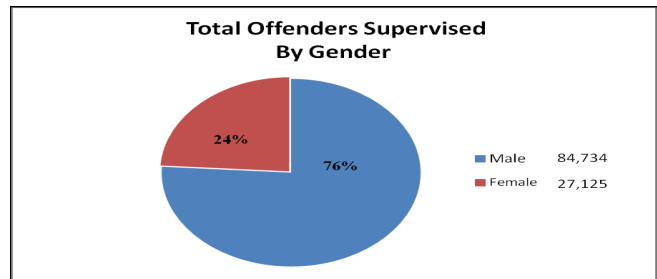
On April 9, 2008 the Second Chance Act was signed into law and designed to improve outcomes for people returning to communities from prisons and jails. This legislation is first-of-its-kind and authorizes federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services that can help reduce recidivism.

These grants offer funding to programs which emphasize collaboration between government agencies, nonprofits, community programs, and other organizations. Through this legislation the Federal Government has finally caught up with what we as community activist have come to realize for years; in order to provide a comprehensive effort, organizations, both public and private, must work together in order to maximize results in helping reduce recidivism.

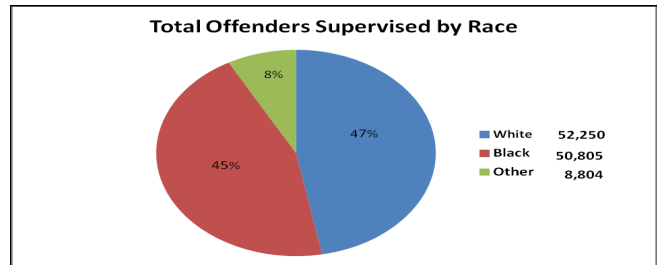
This year's Second Chance grant opportunity highlights funding to help create and sustain quality programs that address these efforts in the area of probation. The "Smart Probation: Reducing Prison Populations, Saving Money, and Creating Safer Communities FY 2012 Competitive Grant Announcement" was announced on March 22, 2012, and is designed to address new and innovative probation programs that collaborate with outside reentry efforts to assist those most highly likely to continue through the revolving doors of the prison system. This grant is significant in helping to reduce recidivism because of its attention to providing funding to programs that not only utilize best practice efforts, but also take a new approach to probation by helping to join wrap around services to probation provisions for a more complete assistance for those reentering the community from the prison system.

While the grant is only open to states, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments it is important that local agencies reach out to their government officials to work with them in obtaining these funding sources and others similar.

By working together and putting more emphases on collaboration efforts, programs are able to address issues which are in the forefront of explanations for those repeatedly reoffending, thereby putting a dent in the ever increasing statistic of recidivism.



Based on North Carolina Department of Correction 12/31/2010 Prison Statistics



A New CSI Partner

Community Success Initiative has joined forces with RAGS Productions to further its work with community youth. Since today's youth are our future, Rose Bryant founder of RAGS Productions, has created a fun, creative, and viable way in which youth can learn to make right choices in life and to deter from deviant behavior. Since its inception, the organization has produced several plays, many of which have been performed in the community and most recently at a local women's prison.

The productions center around everyday situations and experiences. Participating youth learn about the struggles, the challenges, the aspirations, the deeds and accomplishments of others. Through this artistic medium, the youth can learn how to cope with and overcome some of their day-to-day challenges and make the right choices. Teens making the **right choices** is the mission of RAGS Productions.

Not only do the youth get to perform in these productions, they also learn valuable everyday concepts that are needed for them to grow into confident, successful adults.

Through engaged discussions, they learn about coping with teen issues, such as, peer pressure, drugs and its dangers, self-esteem, career choices – among others.

RAGS Productions is by far a valuable CSI partner that is making a tremendous positive difference in our community.



Members of the RAGS Productions team

Community Success Initiative
P.O Box 61114
Raleigh, NC 27661

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED TO:

Empowering and giving hope to people entangled in the criminal justice system by helping them access services and opportunities they need to build new lives

Contributing to CSI is easy! Your generosity helps to continue the work of Community Success Initiative. You can use your debit or credit card to make a tax-deductible donation today, at www.communitysuccess.org or you can still mail your check payable to: Community Success Initiative P.O. Box 61114 Raleigh, NC 27661

Editor-In-Chief: Veronica Everette'

Did You Know ?

Fact: Employers can save money on their federal income taxes in the form of a tax credit incentive through the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program by hiring formerly incarcerated individuals . The hiring date must be within one year from the date of conviction or release from prison.

Fact: An eligible Veteran, who is not currently incarcerated, can use VA care regardless of any criminal history, including incarceration. Only when an otherwise eligible Veteran is currently incarcerated, or in fugitive felon status, is he/she not able to use VA health care.

Fact: Veterans may inform VA to have their benefits resumed within 30 days or less of their anticipated release date based on official prison documentation showing the scheduled release date.

Fact: States are not required to terminate eligibility for individuals who are incarcerated based solely on inmate status. States may suspend eligibility during incarceration, enabling an individual to remain enrolled in the state Medicaid program, thereby facilitating access to Medicaid services following release.

Fact: A person can get SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program) benefits even if he/she does not have a mailing address.

Fact: Most states have eliminated or amended the ban to allow convicted drug felons to receive SNAP benefits. North Carolina is one of the states that has amended the ban to allow individuals to regain eligibility by meeting certain additional requirements, like receiving or completing drug or alcohol treatment.

Fact: Individuals who are currently incarcerated in a federal, state, or local correctional institution have some limited eligibility for federal student aid. In general, restrictions on federal student and eligibility are removed for formerly incarcerated individuals, including those on probation, on parole, or residing in a halfway house.

Fact: Social Security benefits are not payable if an individual is convicted of a criminal offense and confined. However, monthly benefits usually can be reinstated after a period of incarceration by contacting Social Security and providing proof of release.

Adapted from Reentry Myth Buster - a product of the Federal Reentry Council

