

The Hope Line

A Community Success Initiative Publication

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Dennis W. Gaddy, Executive Director

Partnerships: Critical to the Cause

Since its beginning, the folks at CSI have realized the importance of building and maintaining partnerships with local businesses, other non-profit organizations, and local agencies. These partnerships prove to be essential with enabling CSI to accomplish its mission.

We all know the effects of the economy on the job market; so, when we are able to partner with businesses that will give formerly incarcerated individuals a second chance, it not only helps the partners, but also has positive effects on the community and the economy.

In February 2010, CSI and WATTACH, an automotive



Sam Ajala, left, pictured with CSI mentee, John Garofano

service business, established a partnership which has resulted in employment and business ownership opportunity for CSI mentee John (Vito) Garofano.

John is a productive member of the community now able to meet many of his personal needs.



CSI David Ange, recent car recipient

CSI partner, Wheels4Hope offers a different opportunity. It offers its partner clients refurbished used vehicles at reasonable cost. CSI mentee, David Ange recently found employment, but had no transportation. Because of the Wheels4Hope partnership, David was able to get

reliable transportation and is now able to get back and forth to work and take care of personal obligations better.

Partnerships offer win-win results.

Breakfast with AT&T North Carolina

Recently Cynthia Marshall, President of AT&T North Carolina and her assistant, Walter Wells visited the CSI head-quarter offices. Over breakfast, they had opportunity to get better acquainted with the work that CSI does and hear about some of the challenges that the organization face.

Members of CSI's Board of Directors and supporters listened as Ms. Marshall expressed her interest in community affairs and her desire to

make AT&T North Carolina's community efforts noteworthy. She has particular interest in the youth and building and/or reestablishing relationships of parent and children who have been separated for various reasons.

Ms. Marshall captivated the audience by sharing the struggles she faced as a child and how she always strove to be the best that she could be in spite of.

As a young adult she an-

nounced that she was going to be "president" of something.

Well, she has certainly achieved that goal: becoming President of AT&T North Carolina.

Some of CSI's supporters or partners at the breakfast were the Honorable Judge Kristin Ruth; Glen Warren, FathersForever; Bettie Murchison, W.E.B. Dubois; Reggie Edwards, The Encouraging Place; Carol White; It Starts With U Foundation.

At the conclusion of the event, Ms. Marshall announced AT&T North Carolina as a sponsor of CSI.



Dennis Gaddy, Judge Kristin Ruth, Cynthia Marshall

Mentoring Those Formerly Incarcerated is Essential for Effective Transition

With 600,000 prisoners being released each year, it is imperative that they are greeted with support programs to help create a smooth transition back into the community. Often these individuals return to some of the poorest communities with minimum support and service professionals trained to handle their special circumstances. Many of them have trouble adjusting to life outside of the prison system. Studies have shown that nearly two thirds of prisoners released are re-incarcerated within 3 1/2 years. The result of incarceration and recidivism causes a destructive and financial toll on everyone: the prisoners, their families, the communities, and

the nation as a whole.

That's why CSI views its mentoring program as a key component of its Reentry Program; pairing participants with community leaders who provide support and additional resources specific to each individual's needs. In most instances this merely means listening, providing information, or caring about their well being.

Studies show that formerly incarcerated individuals who are actively participating in a mentoring program are more likely to obtain employment and stay employed longer and reestablish themselves within the community than those who do not have a mentor.

Testimonies From CSI Mentees

"CSI's Reentry Program has been helping me transition back into the community. It offers me hope, a host of different resources, and meetings to network with mentors and chances to speak and listen to the challenges people like me face. Thanks for the support you all bring to our community. THANKS!!!!"

— Pamela Vinson—

"I felt shut off from the community when I was released from prison. My life has changed since I was introduced to CSI. I

am more confident in myself and what I can achieve. I do appreciate their service and I recommend this program to anyone who's striving to better themselves."

— Wayne Eaton—

CSI is always looking for individuals who want to serve as mentors for our Reentry program. If you are interested in giving a little time and a listening ear, please call our office and ask for the mentor coordinator or visit our website: www.communitysuccess.org for an application.

Featured Mentor Michelle Peters



Michelle has been a CSI mentor for 2 1/2 years. She is dedicated and always shows expressed interest in each of her mentees; doing whatever is needed to address their specific needs.

Just recently, Michelle learned that one of her mentees, Jeannette Knight, needed \$175 to satisfy a \$325 deposit needed to get her lights turned on in a newly rented apartment (W.E.B. Dubois had provided \$150). Michelle initiated a fundraising campaign to get that additional \$175. Less than a day later, she was successful in getting the funds from CSI and other sources.

It doesn't stop there. Michelle and her husband also helped Jeannette move her furniture out of storage to avoid additional fees.

These are but two instances in which Michelle has shown her dedication and the importance of mentoring others.

CSI is extremely fortunate to have Michelle as a mentor.

Thanks, Michelle.

C.O.R.E. Offers Solutions For At Risk Youth

By Veronique Link, CSI Staff

In early May, CSI expanded its Youth Academy to include C.O.R.E. (Children Of Reentry) a program designed to motivate, support, and encourage participants to achieve their personal success plans.

The program offers at risk youth and youth whose parents are currently or formerly incarcerated an opportunity to become self sufficient, achieving goals in education, career and personal development.

Participants will receive one-on-mentoring

and will receive training under the S.T.E.M Initiative (Science, Technology, Engineer, Mathematics) to help motivate, encourage, and empower them to explore new career options that have been identified as "high growth for future markets".

C.O.R.E. provides career training opportunities in: A+ Certification, Robotics, MS Office 2007, Green Technology, Accounting/Economics, First Aid/CPR, C.N.A., Film Production, Music Production, Entrepreneurship/Business Management.

Nine youth, along with their parents, attended Orientation for the fall program startup. They received an overview of the program, introduced to program volunteers and case managers.

Several youth and their parents expressed that they are looking for that added support for every day issues and the hands-on training that they will receive.

CSI is very excited about C.O.R.E. and the positive impact that it will have on our youth.

CSI Speaker's Bureau

A Word From Demetris Burke

It is a great honor for me to be a part of CSI's Formerly Incarcerated Speaker's Bureau. Being one who made some bad decisions in my life and now to be able to talk to the youth and others who are transitioning back into society, I am humbled to have this opportunity. I can now motivate and inspire for youth about the power of choices and the power of making the right decisions. I tell my testimony in faith that someone will realize their purpose and educate people not to curse what's available and always amend what's possible. In closing, I would like to give the highest

honor to Dennis Gaddy and the entire CSI team for allowing me to be able to present my story with hope that will brighten the and lighten the load of others.



Demetris, an exhilarating speaker "wows" his listeners with his straightforwardness and honesty. He's changed and is changing the lives of many at risk youth, incarcerated, and formerly incarcerated individuals in the surrounding areas

Editorial: A Need For Restorative Justice

By Sheldon Howard, CSI Staff

We have enacted laws to separate the so called criminal element not only by locking them up, but also by separating them when they leave the prisons. Information glut and certain entrepreneurialships (TV ads) make this possible. They help create barriers to jobs, housing, education, human services, credit, and insurance. "You will be taxed like any other citizen; however, we will not ever treat you as a citizen."

We live in a society which has in essence by the use of modern technology written on the foreheads of 1/5 of our people, their criminal records for the rest of their lives. If we keep going the way we are going, I expect to see posted, "This barber shop does not cut the hair of persons with criminal records." "This grocery store does not sell to people with criminal records" "This insurance company does not insure persons with criminal records." To list a few.

Peaches is a CSI mentee. Talented in every sense of the word, Peaches has written over 500 poems yet to be published.

Should this occur, people might well think this is good and will make our homes and communities safer. However, those who think this are fools.

The above scenarios result in a society where the debt is never paid; the debtor is always and forever a slave to the past. Healing and forgiveness are never experienced.

To avoid an "unforgiving society" and to promote public safety, we need to learn and practice "Restorative Justice".

Special Thanks to CSI Supporters

Thank You, CSI supporters.

For 6 years, you have made it possible for CSI to carry out its motto "helping individuals and communities move from where they are to where they want to be". For this support, we Thank You.

Our impact on the community has been steady and it continues to increase.

During the past 8 months, 44 new formerly incarcerated individuals have been

assigned a mentor and are actively engaged in following their career plans. Of these 44, our records show:

- 24 are currently employed
- 3 moved into permanent housing
- 2 received vehicles from partner organization
- 39 completed or currently engaged in training activities

These results are good, but we want even

better ones. You've made this possible. That's why we need your continued support, be it volunteering in some manner or monetary.

Your support of CSI and its initiatives definitely changes lives. So, we extend special thanks to you - our current supporters.

We always welcome new supporters. Donations can be made directly from our website : www.communitysuccess.org or give us a call at (919)834-7626.

Change

Are you ready for it when it comes
It could determine your fate...
For some it will be right on time
For others a little too late...

Like the rising of the sun
Or the glowing of the moon...
Preparing ourselves we must be ready
For all change has to give...

How will we greet these changes
Will our minds and souls be right...
Or succumb to adversity
Rather than stand up and fight...

One thing we must remember
In the land of the home and the free...
We'll have to work and make sacrifices
With change there is a fee...

We'll have our own agendas
But change most people want...
It's something that's sure to come
Where you do or if you don't...
—Peaches High—



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED TO:

“Helping individuals and communities move from where they are to where they want to be”

Editor: Veronica Everette’

CSI Sponsors 2nd Annual Golf Tournament

It was a beautiful day in September for CSI's 2nd Annual Captain's Choice Golf Tournament. Several community organizations, local businesses, and avid golfers came out to support this fundraising event.

The tournament was hosted by Raleigh Golf Association (RGA). Ronnie Casper, Golf Professional and the RGA staff played a major role in making the tournament a success by providing assistance and advice to CSI both before and during the tournament.

Proceeds from the tournament will support CSI's Reentry Program allowing for more training and career opportunities.



1st Place Winners: Willie Clark, Raymond Williams, Bill Riddick, Milton Walker



2nd Place Winners: Gary Concelmo, Denise Concelmo, Dick Wilkenson, Jim Epps



Women Longest Drive: Julie Brown with Sheldon Howard, Tournament Director



Closest to the Pin & Men Longest Drive : Hugh Burlington

