

## *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](http://www.communitysuccess.org)  
Dennis W. Gaddy, Executive Director

## Darin Carter - Success In The Making

When Darin Carter was released from prison September 26, 2011, he was determined that he was going to make a positive change in his life and that he was going to succeed. He knew upfront that his road to success was not necessarily going to be easy, but he was going to do everything humanly possible to make it happen.

Darin began making plans for his future prior to his release from prison. He knew that he was going to need the help and support from others. Therefore, he maintained contact with his church and began communicating with William Burton, a CSI mentor. It was through these interactions that Darin was able to gain a strong foothold to his future.

Darin's church, Mr. Burton, and community supporters were instrumental in helping Darin to get a place to live immediately upon his release and also to get a job within a few days. Although his living arrangements were less than favorable, Darin did not let that discourage him. Within 3 months, he was able to not only find a better job, but also a better place to live.

He currently works for a local metal recycling plant and rents a two bedroom house. He has obtained his driver's license and is now making efforts to obtain his commercial driver's license. His employer is so impressed with Darin that he is considering him for a higher paying position. He comments that Darin is one of his best employees.

It was his supervisor who drove Darin to Wheels4Hope for the celebration in which Darin, along with other recipients, received a car from Wheels4Hope. CSI's William Burton and Shelton Howard were also there to join the celebration as Darin received his car.

Although Darin's success thus far could be considered unusual for one with a criminal record to achieve in such a short time span, his story does illustrate what can happen with team support comprised of the judicial system and the community. With such support, Darin's story could well represent the norm for others in this same group who are trying to make a positive difference in their lives.



Darin beside his car purchased from Wheels4Hope



Darin and some members of his support team

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## CSI's Feature Mentor - William Burton



For over three years, William Burton has exemplified himself as being a dedicated mentor servicing the needs of CSI participants. William brings a wealth of experiences to the table to those with a criminal background. Anyone who has ever been a mentor to formerly incarcerated individuals knows the many challenges this group face daily. They know that they must have not only a strong commitment to work with this group, but must also have some relevant experiences that will promote a positive team effort.

William's wide array of life experiences and associations has helped and continues to be most beneficial as he diligently works to form strong, trusting relationships. He has lectured at numerous universities, held several professional positions, continues to be a motivational speaker at various organizational events, and is a talented musician.

As William interacts with his mentees, he shares his incarceration experience and shows them how they can be successful in their career efforts in spite of their past. He points out to them and shows by example that one's past does not necessarily dictate one's future. William consistently shares with his mentees (as well as any CSI participant) the importance of seeking out and exploring various opportunities—stepping outside the “box”- in their quest for success.

William emanates a positive disposition and a sincerity that seemingly seal a solid bond between him and his mentees. CSI is grateful to have William as part of its mentoring team. A BIG thanks to William - for all that he does.



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.



## The Mentee's Corner

### Congratulations .....

#### For Recent Employment

<b>Eric Lyons</b>	<b>Tremaine Manley</b>
<b>Steven Berryman</b>	<b>Reginald Prince</b>
<b>Darin Carter</b>	

#### For Being Employed On Same Job 1 Year or More

**Pamela Vinson** –customer service representative

**Bridgette Ngindu**– certified nursing assistant

**Stanley Hagins** - janitorial assistant

**Frederick Hinnant**—long distance truck driver

**John (Vito) Garafano**—auto mechanic

#### For Operating Own Business 1 Year or More

**Melvin Ross**—auto detailing

**James Crawford**—pool services

**John Rae** -martial arts/ security

**Sean Pulliam**—designer hair wear

## 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](http://www.communitysuccess.org) or you can still mail your check payable to:  
Community Success Initiative  
P.O. Box 61114  
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## Overcoming The Challenges Of The Cycle Of Reentry

For those who have been incarcerated, the cycle of reentry is filled with challenges and barriers that must be addressed if they are to once again become successful and productive citizens. Finding viable employment is always paramount for those with a criminal record. However, with the lack of job opportunities currently available in the job market, it has become increasingly more difficult for those with criminal backgrounds to find sustainable employment.

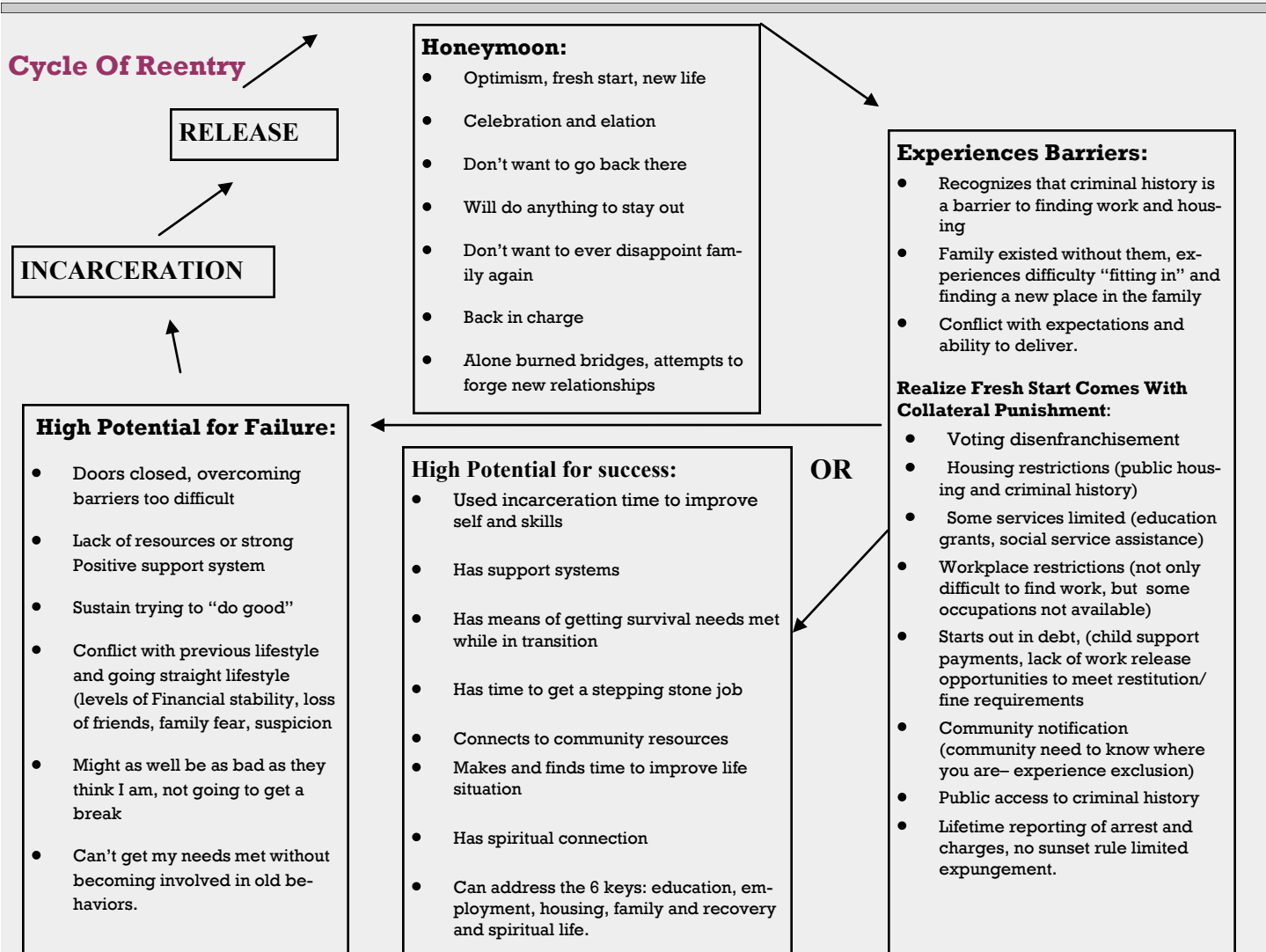
In addition to employment concerns, reestablishing family ties and friend relationships may also add to the stress that many face upon exiting the prison system. These concerns, along with acquiring the basics of survival – food, clothing, and shelter – can often be overwhelming. For many, they are forced to rely upon community and local agencies to provide them with some of these rudimentary needs.

It is extremely important that these individuals develop a plan to not only receive much needed assistance, but also incorporate a support system to overcome challenges along the way. Upon reentering the community, it is imperative that those for-

merly incarcerated, consider the following points, in order to make a smoother transition:

- Find a support group for help in reconnecting with the community and the resources that they provide
- Maintain a positive attitude when the “NO’s” are countless
- Be open minded and step “outside the box” for potential opportunities
- Set realistic goals that can be attained within a specified time
- Surround oneself with positive/progressive people
- Believe in ONESELF and continue to move forward when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges.

By focusing on the positive and incorporating these strategies, those reentering the community have a much greater chance of success.



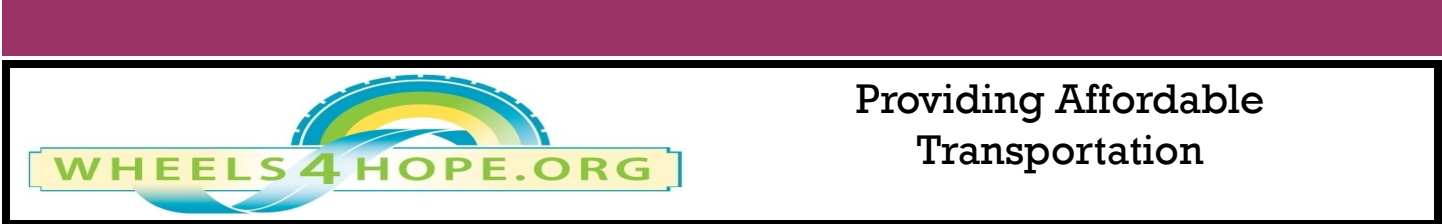
**Community Success Initiative  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED TO:**

**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**

**Editor-In-Chief: Veronica Everette'**

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## Providing Affordable Transportation

Reliable transportation is by far a necessity, especially for those living in rural areas or areas in which public transportation is minimal. It is vitally important when it comes to maintaining employment, caring for ones family, and carrying out day-to-day obligations.

Since it's inception, Wheels4Hope, a faith-based nonprofit organization, and the community have come to the aid of many families in the Raleigh Triangle Area by providing this essential component for self sufficiency. The primary mission of Wheels4Hope is to sell cars to qualified recipients who are referred by Partner Agencies. Recipients pay \$500 for their car and pay for title and transfer fees. Wheels4Hope also stands behind each program car with a 6-month warranty.

Local congregations, business partners, and private citizens donate cars to Wheels4Hope, while the organization's volunteers make car repairs. It is because of the expertise of these volunteers that individuals and families referred by local partner agencies are able to receive reliable affordable transportation.

In 2011, three (3) CSI participants received cars through Wheels4Hope. These cars are facilitating our program participants to become self sufficient and successful in their endeavors.

Wheels4Hope current partnering agencies include:

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Community Success Initiative                 | The Caring Place, Inc.   |
| Providence Baptist Church                    | Passage Homes            |
| PLM Families Together                        | North Raleigh Ministries |
| Christian Women's Job Corps                  | Habitat for Humanity     |
| American Red Cross                           | StepUp Ministry          |
| Interact                                     | Triangle Family Services |
| H.O.P.E. Ministries of Cross Roads           | Urban Ministries         |
| Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh |                          |



A small selection of cars that have been donated to Wheels4Hope

To donate your car , call toll free 888-946-4944 or go to [www.wheels4hope.org](http://www.wheels4hope.org)

