Recognizing Reentry

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Pine Bluff Drug Court participants have a vision

Pine Bluff Drug Court Phase 1 Group was recently tasked with designing their own personal “Vision Board” for 2019. A vision board is defined as a collage of images and words representing a person’s wishes or goals, intended to serve as inspiration or motivation. The group did an excellent job in both their boards and their presentations.
Offenders learn the facts about HIV and AIDS in class

UAMS has been holding classes at the North Little Rock Probation/Parole Office to teach the facts about HIV and AIDS. People entering correctional settings often report behaviors that have placed them, and their partners, at considerable risk for HIV, hepatitis, and other STIs. These risk behaviors include unprotected sex with multiple and high-risk sex partners, co-occurrence of sex and substance use, and injection drug use with needle-sharing. Thus, identifying and treating HIV in correctional populations should be a major public health care priority in the U.S. according to a study in the U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health.

County Extension agents present program availability

In January, the Carroll County Extension representative, Tammy Allen, conducted a presentation at the Carroll County Arkansas Probation/Parole Office concerning the different programs they offer to the community.

Though you might have often heard the term Extension Office, not everyone knows what the office actually does.

According to its website, the Carroll County Extension Office is a “part of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service’s statewide network and the University of A System’s Division of Agriculture.

“Our mission is to provide research-based information through non-formal education to help all Arkansans improve their economics well-being and the quality of lives.

“Whether it's agriculture, 4-H, family and consumer science, or community development, our Carroll County office is at your service.”

Present at this meeting, shown above, was Agent Suzanne Villines, Counselor Darrell Lampier, Drug Court Officer Andrea Morrell, Green Forest Methodist Church Pastor Michael Bohin, and Carroll County Juvenile Probation Officer Ginger Johnson.

Would you to serve as a volunteer at an ACC office - making a difference in the lives of people in your community? Volunteers are needed throughout the state. To volunteer, contact Ardella Bearden at: ardella.bearden@arkansas.gov
On January 9, Carroll County had two participants graduate from its Drug Court program: Kelly Brown and Greg Smith. Counselor Darrell Lampier gave a speech during the ceremony. The Drug Court team is very proud of these individuals and look forward to watching them become successful citizens within our community.

Berryville Drug Court learn benefits of hobbies

In February, the Berryville Drug Court program participated in a “Choose the Right Lane” bowling activity. This focused on choosing the right lane for sobriety and for hobbies/activities that do not include drugs or alcohol.

Participants learned the benefit of finding hobbies and activities that they can do with their families in a drug and alcohol free environment.

Bowling provides a constructive way to spend time
Governor proclaims Reentry Awareness Week

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: With more than 80,000 adult offenders currently incarcerated in state facilities or on parole or probation, Arkansas is committed to lowering recidivism through an effective reentry process that provides offenders with opportunities for success in the community; and

WHEREAS: At least ninety percent of state prison inmates will be released from prison at some point in their sentence, but they can face obstacles long after their incarceration ends. A criminal record can create barriers to rejoining the workforce; finding adequate housing; securing transportation; and meeting financial obligations. These barriers contribute to more than fifty percent of offenders returning to prison within three years of release; and

WHEREAS: Because high recidivism increases the cost of corrections and puts Arkansas citizens at a greater risk of becoming victims of crime, it is imperative that offenders returning to the community have the programs, services, and support they need to become productive, crime-free citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS: Reentry provides offenders with the tools necessary to turn away from criminal behavior and embrace a better future where they are contributing to society and taking care of their families; and

WHEREAS: State agencies across Arkansas are focused on reentry, but Arkansas reentry efforts extend well beyond correctional agencies through partnerships with community-based groups, faith-based organizations and volunteers across the state that can assist offenders returning to their communities; and

WHEREAS: Arkansans can enhance public safety by supporting and joining reentry efforts that decrease the number of new crimes and offer hope for offenders returning home from incarceration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 22nd through April 27th, 2019, as

REENTRY AWARENESS WEEK

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 1st day of April, in the year of our Lord 2019.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor.

Attest:
John Thurston, Secretary Of State
Arkansas Community Correction kicked off its Reentry Awareness Week with a Reentry Rally at the Little Rock Church on Baseline Road on Friday, April 19. The half-day event was moderated by Kelly Knuckles who is ACC’s Reentry Manager and speakers included Carrie Williams, ACC Assistant Director of Reentry; Dave Garner of the Little Rock Church; Kevin Murphy, ACC Director; Dr. Fitz Hill, Executive Director of the Scott Ford Center for Entrepreneurship and Community Development; Bernard Hale; Shana Chaplin, Deputy Chief of Community Engagement and Faith-Based Partnerships; Eric Higgins, Pulaski County Sheriff; and representatives of Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, the Eaton Agency, Shorter College, The Exodus Project, Passion Unlimited Counseling and Consulting, TRIO Education Opportunity Center, Our House, Harbor Recovery Systems, the Good Grid, the Arkansas Office of Child Support Enforcement and Goodwill. The photographs on this page and the following pages show highlights from the rally.
Kicking off Reentry Awareness Week
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Kicking off Reentry Awareness Week
Berryville Drug Court hike trail for meeting

In February, ACC Drug Court Counselor Darrall Lamphier organized a hike on the City of Berryville's Pension Mountain trail.

This was a hike for sobriety and consisted of several Drug Court participants, who were accompanied by Lampier and Officer Andrea Morrell.

At the trail head, participants were able to get a map of the trail with information about things they would see along the way. Participants were particularly fascinated with Johnson Spring, which is a spring that once provided water to the city of Berryville. The trail took approximately one hour to complete with two to three small breaks and provided amazing views of the Berryville and surrounding areas. At the end of the hike, Lamphier and the group had an AA meeting. The photos above, at left, show the group along the hike, during breaks, and when they were gathering for their AA meeting.

Parolee speaks to inmates about thinking straight

In February, Offender Shelvin Jackson was asked to speak at the Think Legacy Program at ADC. Jackson spoke about the importance of being accountable and understanding your responsibilities as a father, brother, son and man in society. He stated that he didn't really understand the dynamics of his actions and how they affected his family until his daughter tried to make his mother bail him out of jail with the money she had in her piggy bank. Jackson said he began to change the way he thought instead of making excuses for his actions. He said he was being selfish. He said the little money he made can't get back the time he gave to the State and the lost time with his family. Since he has completed Think Legacy and TEO, he does not respect people who just talk about doing differently. He respects those who actually make it happen and become different.

The TEO Program is a 16-week paid program that helps teach clients how to be employable, have healthy life ethics, and hard and soft skills. The program focuses on how to live a healthier lifestyle mentally so a change can be internal. This ultimately helps not only obtain gainful employment, but also helps the client retain it as well. The program caters to clients who have a felony or misdemeanors and gives them a platform to perform job readiness on every level of their life. The program helps clients with whatever goals they are aspiring to reach, whether short term or long term, and once they have completed the program, there's help to get gainfully employed.

The Think Legacy Program is a statewide reentry program recognized by Governor Hutchinson in every ADC Facility that caters to clients who have made up their mind to change the way they think. Inmates (men/women) go through the rigorous program while they are incarcerated to help them transition back to the community out and gives incentives that may help them live a healthier lifestyle.

Find information ...

... about what is going on in your community by visiting The Good Grid for reentry website:

https://goodgrid.com/
Reentry news from across the state

Cornerstone helps offenders

“My childhood was abusive. I ran away from my grandmother when I was 13. That’s when the state took me. At this time, I started using drugs. I was in foster care until I was 18 when I went to live with my teacher from school. Once I graduated from high school, I lived anywhere, including on the streets.

I started stealing when I was 19 to get the things I needed. I then got my first arrest before I was 20. In my 20s, I traveled with my dad and began writing hot checks to keep electricity and water on, along with trying to make sure we had food. From age 28, I was in and out of jail and hiding from warrants for my arrest.

On October 13, 2017, I arrived at Cornerstone. At this point, my path started changing directions. Even though I was unable to pay for any of the trips, Cornerstone helped me walk through the process of going to court dates for 11 warrants in 11 different counties in Arkansas. I’ve been able to get on a payment plan to pay off these fines.

I graduated one year at Cornerstone and assist with staffing needs. Today, I will attend my last court appearance. I’m enrolled in college classes. For the first time in my life, I feel happy and blessed.”

Stuart First Success of 2019

Stuart Dixon came to Phoenix 90 days ago and not only found employment during his first 30 days but received a promotion and is working towards a career!

Since entering the program, he was able to save up for a vehicle and soon he signed a lease and moved into his own apartment.

He started off 2019 with a blast and we couldn’t be prouder of him. Keep up the hard work, Stu!

A perfect trifecta!!!

In the photograph on the next page you will see three residents of Covenant Recovery who decided to take a huge step at the same time. Together, they took the driving test...in hopes of getting their driver’s licenses.

It was a risky move, because but they had enough

Are you looking for a job?

Arkansas Community Correction hires professional staff throughout the state for positions ranging from Correctional Officer to Counselor to Probation Officer.

For information about applying for a job at ACC, go to: www.arstatejobs.com
Reentry news from across the state

Hats off to all the fine folks at Hope Rises, which is part of ACC’s Reentry Program.

For the past year, they’ve been partnered with Party With a Heart, a group of women who hold fundraising events for worthy causes in their community.

When all was said and done, they had raised $18,763 for Hope Rises and the female offenders housed there.

Hope Rises works to get the offenders ready to transition back into the community.

The money will be put to very good use and Party With a Heart deserves a ton of thanks!!!
April was a great month for ACC at the American Correctional Association conference in New Orleans! The certificates you see in the pictures above and below are very important because they mean that ACC’s facilities and operations are continuing to meet and exceed the tough national standards of accreditation. At hearings, ACC’s Central Office and Omega Supervision Sanction Center passed their audits with high praise and perfect scores of 100%. In the picture below, that’s Debbie Ruff holding the Central Office’s certificate and Center Supervisor Antwon Elmsweller holding Omega’s in the photo above. Director Kevin Murphy and Deputy Director Jimmy Banks are with them. Congratulations to everyone!
Reentry news from across the state

Exodus Project
You are looking at a very happy and proud group of women in the photographs at right!
They are residents of the East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center in West Memphis, and they are also the latest graduates of the Exodus Project.
If you don’t know about Exodus, you should because it’s doing very good things.
Exodus works with offenders to get them ready to go back home.
Family reunification, education, and life skills are all part of the program.
It’s difficult to do, but well worth the effort.
Congratulations to the graduates and we hope this is just the beginning of your accomplishments!

Rights after Wrong
A Rights after Wrong Resource event was held at the Department of Workforce Services in Little Rock.
Employment opportunities, education, health, housing, legal services, and many more vendors were made available to assist those with criminal backgrounds who need to get connected to services for success.
AD Carrie Williams and Reentry Manager Kelly Knuckles (shown at left) were on site to help bridge the gap from incarceration to community.
ACC knows that networking and sharing resources builds stronger partnerships that work together for a common goal, which is helping individuals to achieve success.
Residents complete men’s program

These are residents of the community correction center in Osceola who just completed a study course that’s designed to inspire and equip men to pursue manhood as modeled by Jesus Christ.

The center’s chaplain is Billy Davis, an inspiring and energetic young man who couldn’t be prouder of what the residents have achieved. From Chaplain Davis:

“We stretched the six-week session into an eight-week presentation, and it made an immediate impact from the very first session.

A former resident is now using 33 in his personal life, which has enabled him to rebuild his marriage and relationship with his children. Our residents here receive a certificate and Fire Bible upon completion of this class. Again, thank you for the opportunity and I am looking forward to the Adventures For life ‘Better Men, Better Dads’ program!”

When you are looking for a new career with Arkansas Community Correction, you’ll find the agency’s open positions at:
www.arstatejobs.com