

Directions

Oriana House's Community Corrections

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ORIANA HOUSE TAPPED FOR CLEVELAND PILOT PROGRAM

City of Cleveland and ODRC partner with Oriana House to transition offenders from prison

Oriana House provides quality and humane chemical dependency treatment and community corrections services to clients while contributing to safer communities.

Oriana House, Inc., is honored to be chosen to operate a first of its kind program designed to assist offenders with transitioning from prison back to the community. Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) Director Terry Collins selected Oriana House to operate a reentry program called the Cleveland Transition Center (CTC).

"Six-thousand offenders return to Cleveland from prison every year and that has a profound impact on the city," said Phil Nunes, Oriana House vice president of programs in Cuyahoga County. Many people released from prison do not receive any type of programming while in prison and also lose contact with their family. "Many come back to the community with no place to live, no job, and no money. With nowhere to go and no resources, they end up in homeless shelters, emergency rooms, or at mental health agencies," added Nunes.

occurs when a judge allows an offender to leave prison early to complete a program in the community and straight release is when an offender leaves prison without court supervision.

Oriana House staff will regularly visit prisons to identify offenders who are coming back to Cleveland on straight release status and allow them to voluntarily participate in the program to better adjust them back home. While at CTC, they will be assessed and required to participate in programming that could include employment and educational services and chemical dependency treatment. Random drug and alcohol testing will also be required.

Nunes anticipates that while most people will stay at CTC for 90 days, some will be there for only a few days while they reconnect with their family.

"One of our goals is to not have people released to homelessness," said Nunes. "If we can provide chemical dependency treatment, help them find and keep a job, and assist them in finding housing, it will lower recidivism and have a positive impact on social service issues facing the city."

This is the first time that ODRC is funding a program for offenders that are no longer under supervision.

"Oriana House is proud to be in partnership with the City of Cleveland and ODRC. The Cleveland Transition Center is right in line with our mission of providing quality and humane chemical dependency treatment and community corrections services to clients while contributing to safer communities," said Nunes.

CTC will offer programming to assist offenders in transitioning back to Cleveland. The 50-bed reentry program will operate out of the Oriana House Community Corrections and Treatment Center on East 55th Street

in Cleveland and will target offenders in prison who are eligible for judicial release or straight release status. Judicial release



Oriana House will operate the 50-bed Cleveland Transition Center for men and women coming out of prison and returning to Cleveland.

STATE FUNDS OPENING OF NEW WOMEN'S FACILITY IN NW OHIO

"WOMEN ARE AN INCREASING COMPONENT OF THE PRISON POPULATION AND AN INCREASING SENTENCING CHALLENGE FOR JUDGES."

Judge James DeWeese, Richland County Common Pleas Court



Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Assistant Director Mike Randle speaking at the dedication of the CROSSWAEH CBCF for women.

A new women's Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) opened in April in Tiffin, Ohio. The 36-bed facility provides female offenders the same programming and reentry services that have been available to male offenders since the CROSSWAEH male CBCF opened in 1999.

CROSSWAEH is an acronym for the nine counties served by the CBCFs: Crawford, Richland, Ottawa, Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ashland, and Huron.

The CROSSWAEH CBCF program is a highly structured, secure community corrections program designed to reduce criminal behavior and divert eligible felony offenders from the state prison system. The

primary program components address certain behaviors, attitudes, and thought processes that are associated with re-offending. While serving a maximum sentence of 180 days at CROSSWAEH,

offenders undergo substance abuse treatment, and participate in job training, community service, and educational services. Programming consists of four phases and participants are given more responsibilities as they progress through the phases.

Community leaders and corrections leaders gathered for a dedication event at the facility in February. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Assistant Director Mike Randle; Judge James DeWeese of Richland County; Oriana House President/CEO James Lawrence; and Oriana House Vice President of Correctional Programs in Seneca County, Jason Varney gave remarks.

Assistant Director Randle emphasized the need for this new facility. "The female prison population is increasing at a much higher rate than the male population," Randle said. "A high percentage of prison sentences are less than one year, and the reality is that many offenders return to society without programming."

Judge DeWeese added that the right programming brings

results. "If we take non-violent offenders and make them work on their problems it makes a real difference for them," DeWeese explained.

"The CBCF program addresses the five primary characteristics of most offenders — they think like criminals; 80% face substance abuse issues; many are high school drop outs; they have a poor work history and work habits; and many (especially men) are irresponsible parents," added DeWeese. "You can't rehabilitate someone who hasn't been habilitated in the first place."

Oriana House manages and staffs the CROSSWAEH CBCF program.

The CROSSWAEH CBCF is directed by a six-member Facility Governing Board consisting of Ellen Folk, Adult Parole Authority (retired); James W. Fruth, Esq.; Kenneth J. Estep; Dennis Rosier, Seneca Township fiscal officer; Chief Kevin Cashen, Norwalk Police Department; and Ralph Roshong, school superintendent (retired).

TOUR OF ORIANA PROGRAM OPENS EYES AND HEARTS

The following letter was written by someone who toured the Summit County CBCF for women:

"I wanted to thank you for allowing our JustFaith group from St. Paul Catholic Church to visit you and your facility. I was very impressed with the building: how clean it was, the layout, and all it provides for the clients.

I'm not sure what I was expecting in regards to the clients; certainly hardened, mean women. But that couldn't have been further from the truth. I think most of the women could have been my next door neighbor, sister-in-law, or daughter. It was humbling to find out that my preconceived notions were very wrong.

I was amazed at how the clients felt about (Oriana House staff). Their warmth and affection for you and your staff is a testament to the way they are treated

with dignity and respect.

A few of the women really touched my heart. 'T's story almost broke my heart. It is truly a miracle that someone was able to penetrate the steel wall around her heart and see the good in her and that she was able to respond to that. I was also inspired by Marian and her story. She has had so many strikes against her yet her hopefulness really shined through.

Francine's strength in fighting temptation on her recent pass was also a great example for the other women. There were others that touched me, but I never learned their names.

Please know that I will keep you, your staff and clients in my thoughts and prayers. I know you will all continue to have much success showing these women how to rebuild their lives. God's blessings on all of you."

A Walk in Their Shoes; Learn More About The Lives That Are Changed

The writer of the above letter is a member of the JustFaith Group from St. Paul Catholic Church in Akron. The facility they toured is the Cliff Skeen Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) for Women on Sherman Street in Akron. The goal of the CBCF program is to provide a local, highly structured and secure community sanction in which clients will be assessed, treated, and supervised. The program currently provides services for appropriate felony offenders including: GED readiness and testing, employment training, substance abuse treatment, anger management, case management, and cognitive skills training (teaching how changing the way you think changes the way you behave). If you belong to a group that would be interested in touring one of Oriana House's residential programs or you would like us to provide a speaker for an upcoming meeting, please call 330-535-8116.

Did you know...

- ▶ 63% of inmates in Ohio's prison system are incarcerated for less than one year and receive little or no rehabilitative services.
- ▶ Community corrections programs are a cost effective option to prison and are proven to reduce recidivism.
- ▶ Cuyahoga County leads Ohio counties in the number of people sentenced to prison; Summit County is the fourth largest referral county.
- ▶ Oriana House has provided community corrections programs for more than 25 years.
- ▶ Cuyahoga County is the only county in Ohio that does not have a community based correctional facility (CBCF). CBCFs provide intensive substance abuse treatment, employment and educational services, job training, and mental health and transitional services.

Oriana House has facilities in the following Ohio counties:

- ▶ Summit
- ▶ Cuyahoga
- ▶ Seneca



Frank Comunale (left), Summit County Council member, and Bernie Rochford, executive vice president of Oriana House, receive Urban Light Awards for volunteer efforts.

ORIANA LEADERS RECOGNIZED FOR VOLUNTEER WORK

Oriana House is proud to have Executive Vice President Bernie Rochford and Frank Comunale, a member of the Oriana House Board of Directors, recognized for their volunteer efforts. Both men are recipients of The University of Akron Public Administration and Urban Studies Student Association's Urban Light Award.

Mr. Rochford is active in numerous criminal justice organizations including the Ohio Corrections and Court Services Association, the American Correctional Association, the International Community Corrections

Association, and the American Probation and Parole Association.

Mr. Rochford has an exceptional record of community service. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Akron-Summit County Public Library and the Board of Directors for Project: Learn of Summit County. He serves on the Leadership Akron Alumni Association Board and co-chairs the Junior Leadership Akron program. He is past chair of the Kent State University Rehabilitation Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees for the Catholic Youth

Organization and Community Services. Mr. Rochford is a past co-chair of the Summit County Community Partnership. He was instrumental in the organization of the Middlebury-Buchtel Neighborhood Group and is a member of the Perkins Street Area Action Group. He is active in the YMCA's Indian Princess Program.

Mr. Comunale has served on the Oriana House Board of Directors since 2003 and also serves as a member of the Boards of Trustees of the Ohio United Way and of OPEN M.

THE ADM CRISIS CENTER IS HERE TO HELP

THE COUNTY
OF SUMMIT
ADM BOARD -
ONE SYSTEM,
ONE GOAL:
COMMUNITY
WELLNESS

Each year more than 11,000 people use the ADM Crisis Center in Akron.

The ADM Crisis Center, operated by Oriana House and the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADM) Services Board, consists of three components:

- ▶ **Detoxification Unit** - provides round-the-clock medical supervision for people who are intoxicated and experiencing withdrawal symptoms.
- ▶ **Drop-In Center** - a safe environment for people under the influence to recuperate from the effects of drugs and alcohol.
- ▶ **Central Assessment** - provides chemical dependency assessment and referral services to appropriate treatment agencies within our community.

Summit County residents can come to the Crisis Center on their own or with the help of a loved one. Others are directed to the center by employers, social service agencies, law enforcement officers, or other criminal justice professionals.

The ADM Crisis Center is located at 15 Frederick Avenue in Akron, and additional information is available by calling 330-996-7730.

Having assessment and treatment resources available to those in need is the first step in creating stronger, safer communities in Summit County.

Oriana House is honored to be part of the Summit County ADM system.



It is the policy of Oriana House, Inc., to treat all clients regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, or religion. There is no distinction in eligibility for or in the manner of providing client services. Services are provided to clients and visitors regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, or religion. All persons and organizations having occasion to refer clients for services or to recommend Oriana House, Inc., are advised to do so without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, or religion.



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Oriana House programming involves:

- Treatment**
- Employment/Education**
- Accountability**
- Community Service**
- Housing**

Oriana House, Inc. is an affiliate of the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board.

