

A Community Success Initiative Publication

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Dennis W. Gaddy, Executive Director

Special 2011 Edition: Celebrating Success

The beginning of a new year is a great time to celebrate the success of others. This special edition, covers the many successes achieved and made possible because of our supporters, our donors, and our volunteers. We thank each of you.

CSI offered a wide range of services to formerly incarcerated individuals and to youth who are in the court system, have gang interest, or whose parent is incarcerated or formerly incarcerated. The dedicated staff and volunteers worked with these individuals to ensure that their specific needs were addressed as they improve their lives.

Everyone was elated when the year-end results were revealed. Many were amazed at some of the success stories and the accomplishments made in what can be thought to be a relatively short period of time. But, much can be accomplished when everyone is working on one accord; striving for the success and well being of those in need.

As Ethel Percy Andrews says, "The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live."

2010 Year End Facts

CSI's Re-entry Program

CSI Conducted
416 Intakes & Referrals

166 Participants Completed Job Readiness, Personal Dev., Financial Literacy, and/or Computer Basics

75 Participants Assigned Mentors

CSI Re-entry Mentee Results

- 1** Received C.N. A. Certificate
- 1** Completed Welding Program
- 8** Completed Career Dev. Program
- 9** Completed Entrepreneur Program

3 Moved Into Permanent Housing

2 Received Cars
(thru CSI Partner: Wheels4Hope)

51 Currently Employed

4 Started Their Own Business
(Cleaning Services, Pool Services, Home Improvements, Audio/Video Production)

62 of the 75 Assigned Mentees
Still Active In Program

Meet 3 CSI Participants Who Are Making It Happen

.David Ange —Bidding on Hope

"Hope for my future. I was going in a downward spiral. I lost my job in January 2009. I was not eligible for unemployment. I was over \$4000 behind in child support. I was looking at jail time for not being able to pay. Then Judge Ruth ordered me to the CSI program. Thank you, Judge Ruth!!

I contacted Mr. Dennis Gaddy to enroll. It turned my life around. After my initial meeting with the CSI staff I was not too sure, but as I continued to attend, my opinion changed. Mr. Gaddy stated that CSI was a non-profit organization. I disagree with that partially. The profit in the program was that I had a outlet of people to talk with who understood my situation and my concerns. They were another set of eyes to help me in my needs. Now I have found employment..

Dennis, Sheldon and the CSI team has helped me in getting a car through Wheels4Hope. I am getting to be self-sufficient again. I thank God every day for Dennis Gaddy and his team at CSI. And a special thanks to my CSI mentor, Sherwood Jackson. "

These are the words and sentiments of David Ange who indeed is on his way to being self sufficient. He's working hard to make that happen. Working two part-time jobs until he can find better wages, David is doing what he has to do to have a brighter future for himself and his family. Although he has not attained his goal, David has been steadily progressing since he came to CSI. He is now employed; he and his mother have moved from a one-bedroom home to a larger one; he now has a car.

Keep your eye on YOUR prize, David, and continue to HOPE for that better future. It will come. You'll well on your way and CSI is here to support you.



Wayne Eaton Welcomes The New Year

Last year this time, Wayne was living under a highway overpass with a sleeping bag as his bed. Although, very talented with home improvement, electrical and mechanics skills, he came to CSI with very little hope. Because of his criminal record, Wayne had difficulty finding a steady job, had to live under a highway overpass until there was vacancy at the South Wilmington Street Shelter.

While he and his mentor searched for viable employment for Wayne, he kept himself busy by taking job readiness, personal development , and basic computer workshops.

When his mentor discovered that he was an artist, CSI commissioned him to design a bulletin board display and also two roadside signs used for the CSI annual golf tournament. His designs were professional and received numerous complements.

Three months after coming to CSI, Wayne got a full-time job working as a carpenter for a construction company. His days are long; for he has to use public transportation to get from Raleigh to his job in Durham by 7am. But, he does it with a smile 5 and sometimes 6 days a week.

By early January, Wayne hopes to move from the shelter into permanent housing and to get a car from CSI partner, Wheels4Hope. Wayne also

wants to someday own his own graphics design business and plans to enroll in CSI's Entrepreneur Program.

Based on his energy, determination, and commitment to his personal success, Wayne should be living his dream of business ownership very soon.



Janique Williams Making Her Future



Jai and her son, Eriq

Jai (as we affectionately call her) is a most determined young lady, bent on accepting nothing less than the best for herself and her children. She knows what she wants and works effortlessly towards reaching her goals in life. She has two children: one adult daughter and one 11 year old son with a disability.

When Jai came to CSI, she had just completed her BS degree in business administration and marketing; but struggling to keep a roof over her head. Although she had marketable skills, her criminal background was keeping her from finding gainful employment. She had dreams of owning her own business: operating a facility for homeless women (a dream perhaps born out of her own experience of homelessness). With her goals intact, Jai attended every type of training available that would help her attain her dream. She enrolled in and completed CSI's Entrepreneur Program.

After that enrollment, however, she almost immediately realized that although she wanted to own and operate her own business, she needed to do much more research in determining all aspects of operating such a facility.

She also realized that she needed to create a stable home for herself and her son before tackling her ultimate dream of business ownership.

Therefore, she has put that "dream" on hold until she is more financially stable and becomes more knowledgeable of the in's and out's of business ownership. In the interim, she has taken on a full time position with a local restaurant. Although, she is not making a great salary, Jai is now able to better support herself and her son. She no longer has to worry about how she will pay her rent and when her son needs something, she is able to buy it herself, instead of having to rely on others.

Jai's come a long way in the year that she has been with CSI's Re-entry program and can see nothing but sunshine in her future.

CSI Director Appointed To Re-entry Legislative Study Committee

In March 2010, CSI Executive Director, Dennis Gaddy was appointed to serve as a part of the North Carolina Legislature's 16 member committee, Joint Select Committee on Ex-offender Reintegration. This committee was established to study the barriers and recommend solutions that hinder men and women entangled in the criminal justice system from becoming positive and productive citizens of society. The committee has been meeting over the last year and plans to make recommendations to the North Carolina Legislature, in early 2011.

We are very proud to have CSI's voice at this very important table. Recently, some of CSI's Statewide Reentry Partners came to Raleigh to make presentations on their respective re-entry work across the state.

We are excited about these efforts mainly because these are the very issues that CSI has been talking about more than 6 years since the beginning of the their Re-entry Roundtables in 2005. Along with help from such folk as Attorney Bill Rowe of the NC Justice Center and ongoing support from CSI's Sheldon Howard and others, we have been very instrumental in helping to craft legislation that led to these Re-entry Study Bill efforts.



CSI's Dennis Gaddy with NC House Representative Angela Bryant, Co-Chair of the Re-entry Study Committee



CSI's Sheldon Howard (right) with NC House Representative Garland Pierce, Co-Chair of Re-entry Study Committee and original sponsor of the Re-entry Study Bill

Testimonies From CSI Re-entry Mentees

"I tell everyone, if you are serious about changing your life and getting a job, contact CSI. They got a job for me and now helping me find another place to live. They'll work with you if you are serious."

---Rollie Jones---

"CSI is a great program. The staff has helped me a lot. If anyone needs help, they need to go to CSI."

---Cedrick Atkinson---

C.O.R.E. (Children of Re-entry) Ended the Year In High Gear

David Bly said, "Striving for success without hard work, is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."

2010 brought a new program to Community Success Initiative, the C.O.R.E. Youth Program, designed to address the needs of youth in the Wake County area who have been involved in the court system, expressed interest in gangs, teen parents, or who have parents who have a criminal record. After completing our first 3 months we have experienced some highs, some lows, and a whole lot of sweat and tears!

Currently we have 17 active participants who have developed a personalized success plan, been assigned to resource managers, and participated in personal development training.

As the program continues to grow and evolve, we acknowledge our volunteers who have been extremely dedicated, giving selflessly of their time. In many instances these volunteers have been the stabilizing factor in the lives of several of our participants.

Although only 3 months since implementa-

tion, we are excited to share accomplishments that indicate these youth are on a definite path of success.

- 1 participant completed his G.E.D.
- 1 enrolled in a green technology training program
- 1 competed her business plan
- 1 re-enrolled in public high school
- 1 obtained a full-time job
- 5 scheduled to begin G.E.D. classes in January.

The Honorable Judge Kristin Ruth summarized our success when commenting on one of the participants she referred when she saw him for the first time since sending him to the program, "Wow, the last time I saw you, you were such an angry young man...I am proud at how far you have come..."

We are truly proud of all our young men and women and look forward to our first graduation in March!



We're looking for Mentors.

If you are interested in finding out more about our mentoring program and want to be a CSI mentor, please contact:

Veronica Everette'
919)874-7626

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

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

Editor-In-Chief: Veronica Everette'

CSI Speaker's Bureau



William D. Burton has been a member of CSI's Speaker's Bureau since its inception. A motivational speaker, William always gives his listeners useful "nuggets" to employ in their daily lives. "While driving through rush hour traffic in San Francisco, I was immediately presented with an apparent misuse of the 'Law Of Attraction'! It seemed that I had unwittingly attracted and contracted with every amateur driver in the Bay Area to jump in front of me, contributing to my missing of several green

lights! Having taught thousands of people to first take full responsibility of their circumstances, I was bound to do the same! After asking Spirit for the ability to see things differently, this playful game came to mind! #1. When approaching a RED LIGHT, I was to allow that light to remind me to STOP all self-sabotage! #2. When approaching a YELLOW LIGHT, I was reminded to be very cautious in judging myself and others! #3. When approaching a GREEN LIGHT, I was reminded to GO FOR MY DREAMS! " Practice this game for 21 days and I guarantee that any tendency for road rage will be diminished!"

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The Empower-Mentor!

A FRIEND FOR LIFE

I was told a long time ago to love every body regardless of who they are.

Whether or not if they were a dim or a bright shining star.
What we are really suppose to know is somewhat hard to find.
You really have to go deep down in your heart and in your mind.
God told us in His word that we should enjoy all our giving years.
And sometimes to shut our mouths and open our ears.
Because He has sent some special people our way
To help us to see a happier and brighter day.

Some of us have companions, friends husbands or a wife.
When you got somebody that you can trust you have A Friend For Life.
Somebody that will not tell the world all of your stuff.
Someone who will stick with you when things get real rough
If you are going to tell something, tell people what God has brought you through.
Tell them that He is A FRIEND For Life and that He is true.

Our total want should be what God wants for you and for me
Just take a minute out of your time and then you will see.
When you got somebody in your life that is true to you.
Make it your business to take time out to make it do what it does.
For God promises and His word has always been real.
It don't take nobody in this world to tell you what is the real deal.
Because life can consist of misery, pain and a whole lot of strife.
If you got Jesus, you truly have A FRIEND FOR LIFE.

Stanley Hagins---

A CSI mentee, Stanley writes inspirational poetry in his spare time