

Directions

Oriana House's Community Corrections

VOL. 9, ISSUE 1, 2010

**Need a
Speaker?**

Oriana House can provide your group or organization a speaker to discuss community corrections and/or chemical dependency treatment. Call 330-535-8116 for more information.

Last year the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction released 28,039 inmates back to our communities.

Community corrections programs provide services that help those reentering our communities to be held accountable, find employment, and get treatment for drug and alcohol addiction.

This publication highlights Oriana House's program expansions and successes in Summit, Cuyahoga, and Seneca counties.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOON TO HAVE ITS OWN CBCF

Construction is continuing in Cuyahoga County on a long-awaited Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF). Cuyahoga County is the only county in Ohio that does not have a designated CBCF for a sentencing option. The facility is being built on Croton Avenue in Cleveland and will be operated by Oriana House.

The 53,000 square foot residential community corrections and treatment facility will be a single story, brick and glass design and will be constructed as an energy efficient, environmentally friendly building. The CBCF will employ approximately 90 people and is expected to open in 2011.



Former ODRC Director Terry Collins addresses the crowd of about 125 people at the Cuyahoga County CBCF ground breaking.

Terry Collins, former executive director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), spoke at the December ground breaking saying increased prison and jail populations and tight budgets have made community corrections programs more important than ever. "Last year (2008) 1,600 of the offenders who went through the state prison system were truly non-violent and would have been ideal for a CBCF," said Collins. "Eighty percent of the defendants (sentenced to) Ohio's CBCFs (in 2008) successfully completed the program," Collins added. "They paid taxes, child support, and court costs, and their recidivism rates are lower than those

incarcerated in the prison system."

CBCFs provide comprehensive programming and are considered to be the most restrictive sentencing option in the range of community-based sanctions.

Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones said the CBCF symbolizes a true commitment to reentry, not only because it saves money, but more importantly because it saves people. "The difference this facility will make in individual lives and in the lives of families and children (of those in the CBCF program) – that's what this represents," said Lawson Jones.

The new facility will be called the Judge Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility in honor of the Judge's leadership, passion, and persistence in getting a CBCF in Cuyahoga County.

Cleveland City Council President Martin Sweeney spoke about the significance of the project. "This is an economic development tool for the city of Cleveland," said Sweeney. Council member Phyllis Cleveland added, "It is the right thing to do, the right type of facility, and the right place to have it."

The funding for construction and program operation comes entirely from ODRC.



LIFE TURNS AROUND FOR FORMER HEROIN ADDICT IN NW OHIO

Now when Anna Robertson writes her life story she has reason to believe that it will have a happy ending. Just over a year ago, that wasn't the case.

Anna is a 29 year old mother, and now author, who has successfully fought back from a heroin addiction that at one time had a paralyzing hold on her life. Anna's story illustrates that addiction is often not the result of an adverse childhood.

Anna grew up in a loving, two-parent home with one older sister in northwest Ohio and was very close to her grandparents. She said that in junior high her low self confidence and choices to hang out with the wrong people started her on a downward spiral. Alcohol, marijuana, and cigarette use escalated to cocaine and LSD use in high school.

Despite discipline from her parents and school officials, Anna continued using drugs. She started using heroin in 2000 after graduating from high school. At first she used it only on weekends with her boyfriend, but then that changed to daily drug use and selling heroin so she

could afford her addiction. During this time she became pregnant with her son. In 2007 she sold heroin to an undercover police officer and was arrested. Anna believes that officer saved her life.

Anna pleaded guilty to charges of drug trafficking and spent a year and a half in prison followed by four months at Oriana House's CROSSWAEH Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) in Tiffin, Ohio. During that time Anna started writing poetry that reflected what she was going through during her treatment, her incarceration, and her preparation for returning home. Her writings now make up her first published book, "Freedom #70863 - From Gutter to Glory." The number in the title was Anna's prison number.

Anna includes the staff at CROSSWAEH in the acknowledgments in her book and said the programming at the CBCF was key to her success once she was released. "The CROSSWAEH staff taught me many skills to help me cope, including active listening and how to deal with conflict," said Anna. "When I was an addict

I wouldn't listen to anyone, but now I care what people are saying and I know that by listening I am also learning," she added.

Role-playing is a big part of the learning model at CROSSWAEH and Anna said that was helpful. "We would go over a skill and then pair up with a partner and act it out in a hands-on situation," Anna explained. "That prepared me to be able to put the skills into practice."

Anna wants her book and her experience to serve as an inspiration to others who face the terrors of addiction. "No matter how hard life may be, I believe everything we go through can be used to meet a greater purpose," said Anna. "The most important thing is to build a support system," she explained. "For me, my family was definitely important; that and having faith in God."

Anna has been sober for two and a half years and now lives with her parents and is raising her son. She works at a local hotel, has signed a contract with her publisher, and is in the process of writing her first work of fiction.

NORTH STAR REENTRY FACILITY OPENS

Since opening its doors on February 15, the North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center (NRRC) in Cleveland has provided services to nearly 400 people. This innovative resource center is intended to help individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system navigate through barriers and become law abiding, contributing members of their families and their communities.

Many people with a criminal history struggle to become self-sufficient because of obstacles related to their past, and these challenges are heightened due to the current state of the economy. The North Star NRRC provides services, information, and access to community resources that help address many of these issues. The services are available free of charge to Cuyahoga County residents who were or are involved in the criminal justice system, and to their families and friends. Services include Internet access, computer labs, assistance with employment searches and resume preparation, self-help meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, and health screenings.



More than 100 people attended an informational open house in April at the North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center. Presenters included Luis Vazquez, Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry; James McCafferty, Cuyahoga County Administrator; Alicia Handwerk, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction; Judge C. Ellen Connally, retired, Cleveland Municipal Court; and Phillip Nunes, Oriana House.

North Star NRRC is funded by the Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs' Office of Reentry as part of its initiative to address prisoner reentry in the Greater Cleveland area.

North Star is located at 1834 East 55th Street in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood.

For more information including hours of operation, call 216-881-5440.

STAFF RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Oriana House has 12 programs/facilities accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). "We truly value the accreditation process and see it as an opportunity to ensure that we are delivering high quality programming," said Executive Vice President Bernie Rochford.

Because ACA audits are an extensive process that involve years of gathering and maintaining documentation, facility inspections, and interviews with staff and clients, Oriana House has a full time

employee who tracks documentation and prepares facilities for the accreditation/reaccreditation process. Dawn Baker is Oriana House's accreditation manager and was recently named Accreditation Manager of the Year by the Correctional Accreditation Managers' Association (CAMA).

CAMA is a national organization representing professionals in adult corrections, juvenile justice, law enforcement, and all related areas of the criminal justice system.

Oriana House employs nearly 50 staff in Seneca County to provide community corrections programs in northwest Ohio

Oriana House provides several programs in northwest Ohio

- The CROSSWAEH Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) for men opened in 1999 to serve the counties of Crawford, Richland, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Wyandot, Ashland, Erie, and Huron; and the CROSSWAEH CBCF for women opened in 2007. Last year alone, 316 people received services at CROSSWAEH. Oriana House operates the CROSSWAEH CBCF program.
- Electronic Monitoring services provide 24/7 monitoring of a person's coming and going from their residence to assure that he or she only leaves for approved activities.
- GPS services can provide real-time information on the person's location.
- The Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor (SCRAM) provides continuous monitoring to determine a person's use of alcohol.

Changing Lives

Oriana House received the following message from the parent of someone who received help through the Summit County ADM Crisis Center. The Crisis Center offers detoxification, assessment, and drop-in services for Summit County residents and is located at 15 Frederick Avenue in Akron. The services are provided by Oriana House for the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADM) Board.

Thank You

Thank you for what you did for my son and his best friend. My son had a bad car accident and was on prescribed pain meds and after five years he was addicted to them.

I took him to a hospital, but he was turned away because he had very little health insurance. This was a big step for him to call and ask me to take him to a rehab location and I was not going to give up. I knew that if he did not get any help at this point that he would give up and not try again.

Your staff was wonderful and the management was far better than I could have even hoped. Both boys are doing fine and they have their lives back.

I waited six months before I sent this because I wanted to see if this was a temporary fix. Hats off to a group of people who do what you do and care to go the extra mile.

Thank you again.

CRIMINAL NONSUPPORT PROGRAM FOCUSES ON PAYMENTS

“THE FOCUS IS ON FACILITATING BEHAVIOR CHANGES SO THESE PARENTS WILL START AND CONTINUE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT.”

*Anne Gatti, program manager,
Oriana House Nonresidential
Services*

A specialized program in Summit County serves as a final effort on the part of the courts to establish child support payments from parents who have a history of not providing financial support for their children. In conjunction with the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, the Summit County Prosecutor’s Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), and the Summit County Probation Department, the recently revised Criminal Nonsupport Program focuses on diverting nonsupport offenders from prison and into a program that addresses the reasons they have failed to make their child support payments.

Ensuring payment of current and future child support is the ultimate goal, said Anne Gatti, program manager of Oriana House Nonresidential Services. “If a parent is in prison, he or she clearly has no way to make payments or to secure employment,” said Gatti. “We work with the offenders who have the ability to be employed to identify and eliminate the barriers

that have kept them from paying support.”

Offenders currently on probation who fail to comply with their probation requirements can be sentenced by the court to the Criminal Nonsupport Program for 12 - 18 months. They then report to Oriana House’s nonresidential facility. Oriana House and CSEA caseworkers work closely with a probation officer who supervises the offender. Program services include case management, employment assistance, education services, cognitive behavioral programming, and substance abuse assessment and treatment. Clients will be expected to work diligently toward obtaining verifiable employment that results in child support payments being directly deducted from their paychecks. Those who do not comply are sanctioned to a residential corrections program that focuses entirely on preparing individuals to obtain and keep sustainable employment, or they may be sent to prison.

It is the policy of Oriana House, Inc., to treat all clients regardless of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, disability, veteran or military status, age, sex, or religion.



Oriana House, Inc.
P.O. Box 1501
Akron, OH 44309
www.orianahouse.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AKRON, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 01464

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**