



REENTRY

National Media Outreach Campaign

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COMMUNITY SCREENING TAPE OFFERS — *The Center for Young Women’s Development* and GIRL TROUBLE

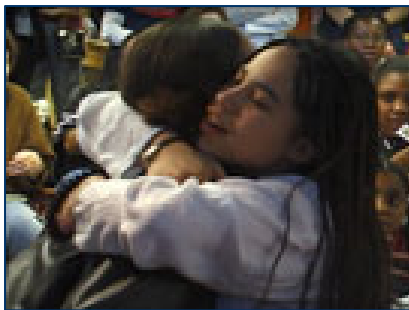
The Center For Young Women’s Development / (outreach video, not for broadcast)

This outreach resource provides additional information on the programs and practices of the Center for Young Women’s Development (CYWD), profiled in the film, GIRL TROUBLE. Says executive director, Lateefah Simon, *“All of the Center’s programs have been designed with a holistic approach and recognizes that each young woman already has the experience and strength necessary to become a powerful leader and an agent for change.”* The video can assist youth-serving or youth-directed organizations in developing local strategies to work with young women from the streets and the juvenile justice system, providing them with educational and employment opportunities and helping them build healthier lives and healthier communities. Produced by Dean Radcliffe-Lynes, this 15-minute video may be used on its own or as a companion to GIRL TROUBLE.



GIRL TROUBLE / Airing on PBS’s Independent Lens Series, January 17, 2006 (Please check local PBS listings for date and time in your location).

Stephanie is pregnant and has a warrant for running away from a group home. Shangra is torn between taking care of her mother, who is homeless and struggling with drug addiction, and taking care of herself. Sheila, whose father and siblings have been in and out of jail, risks arrest and jail time by selling and using drugs.



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For more information, or to sign up for the Reentry bi-monthly e-newsletter, please contact:

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COMMUNITY SCREENING TAPE OFFERS, *Cont.*

GIRL TROUBLE is an intimate look at the compelling personal stories of three teenagers entangled in San Francisco's juvenile justice system. These girls, and many like them, aren't just at-risk – they are in deep trouble.

Trying to change their lives, the girls work part-time at the innovative Center for Young Women's Development, an organization run by young women who have faced similar challenges. As the girls confront seemingly impossible problems and pivotal decisions, the Center's 22-year-old executive director, Lateefah Simon, is often their only support and mentor.



Bay Area filmmakers Lexi Leban and Lidia Szajko document the girls' remarkable successes and heartbreaking setbacks over a four-year period – their daily struggles with poverty, violence, public defenders, and homelessness, exposing a system that fails to meet the needs of girls in trouble.

PLEASE NOTE: The Reentry Campaign's agreement with the producers of GIRL TROUBLE limits our normal distribution. Community screening copies of GIRL TROUBLE are available **ONLY to public television stations, faith-based groups, and reentry programs**, and **exclude** educational institutions, public libraries, district attorney and public defender offices, judges, police and corrections departments, probation and parole associations, law enforcement personnel, and girl groups that are not reentry focused. Purchase information on the film can be found at <http://www.newday.com>.

Download the application form for GIRL TROUBLE and *The Center for Young Women's Development* on the Reentry Web site (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/qt.htm>). The Reentry Campaign's distribution of *The Center for Young Women's Development* **includes** the groups designated as excluded by GIRL TROUBLE. Downloadable discussion guides for each film can also be accessed from the site.



www.reentrymediaoutreach.org

UPCOMING REENTRY CAMPAIGN EVENTS

Florida Reentry Summit – On December 13 – 14, 2005, the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign will be presented at the 2005 Florida Reentry Summit. Presented by Project Safe



Neighborhoods, the two-day summit will feature plenary sessions and a slate of breakout sessions. Specialized tracks include: Faith, Community and Grassroots Efforts; Business, Commerce, and Community Economic Development; Prevention, Intervention and Treatment; Criminal Justice Reentry Strategies and more! The project is supported by a

grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a component of the Office of Justice Programs.

On Tuesday, December 13th, Reentry project director, Denise Blake, will introduce a screening of **OMAR & PETE** (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/r>) followed by remarks by William “Pete” Duncan. Pete will give his personal testimony of incarceration and reentry, including a Q&A session with the audience.



On December 14th, Denise will present a workshop entitled *Using Media to Frame the Reentry Dialogue*, in which the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign will be showcased. Clips from several films, including *MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL*, *XIARA'S SONG*, *PRISON LULLABIES*, and *Outside the Walls* will be screened and discussed by the participants.

The summit will be held at the New Radisson Hotel Miami, 1601 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida. To register, please request a registration form from Wayne E. Rawlins at rawlin_w@bellsouth.net, no later than **December 8, 2005**. The 2005 Reentry Summit is **free** to the first 200 applicants that register. Registrations after the first 200 applicants will be accepted until 12:00 midnight on Thursday, December 8, 2005 with a \$100 registration fee paid (in cash only) at the door.

Hear an exclusive interview with William “Pete” Duncan and *OMAR & PETE* filmmaker Tod Lending on the Reentry Campaign Web site (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org>). Thank you to Towson State University Radio, WTDM-FM, and host Cheri Parks for providing access to this interview!

Have you missed an issue of the Reentry e-newsletter?

Past issues can be found on the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign Web site

(<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/enewsletter.htm>)!

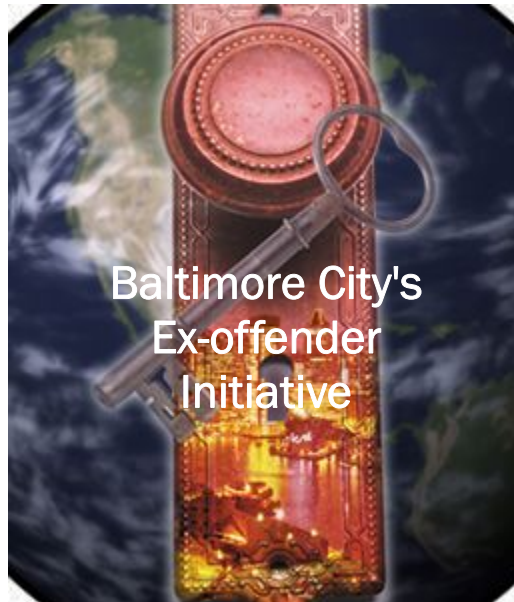
REENTRY PROGRAM PROFILE—BALTIMORE CITY EX-OFFENDER INITIATIVE

In October 2002, at the direction of Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) facilitated the creation of the Baltimore Citywide Ex-offender Task Force. Its purpose was to bring together diverse stakeholders to develop a citywide plan to assist men and women who were formerly incarcerated in successfully transitioning back to the community. Since then, the Task Force membership grew to include more than 100 government agencies and community partners. The Task Force worked in committees, including those addressing:

- Needs and engagement of employers;
- A survey of existing services;
- Development of a model program or process for serving former offenders;
- Review of relevant legislation; and
- Involvement of the faith community.

The committees' recommendations included a menu of opportunities for service. Some of the efforts implemented in the last two years are:

- Coordinated previously fragmented resources and activities directed toward former offenders
- Provided advocacy for related legislation and policy by helping to secure \$1 million in additional funding for the Maryland State Department of Education's inmate education program
- Hosted Employer Appreciation Breakfasts to encourage additional businesses to employ and better assist this population



- Participated in U.S. Department of Justice/ Workforce Development Training for offender workforce development specialists
- Participated with Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Exit Orientations, which allow inmates to find out about services available after release
- Supported the development of a reentry transitional employment initiative, "Project Bridge," which brings together several nonprofit service providers to serve more than 200 former prisoners

In July 2005, the program further expanded with the creation of Baltimore City's Reentry Center, also known as the ReC. It was created by and is a service of the Mayor's Office of Employment

Development, the Baltimore Workforce Investment Board, and multiple workforce partners. Baltimore City believes that the more assistance people receive when returning to the community, the greater potential that they will succeed and not return to prison.

Services at the center include:

- Digital Learning Labs, Maryland Workforce Exchange – computerized job bank, Internet access, high tech labs
- Occupational skills training, basic computer skills
- Assistance in helping former inmates locate employment opportunities, explore careers, learn about financial aid for training, obtain information on local employers and labor market trends, gain computer skills

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BALTIMORE CITY EX-OFFENDER INITIATIVE, *Cont.*

- Self-service fax machines, telephones, copiers, and printers are available for use. In addition its resource libraries are stocked with videos, job search resource books, resume and cover letter books, and training brochures
- Assistance with retrieval of needed IDs including social security card, birth certificate, and Maryland photo ID
- Referrals to shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing
- A 300+-page Baltimore former inmate resource guide

Mr. Felix Mata, the Reentry Center's project director, shared two recent success stories of reentering individuals connected to the program:

Harold Bailey - Mr. Bailey was incarcerated for twenty years throughout the Maryland Division of Corrections. During his period of confinement he took advantage of opportunities to advance his education as well as help other inmates gain access to valuable services. After release, he connected with the Reentry Center to utilize its substantial resources. Due to his continual effort, Mr. Bailey was able to find employment as a GED Instructor through the Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) and is now a new instructor within the ReC. He is also working on a Master's Degree at Coppin University.

Brenda Jennings Queen – As a child, Ms. Queen was always a great student, but early emotional and physical abuse caused her to make some wrong decisions. This eventually led to her incarceration. After her most recent release, she sought assistance through the Reentry Center. A caseworker informed her of an Office Assistant position currently open at the center. Ms. Queen applied, interviewed, and was selected in August 2005. Working at the ReC allows Ms. Queen to help other former inmates reenter society as productive citizens. She, too, is seeking additional education and currently attends community college in pursuit of an Associates Degree in both Office Administration and Interpreter Preparation (American Sign Languages).

Incentives to Baltimore Businesses Participating in the Baltimore City Ex-Offender Initiative

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

- Federal income tax credit for employers that hire low-income former offenders. This credit can reduce an employer's federal income tax liability by as much as \$2,400 per qualified worker.

Federal Fidelity Bonding Program

- Provides individual fidelity bonds of \$5,000 to employers at no cost for six months against employee dishonesty or theft for job applicants with a criminal record.

Workforce Investment Act

- Meets the needs of businesses for skilled workers by providing reimbursement for on-the-job training, as well as eligible employee relocation assistance.

Customized Training

- Can assist businesses in training and hiring new workers by providing matching funds for special-

Special incentives are also provided to Baltimore businesses that participate in the program. Mr. Mata recounts that, "The business community has surprisingly been one of our staunchest advocates. Even though there remains some stigma related to the hiring of formerly incarcerated individuals, some businesses have allowed their names to be publicized to educate other employers to the benefits to hiring this population. Others have gone as far as to testify in Maryland's State House and Senate on the need for increased reentry funding for training and education, creation of new incentives for businesses in hiring ex-prisoners, and changes in policy which prevent individuals from succeeding after release from prison."

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BALTIMORE CITY EX-OFFENDER INITIATIVE, *Cont.*

In September 2005, Outreach Extensions provided a slate of Reentry Campaign documentaries to the Reentry Center (ReC), which shows them on a rotating basis in the waiting room. Felix Mata reports that center staff are very appreciative: "The ReC utilizes these resources as a visual educational opportunity for new clients as well as a reinforcement guide for repeat customers." He said that approximately 100 people visit the center each day for services.

Mr. Mata shares the work of the Reentry Center with other municipalities for potential replication and refinement. One of these relationships is with the Philadelphia Mayor's Ex-Offender Initiative. Says Mata, "My first act as the project director was to see what other cities are doing to assist offender reentry. In 2002, Philadelphia brought together a 'consensus' group organized through Public/Private Ventures. I attended one of their meetings to learn more about what they were doing and to learn from their mistakes. Since that time, Baltimore has taken great strides in moving forward in assisting Baltimore residents with criminal records. Since this first meeting, Philadelphia and Baltimore have been great partners in learning from each other on how to better assist reentry efforts for their residents."

For more information about the Baltimore Ex-Offender Initiative, please visit the Web site at <http://www.oedworks.com/exoffender.htm> or contact project director Felix Mata at fmata@oedworks.com or (410) 523-1060.

REENTRY NEWS AND RESOURCES

New Report from the Sentencing Project Documents Felony Voting Laws

The Sentencing Project has released *A 'Crazy-Quilt' of Tiny Pieces: State and Local Administration of American Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws*. Written by Alec Ewald, Department of Political Science, Union

College, the report presents results from the first nationwide study to document the implementation of the American felony disenfranchisement law. Data came from two main sources: a 33-state survey of state elections officials and telephone interviews with almost one hundred city, county, town, and parish officials drawn from ten selected states.



The Sentencing Project is a national nonprofit organization engaged in research and advocacy on criminal justice policy issues. Download a copy of A 'Crazy-Quilt' of Tiny Pieces

here: <http://www.sentencingproject.org/pdfs/crazyquilt.pdf>.

\$5 Million Approved for Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act

On November 4, the FY 2006 Science, State, Justice Appropriations Bill (H.R. 2862) approved \$5 million for the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act. Senator Mike DeWine, who shepherded the bill's passage in the Senate and is a member of the Appropriations Committee, and Congressman Frank Wolf, Chair of the Subcommittee that has jurisdiction over appropriations for the U.S. Department of Justice, were instrumental in securing funding for the newly authorized program. The appropriations bill now heads to the President's desk for his signature.

Signed into law in 2004, the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (S. 1194) authorizes a \$50 million federal grant program for states and counties to establish more mental health courts, expand prisoners' access to mental health treatment while incarcerated and upon reentry into the community, provide additional resources for pre-trial jail diversion programs and related initiatives, and fund cross-training for law enforcement officials and mental health personnel dealing with adult and juvenile offenders with mental illness. Read more about this issue at <http://consensusproject.org/infocenter/features/MIOTCRA-update>.

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REENTRY NEWS AND RESOURCES, Cont.

You can learn more about mentally deficient individuals affected by the criminal justice system in the Reentry Campaign documentary, BORDERLINE (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/borderline.htm>).



Ms. Eunice Baker,
BORDERLINE

BORDERLINE tells the story of Eunice Baker, a borderline mentally retarded woman who was sentenced to 15-years-to-life in prison for murdering a young child, despite evidence that the death was accidental. After nearly five years in prison, The New York State Appellate Court recently reduced Eunice's sentence to criminally negligent homicide, and she was released on time served.

BORDERLINE will be part of a block of reentry-related programming airing on Free Speech TV in February 2006. Other featured Reentry Campaign productions will include:

- PRISON LULLABIES (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/pl.htm>),
- *Outside the Walls* (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/video.htm>), and
- *The Center for Young Women's Development* (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/qt.htm>).

Free Speech TV (<http://www.freespeech.org>) is a publicly-supported, independent, non-profit TV channel that is a project of Public Communicators, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. It is available nationally on DISH Satellite Network. Seizing the power of television to expand social consciousness, FSTV fuels the movement for progressive social, economic, and political transformation.

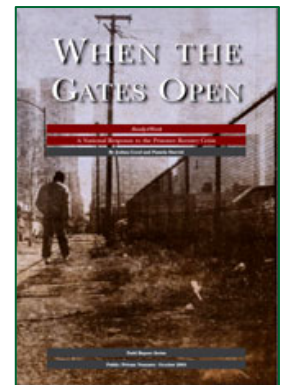


According to Free Speech TV, it empowers citizens to fight injustices, to revitalize democracy, and to build a more compassionate world through exposing the public to perspectives excluded from corporate-owned media.

Stay tuned for more detailed broadcast information in the February 2006 edition of the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign's e-newsletter.

New Report from Public/Private Ventures: When the Gates Open: Ready4Work-A National Response to the Prisoner Reentry Crisis

When the Gates Open describes the emergence of Ready4Work, a 17-site, national former prisoner reentry initiative developed by P/PV. The report outlines the initiative's basic goals and design, and examines how it directly confronts the nation's reentry crisis by drawing on local faith- and community-based organizations to provide job training, mentoring, case management, and job placement services.



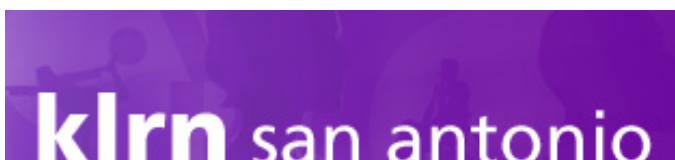
With support from both government and private sources, Ready4Work was launched in 2003 and will continue through 2006. To date it has served more than 3,100 former prisoners.

Download the report from P/PV's Web site at: http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/189_publication.pdf.

PUBLIC TELEVISION STATIONS HOST REENTRY CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES



On **December 1, 2005, 6:00 pm**, WHUT/ Howard University Television in Washington, DC, will host a reentry screening event and panel discussion in its studios at 2222 4th Street, NW. Participants will view the Health module from *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs*, then engage a panel of experts on the health issues facing inmates and formerly incarcerated persons. For more information on tonight's event, please contact Elizabeth Ventura at 202.806.3017.



San Antonio's public television station, KLRN, is also hosting a reentry event tonight, **December 1, 2005 at 7:00 pm**. KLRN and the University of Texas, San Antonio College of Public Policy will address the issues former prisoners face when reentering society with a screening and community discussion focusing on "Best Practices in Offender Reentry" at the UTSA Downtown Campus, Sam Riklin Auditorium, 501 W. Durango Blvd.

Following the screening, a panel discussion will take place with:

- **Dr. Michael Arambula, MD**, General Forensic Psychiatrist and Pharmacist
- **Mr. Thomas L. Clements**, Assistant Director, Division of Adult Institutions, State of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- **Mr. Larry M. Fehr**, Senior Vice President, Pioneer Human Services, Seattle, WA

For more information, please contact Lisa McGrath at 210.270.9000 or lmcgrath@klrn.org.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) is supporting the **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign** as part of the Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative (MCMOI), which is designed and managed by Outreach Extensions. This vital effort links media broadcasters to local stakeholders and their diverse constituencies, providing outreach strategies and media resources that support their efforts to strengthen youth and families and build effective communities.

The Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative offers media support to local coalitions that are part of AECF's *Making Connections*, a multi-faceted, long-term effort to improve the life chances of vulnerable children by helping to strengthen their families and neighborhoods. The Foundation's intent is to stimulate and support a local movement that engages residents, civic groups, political leaders, grassroots groups, public and private sector leadership, and faith-based organizations in an effort to help transform tough neighborhoods into family-supportive environments.



[The Annie E. Casey Foundation](http://www.aecf.org)

This e-Newsletter is an electronic publication intended to keep you informed about news and events relating to the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. **Please let us know how we're doing through the feedback form on the Reentry Web site (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/contactus.htm>).**

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We welcome the names/e-mail addresses of your colleagues so that we can send copies of this e-Newsletter to them as well.