

Reentry News

Bridge to a Better Future

JANUARY 2014

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Office of Reentry Services

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Breaking Bread Together By Buu Thai



As I looked around the room, I was in awe by the cross-department interactions. All these amazing people coming together to serve the public and ensuring that the adult reentry population succeed in the community.

Although breaking bread perhaps has the most influence from the expression in the Bible, many like to refer it to the sharing of food among friends. In our fast paced line of work, we don't often take the time to sit down to eat and talk. Sitting down and "breaking bread" together provides an opportunity for bonding and learning. It fosters connectivity and community amongst teams.

Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only that ever has."

In the Reentry Resource Center, County employees are working together to improve systems and to transform lives each and everyday.

On December 20th, the Reentry Resource Center had its first holiday gathering potluck to celebrate our many accomplishments and to connect with each other. We had representatives from Sheriff's Office/Department of Correction, Probation, Mental Health, DADS, Public Defender's Office, Social Services, Milpitas Adult Education, and Office of Reentry Services.



Tammy's Story

By John Phillip Torres, Reentry Job Coach—Goodwill

I am very proud to share that the very first client who was enrolled in Goodwill's New Opportunity Work (NOW) Program turned out to be a success story. Tammy* is a very hardworking, self-motivated individual who made a few wrong decisions in her life. As a result of her actions, she was

incarcerated, but was later released under the AB 109 Public Safety Realignment Act.

I met Tammy during an event hosted by the Reentry Resource Center.

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*Name has been changed to protect client's confidentiality.

Tammy's Story (Con't)

Our Program Director, Robert Williamson and I attended this event to introduce the NOW Program to potential clients.

The following week, Tammy was scheduled to attend our week long intake and orientation process. She successfully completed the orientation and was accepted to the program.

Tammy was placed in Goodwill's Chief Financial Office as a Clerical Assistant. Her responsibilities included creating and maintaining purchase orders, data entry, and answering calls.

Tammy was personable and got along with all the staff. She was the star of our

NOW Program video, which is used to introduce the program to other potential participants. She often boasted about her successes in the program and would constantly say how she should be a walking billboard for NOW Program.

During our intake and orientation sessions, Tammy would speak to the new clients and share with them her experience and knowledge she gained from the program. She would encourage the new clients to do their best.

Well before the completion of the 90 day program, Goodwill's Business Developer had plenty of job opportunities lined up for Tammy to apply. He did not have any difficulties finding potential employ-

ment opportunities for her due to her skills and knowledge that she acquired from the NOW Program. However, Tammy decided that she wanted to take full advantage of the program and completed her 90 days.

One week prior to Tammy completing the program, she applied to a local body shop in San Jose as an Administrative Assistant. The day before Tammy graduated from the program, she got a call back and was offered the job. Tammy was elated.

I speak with Tammy on the phone once a week to check in with her. She tells me that she has learned so much from her new job and has applied all the skills she has gained through NOW Program.

Meet Reilly Johnson, Mental Health Peer Mentor



I have a very diverse work history before landing at the Santa Clara County MAP Reentry Center. During my time at San Francisco State University, I worked as an Engineering Coordinator for Sun Microsystems in Menlo Park. Despite the great salary and benefits, I did not find the work very rewarding, spending my days running diagnostic tests or generating part numbers and purchase orders left me feeling unsatisfied. In an unusual twist of fate, I was laid off after 3 years with the company due

to having a criminal history. Years spent as one of the more prolific graffiti writers in the area had finally caught up with me and knocked me off the career path I was working in. Shortly after being laid off, I worked to have my record expunged. I landed a job cutting grass at the Veterans Cemetery in San Bruno, the work was brutal but I was happy to have something that paid relatively well considering my wife was pregnant and our first child was only months away.

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What's in a Number?

Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS)/ 1170(h) Mandatory Supervision

(October 2011-November 2013)

- ◆ Total: 2,080
- ◆ 81.1% PRCS; 18.9% 1170(h) Mandatory Supervision
 - ◆ 89% Male
 - ◆ 89% are 25 years or older
 - ◆ 51.9% reside in San Jose
- ◆ 49.9% are Hispanics; 25% Caucasian/White

PRCS/1170(h) Mandatory Supervision Re-Arrests

(October 2011-November 2013)

- ◆ Top reason for re-arrest: Drugs & Alcohol Related Offense (35-36%)
- ◆ Top age group to be re-arrested: 25-34 (38%)

Nathaniel's Story

By Shelby Mason, Reentry Job Coach—Goodwill

“Nathaniel developed great relationships with his co-workers and began building a strong professional network..[he] is very happy in his new job and is grateful for the way that he was able to grow in NOW Program.”



Custodial Alternative Supervision Program (CASP)

(October 2011-November 2013)

- ◆ Total: 309
- ◆ Total Completions: 179
- ◆ 92% are medium or high risk as indicated by CAIS assessment

Nathaniel* was referred to Goodwill's New Opportunity Work (NOW) Program on October 3, 2013 from the Reentry Resource Center. Currently, he is in the Custodial Alternative Supervision Unit (CASU) with the Sheriff's Office. From the intake and orientation process, Nathaniel was placed in Goodwill's Human Resources Department as an Administrative Clerk based on his employment history in business and auto body. His career goal was to gain knowledge and skills in business management. Placing him in Human Resources gave him the opportunity to fine-tune his administrative skills.

During Nathaniel's time in the program he was proactive about keeping track of his schedule and spending time doing individual job search. He spent time in workshops learning how to construct a functional resume and improve his interview skills.

Nathaniel developed great relationships with his co-workers and began building a strong professional network. I referred him to Josh Altieri, NOW Business Developer to help prepare Nathaniel for mainstream employment. Josh and Nathaniel worked together to send out his well-developed resume to many different job leads. Nathaniel was able to access a suit from the Goodwill Men's Career Closet for his interviews. Josh took Nathaniel to his interviews and coached him on how to handle the questions regarding his criminal justice background and his CASU status.

Several weeks later, Nathaniel was offered a job as a Service Manager at AAMCO. His first day on the job was December 2nd. Nathaniel is very happy in his new job and is grateful for the way that he was able to grow in NOW Program.

*Name has been changed to protect client's confidentiality.

Meet Reilly Johnson (Con't)

There was an opening for extra help working at SCC Main Jail, I jumped at the chance to eliminate my commute and began to work in a more intellectually stimulating environment.

Years prior while I attended De Anza College, I had worked as a Community Worker for the PALS Program. My worked involved assisting dual diagnosed clients make connections to services in the community to further their success upon reentry. Oddly enough the same opportunity would present itself when I had the chance to work as the RRC Housing Liaison. My focus initially was on developing the RRC's relationships with community-based housing providers who could help clients in need of housing. Once the County opened a contract with a pair of local shelters, my focus shifted to making referrals and working to ensure that contractual obligations were fulfilled. In my efforts as AB109 Housing Liaison, I assisted 30 clients in locating and developing subsidized housing.

I am currently completing the process of becoming a licensed Drug and Alcohol counselor. In my free time, I enjoy training Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, spending time with my family and taking long walks on the beach with Ruffles, my Pekingese-Shih Tzu.



Calendar of Events JANUARY 2014

January 29th

Training:

How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice
System Response

Reentry Resource Center—Auditorium

151 W. Mission St., San Jose

8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Contact: Buu Thai, (408) 535-4277

January 30th

Stakeholders' Summit

Reentry Resource Center—Auditorium

151 W. Mission St., San Jose

8:30 AM-12:00 PM

Contact: Diana Sandoval, (408) 535-4297

Office of Reentry Services

Reentry Resource Center

151 W. Mission Street

San Jose, CA 95110

Phone: (408) 535-4299

Fax: (408) 998-7126



We're on the Web

www.sccgov.org/sites/reentry

Donation Wish List—Men's Clothes Wanted!

The Re-Entry Resource Center is seeking clothes donation for our male clients. Do you have gently used clothes you wish to donate? We are in need of the following items:

Reentry Toiletry Kit Supplies

- Men Deodorant
- Shaving Supplies
- New packages of men underwear
- New Men Socks
- Reading Glasses
- Mouthwash
- Ear Swabs
- Bar of Soaps
- New Hair Brushes and Combs
- Men's Coats
- Men's Clothing
- Clothes Rack
- Large Rubber Storage Bins with Lids

To make a donation, please contact Lorena Madrid at (408) 535-4236.

