

# Reentry News



CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2014

## Meeting the Need: Housing

Just one short year ago, Clark County Corrections Deputy Barbara Schubach conducted her first reentry trial-run; assisting a releasing inmate with her transition back to the community. It was a very long day—starting at the Jail Work Center at 7:00 a.m. and concluding at an Oxford House after 5:00 p.m. They visited several locations during that day, satisfying probation requirements, and meeting basic human needs such as securing shelter and food.

That was the first day that the Clark County Jail Reentry Unit really understood what REENTRY means, and how complicated and challenging it can be. It was easy to see why people often find themselves back in the very same situations that led them to jail originally. Deputy Schubach's experiment has guided our efforts ever since and provided the framework upon which the Clark County Jail Reentry Program has been built.

Inmates releasing from the Clark County Jail face a myriad of challenges. It's common for a person to leave jail heavily burdened with responsibilities but completely lacking resources. Chemical addictions, unemployment, and mental illness are some of the biggest challenges people face, but often times the most pressing, and frightening question people face when releasing from jail is "Where am I going to sleep tonight?"

Homelessness has proven to be a wide-spread, and difficult challenge for the vast majority of our program participants.

The reasons for homelessness are varied, but there are a few common themes that many people share. Drugs and alcohol can be powerfully destructive forces in the lives of many—often times resulting in the alienation of all traditional forms of support such as friends and family. Likewise, domestic violence convictions can quickly render people homeless; as they often are accompanied by No Contact Orders with the victims of those crimes. Even more problematic are convictions of sex crimes, arson, and drug manufacture, since they can cause exclusion from subsidized housing programs.

It's a tricky situation. Actions have consequences—that's a fact. It's also true that the early stages of recovery are an extremely vulnerable time. A time when a safe and stable place to stay can mean the difference between success and relapse.

The Clark County Jail Reentry Program has been working hard to collaborate with organizations in our community that help people in recovery find housing. These programs are the cornerstone of successful recovery, and the first step to a safe, healthy, law-abiding lifestyle. ♦

## Outstanding Local Organizations



Oxford Houses, in their simplest form, are democratically run, self-supporting, drug free homes. <http://www.oxfordhouse.org/>



Located at 1600 W 20th St, Friends of the Carpenter is a faith-based day shelter that provides safety and a sense of purpose to members of our community.

"FOC is open 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday, for any and all who wish to spend time at our Friendship Center. Those who come through our doors are greeted with warm hospitality, offered coffee and perhaps a snack, and then invited to sit around a table with others and help with a woodworking or other various projects. The woodworking provides a tangible activity, a way to contribute to the community in a real and meaningful way. The wood products do provide some income for the ministry, but the sense of purpose and the relationships formed around that table are far more important."



[www.friendsofthecarpenter.org](http://www.friendsofthecarpenter.org)



## Stories of Recovery:

*From Rachel; Reentry participant, January, 2014  
Eleven months after Release*

"I guess the best way to start this letter is by thanking not only you guards at the work center but the entire Justice system.. if it weren't for you guys I don't know where I would be today, or even if I would be alive at the rate I was going. I had been incarcerated 2 or 3 times in the last 5 years and 2 of which I served 3 months of my life each time. My issues with the law started with DUI's and unfortunately I just couldn't seem to stay sober for more than a short period of time. Drinking was easy for me to be functional still in society, (well as functional as a drunk can be) but the more I made poor choices the more I was surrounded by people who were up to no good. 3 months before I was arrested in Oct 15, 2013 I had met someone who introduced me to Meth and it took only 3 months for my whole life to fall apart. I had lost my home, my vehicle and my job. I was barely hanging on and then my parents, even though I didn't feel this way at the time, saved my life by taking my children from me.

This drug steals your dignity, your values, your integrity, your conscience, and eventually your soul. I had never been homeless or ever seen this side of the world. I'm thankful to God everyday that this life and I did not fit, and life without my children was not living. When I was arrested the police officer was arresting someone I had been with. I had pretty much asked him to please take me in. I know sounds pretty crazy but I was hopeless and I knew going to jail would be the only way I would get out of this. I needed the consequences of my actions and I needed to take that time out to get a hold of my life or else I was going to die. Jail was definitely not for me but the Work Center was a whole different story. Even though we are "inmates" you still learn great habits there and work ethic. The habits of working, reading, writing, and praying are habits I not only practice everyday but have given me a life today that I cant even really put into words. I'm so grateful. The day I was released I couched at an Oxford for 2 days till I had an interview for the Grace Lodge, a faith based housing program. Mind you I had no idea where I was going to go and no relationship or contact with family when released. Today I have not only graduated that program but I am now a senior resident at the new women's and children's home that was recently opened up through Grace Ministries 2 months ago. I am actively involved in many bible studies and AA. I will be apart of the re entry program in Oct when I have a year Sober. I am rebuilding my business as a hairstylist at an amazing salon, Oh and last but not least today I have a relationship with my parents that is better than it has ever been and on Sept. 3rd I will have legal custody back of my children! God is so good! You guys do make a difference. Thank you for saving my life."



*grace  
ministries*

**XCHANGE**  
SERVICE LOCATION: 10702 NE 117TH AVE VANCOUVER, WA 98662

**FAITH CENTER'S  
XCHANGE  
RECOVERY SERVICE**



*Preventing and ending homelessness in Clark County*

When the Clark County Jail Reentry Unit sought to learn more about resources for the homeless in our community, we discovered that one organization in Clark County had been created to organize and coordinate the efforts of many—the Council for the Homeless.

The Council for the Homeless operates the Housing Solutions Center—a single point of access for our community’s government funded or subsidized housing resources. By accessing the services of the Housing Solutions Center, a client can be placed into a number of different housing options based upon their individual needs, situation and eligibility. Assistance may include: temporary emergency shelter, short-term rental assistance to help people get back into housing, or rental assistance and supportive services for people with additional needs.

A simple truth remains; however, no matter how organized and efficient the placement system is, actually placing people into housing is an issue of capacity vs. need. In a recent article in *Street Roots*, Andy Silver, the Executive Director of the Council for the Homeless states: “. . . . In Clark County, more than

**90 families** with children are eligible for rapid re-housing subsidies. But they remain homeless because programs are full.” That number has risen to 115 families since the article ran!

This statement points to a serious deficiency in our community; one that is not easily nor cheaply remedied. Even though there may be funding sources to help pay for housing for a family or individual, there are simply not enough appropriate housing units to meet the need. Organizations in our community are working hard to find innovative and cost-effective ways to increase the housing capacity in Clark County—and the Council for the Homeless is at the front of that effort.

There is no doubt that for many, safe and stable housing is the foundation upon which recovery is built. Organizations like the Council for the Homeless strive to help meet that need. The challenges they face are substantial, yet they continue to serve the most vulnerable members of our community. Their efforts directly impact the safety of our communities by providing stability for those who need it most. *Thank you, Council for the Homeless!*

*The mission of the Council for the Homeless is to lead the community’s efforts to prevent and end homelessness*

## Spotlight on:

# COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS



### Contact Information:

On the Web: [www.councilforthehomeless.org](http://www.councilforthehomeless.org)  
 Housing Hotline : (360) 695-9677  
 Administrative Office : (360) 993-9561  
 Email: [info@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:info@councilforthehomeless.org)

**Executive Director:**  
 Andy Silver  
 360-993-9570  
[asilver@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:asilver@councilforthehomeless.org)



**The mission of the Clark County Corrections Branch is to promote and maintain public safety through effective correctional and reentry practices.**



## *Stories of Recovery:* *From Quincy; Reentry participant, April 2014*

Clark County Sheriff's Office  
Jail Reentry Unit  
707 W 13th St  
PO Box 410  
Vancouver, WA 98666

Phone: 360-397-6047  
Fax: 360-397-2077  
E-mail: [sheriff.reentry@clark.wa.gov](mailto:sheriff.reentry@clark.wa.gov)

Clark County Jail  
Reentry Organization:

Chief Jail Deputy: Ric Bishop  
Support Commander: Mike Anderson  
Reentry Sergeant: Randy Tangen  
Reentry Deputy: Barbara Schubach  
Reentry Deputy: Alva Songer

"I was last incarcerated from 11-12-13 to 4-10-14. After my release I went to American Behavioral Health Systems (ABHS) for 20 days and got out around 5-10-14. The day I was released from ABHS I moved into Second Step Housing.

There I began a journey to bettering my life and the road to recovery. I started attending three NA meetings a week and taking Second Step classes, plus seeking and getting employment.

I am almost one year clean today (11-12-14). I did the Rent Well class and received my certificate—among many others. I also am seeking my AA in Business Administration as I am currently enrolled at Clark College. Recently, I went to court and showed my achievements to the judge and they took me off Supervised Probation.

Today my life is and can be anything I want it to be. I've done the work. My thanks to Sgt. Tangen and Deputies Schubach and Songer, and also to Second Step Housing for helping to facilitate my hard work in recovery. I will leave you with a simple saying that I live by: ***If we are willing to do the unknown by doing the seemingly impossible, we are truly grateful for the opportunity.***

Thank you for the opportunities."

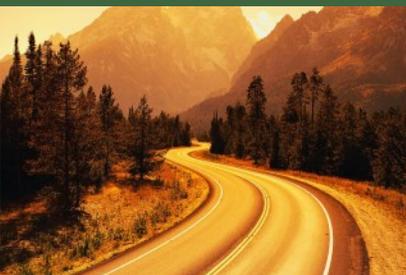
Your friend in Recovery,

Quincy

- Addiction Recovery
- Safe and stable Housing
- Education and employment
- New hope and outlook on life
- Released from Probation early!
- Coming up on a year clean!!



## The Road Ahead



*After much effort and coordination, we are very close to hiring our very first full-time Jail Discharge Planners! We look forward to better serving people with severe mental health issues, and improving the continuity and quality of their care as they enter and exit our facility. We also welcome the new and fresh perspective that these two positions will bring as we continue to strengthen and expand this valuable program.*