

# Directions

Oriana House's Community Corrections

VOL. 10, ISSUE 1, 2011

## More info online

Many lives are unavoidably affected by alcoholism and drug addiction. Individuals, families, neighbors, employers, and communities are all impacted by chemical dependency. Visit [www.orianahouse.org](http://www.orianahouse.org) to learn more about Oriana House's programming and services.

## New CBCF in Cuyahoga County hosts Reentry Coalition

*On April 27th the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition's quarterly meeting was held at the Judge Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility in Cleveland. The event, which was funded by the National Institute of Justice, presented research addressing the many issues impacting ex-offenders who enter or reenter the labor market.*

## 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.*

## OHIO'S 19<sup>TH</sup> CBCF OPENS IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY

A January ribbon cutting ceremony marked the celebratory opening of Ohio's 19th Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF), with the first clients moving in a few days later. The Judge Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Correctional Facility



(CBCF) is operated by Oriana House, Inc., and is located at 3540 Croton Avenue in Cleveland.

The 200 bed facility serves as a sentencing alternative for appropriate felony offenders, with construction and operation funded by the



Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC). As part of the grand opening, ODRC Director Gary Mohr said, "Cuyahoga County contributes 20% of the offenders in the (state's) prison system. In 2010, 1,300 (of these offenders) were non-violent, low-risk, making them the perfect candidates to be housed here where life-changing activities can take place."

CBCFs provide comprehensive programming addressing offender needs such

as chemical dependency, education, employment, and family relationships. CBCFs are the most restrictive sentencing option in the range of community-based sanctions. Ohio's CBCFs are a unique partnership between state and local government. The state benefits by having community corrections options at the local level for felony offenders saving costly prison beds for more violent offenders. The county and judiciary benefit by having a residential sentencing option available that is controlled locally.

More than 250 people attended the grand opening which included tours and remarks from state, county, city, and Oriana House officials. Other speakers included Cuyahoga County Executive Edward FitzGerald, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Cleveland City Council President Martin Sweeney and Council Member Phyllis Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judges Nancy A. Fuerst and Nancy R. McDonnell, and Oriana House CEO Jim Lawrence and CBCF Program Manager Michael Randle.

The CBCF is currently funded for 100 beds. Since opening, the facility has had 133 offender intakes.



# HELP AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WITH ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTIONS

## Waiting List Support Group

Are you on a waiting list to get into residential chemical or alcohol dependency treatment? Come to a Support Group for the encouragement you need. The Summit County ADM Crisis Center started a Waiting List Support Group that can help bridge the gap until treatment is available. The Support Group and/or individual counseling can make a huge impact in keeping people with addictions active and, more importantly, sober. The ultimate goal of the support group is to do whatever it takes to help participants maintain a sober lifestyle.

Where:

**ADM Crisis Center**  
15 Frederick Ave.  
Akron (behind St. Thomas Hospital)

Days and Times:

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

For more information, call 330-996-7730.

## Access to Recovery

Do you or someone you know need assistance with sober housing, treatment, or peer support services? Are you 18 years or older, struggling with alcohol or drug addiction, live within 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, and a resident of Summit or Cuyahoga County?

Consider Access to Recovery (ATR), a federal program that offers the following:

- Individuals are assessed and given a voucher for services based on need.
- A list of both faith-based and community-based recovery support service providers gives individuals the ability to make their own choices.
- Services covered are designed to provide assistance to an individual as he/she reintegrates into the community. They may include: employment coaching, spiritual support, child care, temporary housing assistance, transportation, and classes on literacy or budgeting.

Call 330-996-7730 in Summit County and 216-881-7882 in Cuyahoga County. For more about the ATR program elsewhere in Ohio, call the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services at 614-466-3445 or visit [www.atr.samhsa.gov](http://www.atr.samhsa.gov).

## Assessments

The Central Assessment services through the Summit County ADM Crisis Center offer chemical dependency evaluations with treatment recommendations and referrals for adult, Summit County residents seeking alcohol and chemical dependency treatment services.

Individuals can be self-referred, or referred by family, friends, community agencies, or law enforcement officials.

Assessments last approximately 90 minutes and cost is based on a sliding fee scale, with some insurances providing coverage.

Call 330-996-7730 to make an appointment for an assessment.

# WE'VE ADDED LOCATIONS

**O**riana House now offers non-residential programming and training services out of the former St. Hedwig church, convent, and rectory on East Glenwood Avenue in Akron.

The agency purchased the property, which is less than half a mile from the agency's

Glenwood campus.

Oriana House staff for Reentry and Family Violence Specialty Courts have moved to the St. Hedwig property, along with some of the agency's chemical dependency treatment staff.

The Employment Readiness Center and Moving Toward

Employment are located in the classroom area of the church.

The property will help meet the agency's space needs for office and group areas.

Project Learn is going to be using the classroom space as well.

# REENTRY NETWORK EXPANDS IN SUMMIT COUNTY

**M**ore than 2,000 felony offenders return to Summit County each year so, in order to address issues that can cause re-offending, the Summit County Reentry Network (SCRN) has been established.

Through collaboration, SCRN wants to reduce the percentage of ex-offenders who return to crime, while enhancing community safety and family reunification. Many people returning from incarceration want a second chance to turn their lives around, and helpful reentry strategies make a difference! Stable housing and employment opportunities increase the number of citizens who can contribute to the economy through taxes, and purchasing goods and services. Employment allows ex-offenders to pay off their court fees, fines, and child support.

The SCRN has broad-based representation including city and county officials, police and parole officers, and business, faith, and community representatives.

A February SCRN meeting drew people from over 80 agencies. The oversight/funding agencies for the SCRN are the Akron Community Foundation, The United Way, Summit County Division of Public Safety, and Oriana House. Funding is

only secured until the end of 2011, so additional sources of support are being sought.

SCRN has established these initiatives:

- A Reentry Resource Seminar for ex-offenders and their families. It will be at The Job Center, 1040 E. Tallmadge Avenue, Akron from 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Friday of each month, beginning May 27. Information will be highlighted about housing, employment, social services and other key areas to successful reentry, with providers on-site to lend assistance.
- Huntington Bank now offers free checking/savings accounts to ex-offenders from the branch at 39 E. Market Street, Akron. These "Huntington at Work" accounts can be set up with a zero balance, after which there is a 60 day window during which direct deposit can be arranged.
- A Reentry Resource Booklet that will be available locally and to offenders who plan to return to this area.

Anyone interested in utilizing or supporting the Summit County Reentry Network can call the Office of Reentry at 330-643-2003 or email [reentry@summitoh.net](mailto:reentry@summitoh.net).

# NORTH STAR

Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center

**T**here are many individuals involved in the criminal justice system or returning from prison who are struggling to become self-sufficient because of the many obstacles to reentry. North Star Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center (NRRRC) is designed to provide information, a range of direct services, and convenient access to other community resources in a welcoming, supportive setting. 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.

North Star is located at 1834 East 55th Street in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood. The website, [www.northstarreentry.org](http://www.northstarreentry.org), describes services and lists calendar events or more information is available by calling 216-881-5440.

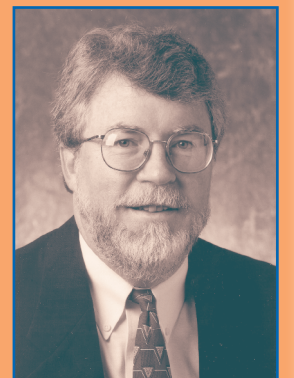
North Star NRRRC is operated by Oriana House, Inc., and funded by the Cuyahoga County Department of Justice Affairs' Office of Reentry as part of its initiative to provide focused leadership and strong organizational capacity to address prisoner reentry in the Greater Cleveland area.

# ORIANA HOUSE'S PRESIDENT RECEIVES ASSOCIATION'S HIGHEST HONOR

**J**ames J. Lawrence, President/CEO of Oriana House, Inc., was presented with the 2010 Margaret Mead Award, the highest honor presented by the International Community Corrections Association (ICCA). The ICCA Margaret Mead Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated leadership in the field of community corrections through guidance, innovative ideas, influence of policy, and/or dedicated service to the ideals and goals of community-based correctional programming.

Lawrence has served as President and CEO of Oriana House since starting the agency in 1981. He has a Master's Degree in sociology from Kent State University with a concentration in corrections.

Lawrence and other leaders in Ohio developed an effective network of systems and associations that provide information to legislators regarding the issues of prison overcrowding and offender rehabilitation. Lawrence helped spearhead passage of the Community Corrections Act in Ohio to provide community-based sanctions for low level felony offenders and worked with the Ohio Sentencing Commission to promote reforms that place non-violent offenders in community-based programs.



# AGENCY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF HELPING PEOPLE MAKE A CHANGE

## ORIANA HOUSE 1981 - 2011

## WHAT STARTED SMALL HAS GROWN TO AN AGENCY THAT SERVES MORE THAN 28,000 PEOPLE EACH YEAR

Oriana House began as an independent, non-profit community corrections agency in 1981 with a three-day DUI program designed to help the courts address sentencing needs for offenders who were convicted of driving while intoxicated. Fast forward 30 years, and today, Oriana House is one of the nation's leading community corrections agencies with more than 25 programs and 19 facilities in Summit, Cuyahoga, and Seneca counties. The community corrections and treatment services provide a sanction while assisting offenders in developing the skills they need to become productive members of the community.

Oriana House President and CEO Jim Lawrence founded the agency and has directed it through all of its growth. "Our programs have all developed out of conversations and partnerships we've had with judges, law enforcement officers, government officials, neighborhood leaders, and others," said Lawrence. "What started off small has grown to an agency with nearly 600 employees and a \$38 million budget that provides services annually to more than 28,000 people."

Evidence-based research, comprehensive training, and 30 years of experience, make it possible for Oriana House staff to do very consistent and detailed assessments of offenders to determine what level of programming will best address the issues that led them to commit a crime. Programming will usually include chemical dependency treatment, cognitive behavioral training (correcting thinking errors), education and/or employment classes, and life skills teaching (budgeting, parenting, anger

management, etc.) Restitution and meeting financial responsibilities are part of all Oriana House programs.

The range of programs that Oriana House offers gives judges many sentencing options, all of which incorporate structure, supervision, and individual accountability. There are nonresidential programs such as electronic monitoring and GPS ankle bracelets, diversion (which allows for the possible dismissal of first time felony charges upon successful completion), and Drug Court, Reentry Court and Mental Health Court. There are also residential halfway houses, work release and employment readiness programs, and Community Based Correctional Facilities. The focus is always to contribute to safer communities while giving the men and women in the programs access to local resources that they need in order to stay sober and crime free.

Separate from the criminal justice system, Oriana House contracts with the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADM) Services Board to provide chemical dependency services through the ADM Crisis Center. These services are available to all Summit County residents. The ADM Crisis Center has detoxification, assessment, and drop-in services, is open 24/7, and is located at 15 Frederick Avenue, in Akron.

More information on the 30-year history of Oriana House and its programming in Summit and Cuyahoga Counties and in central/northwest Ohio is online at [www.orianahouse.org](http://www.orianahouse.org).

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.

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

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Alcohol, Drug Addiction &  
Mental Health Services Board