



REENTRY

National Media Outreach Campaign

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COMMUNITY SCREENING TAPE OFFER—XIARA’S SONG

XIARA’S SONG documents a young girl's struggle to stay connected to her father through their mutual love of music, and a mother's battle to keep her daughter from following in her father's dangerous footsteps. Seven-year-old Xiara's father Harold has been in and out of jail throughout her life, and his current sentence will keep him locked up until she's 17. Combining present-day footage with home movies to explore a father-daughter relationship under extraordinary circumstances, this is a moving portrait of one of the millions of American children with a parent in prison.



XIARA’S SONG finds the sadness, joy, anger, love, loneliness, and fear in the eyes of a precocious child coming to grips with the fact that her father won’t be free until she’s practically an adult. While XIARA’S SONG does not romanticize Harold, it does reveal the gentle side of this charming rapper who finds inspiration in his deep love for his daughter. Harold and Xiara’s relationship is played out over monitored phone lines and supervised monthly visits, expressed through the songs they write and sing for one another.

If you missed the broadcast of XIARA’S SONG on HBO Latino, you can apply for a screening copy for use in your work – either in English or with Spanish subtitles – by visiting the Reentry Web site: www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/xiara. A companion resource and discussion guide, also available in English and Spanish, can be downloaded from the Web site.

For more information about how to support a child with a parent in prison, visit the Federal Resource Center for Children of Prisoners at www.childrenofprisoners.org. The Resource Center has current statistics; information about the child welfare and criminal justice systems; programs for incarcerated parents, their children, and families; a listserv with the latest research and funding opportunities, and more.

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

Denise Blake
Reentry Campaign Director
Outreach Extensions
Denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org



UPCOMING REENTRY CAMPAIGN EVENTS

Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC)



On **October 12, 2005 at 5:30 pm**, the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA, will screen **OMAR & PETE**, followed by a panel discussion of faith and community leaders. The conversation will center on ITC's ongoing work in training clergy and lay leaders about the special needs of formerly incarcerated persons. Each attendee will receive a DVD copy of *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith*, which also features the community-use version of **OMAR & PETE**. Mr. William "Pete" Duncan, featured in the film, will also be present to discuss his experiences of incarceration and substance abuse and participate in a panel discussion of how faith-based organizations can provide support to reentering men and women. The event will be held in the Robert and Cheryl Franklin Auditorium on ITC's campus, 700 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive,

Atlanta. To RSVP or to obtain more information, please contact Ms. Dallas Terrell at dterrell@itc.edu or **404.527.7767**.

United Nations Association Film Festival

OMAR & PETE has been selected as a feature film in the 8th United Nations Association Film Festival, **October 19-23, 2005** at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA (Cubberley Auditorium and Annenberg Auditorium). Pre-screenings will be held in East Palo Alto on October 8 and in San Francisco on October 12. Director Tod Lending will be present for the screening at 1:30 p.m. on October 23rd at Stanford.



Established eight years ago, at the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNAFF celebrates the power of films and videos dealing with local and global issues: human rights, environmental survival, women's issues, protection of refugees, homelessness, racism, famine, disease control, universal education, war, and peace. By bringing together filmmakers, the academic community, and the general public, the UNA Film Festival offers a unique opportunity for creative exchange and education among groups and individuals often separated by geography, ethnicity, and economic constraints. Find out more about the festival by visiting www.unaff.org.

OMAR & PETE Screening at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture

On **October 27, 2005 at 7:00 pm**, **The Annie E. Casey Foundation** will host a screening of **OMAR & PETE** at the Lewis Museum, 830 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland. William "Pete" Duncan will be in attendance. This event is free and open to the public. Maryland Public Television will broadcast the film on October 30, 2005 at 10:30 p.m. For more information, please e-mail denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org.



UPCOMING REENTRY CAMPAIGN EVENTS, Continued

On **November 2, 2005**, NAFJ will present *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* at a one-day event entitled “Law Enforcement and the Faith Community Working Together to Promote Justice: A One Day Summit to Build Understanding and Promote Collaboration Between Communities of Faith and Law Enforcement,” hosted by the Washington State Working Group on Race and Reconciliation in Law Enforcement.

The event will be held at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Center in Burien, Washington and is co-sponsored by the WSCJTC, WRICOPS, the King County Sheriff’s Office, CWU-Law and Justice Department and the Washington Working Group. This summit will encourage conversation between law enforcement leaders and members of the faith communities they serve. This will be a time to share ideas, a time to establish new partnerships and, above all, a time to learn the value of collaboration both to protect and to serve our communities. For more information, please contact Addie Richburg at arichburg@bop.gov.

WHUT – Howard University, Washington, DC

WHUT will host the first of two community engagement forums on Prisoner Reentry on Thursday, **November 3, 2005** at 6 p.m. in its broadcast studios on the Howard University campus in Washington, DC. **This event is free and open to the public.** Following a reception, the event will feature screenings of excerpts from *Outside the Walls* and OMAR & PETE, both of which are part of the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. A panel discussion will consider the role of education before, during, and after incarceration and as a fundamental resource for successful reentry into the community. A featured panelist and compelling speaker, William “Pete” Duncan of OMAR AND PETE, will share his experiences with the audience.



WHUT will air OMAR & PETE, which is part of the PBS’ acclaimed P.O.V. series, on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 at 8 p.m.

KLRN/San Antonio, TX

On **December 1, 2005**, KLRN, San Antonio’s public television station, is hosting the last of its six 2005 Reentry Media Campaign events. KLRN’s Lisa McGrath, vice president of education, remarks, “As sponsors of the reentry screenings and community discussions, KLRN and the UTSA College of Public Policy are striving to expand public awareness and dialogue while working with key organizations to strengthen families and neighborhoods.” KLRN’s project fulfills the purpose of the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign – to facilitate discussion and decision making about solution-based reentry programs that foster public safety and support healthy communities.



Reentry Campaign productions featured in the December event will include excerpts from *Outside the Walls* and ROAD TO RETURN in a discussion of “Best Practices that Work!”

KLRN’s event will be held at:

University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), Downtown Campus
501 West Durango Boulevard
Frio Street Building
Sam Riklin Auditorium, FS 1.406

The screening will begin at 7 p.m. and is open to the public.

For more information, visit www.klrn.org/reentry or call 210.270.9000

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS HOST REENTRY CAMPAIGN SCREENINGS

An exceptional variety of organizations has utilized Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign resources over the past two years. Here are two interesting examples:

OMAR & PETE Community Event, Bradford, PA

Gary Ransom, offender employment specialist at the Federal Correctional Institution, McKean (Bradford, Pennsylvania), achieved important outcomes through using information and media resources from the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign.



Offenders and members of F.C.I. McKean's Offender Transition Committee participate in a sneak-preview screening of OMAR & PETE

According to Ransom, *"I have been able to grow my reentry program far beyond the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to meet the growing needs of offenders in transition."* He is most enthusiastic about the OMAR & PETE documentary and viewer discussion guide, calling them *"the most comprehensive and useful outreach tools I have been able to use within the campaign for offenders and communities. This production provided the opportunity for me to engage offenders, community members, and Bureau staff in a series of proactive conversations surrounding the issues raised in the film."*

Ransom used a screening of OMAR & PETE to kick-off McKean's new Re-Entry Initiative and Offender Transition Committee. The screening event was held within McKean's Religious Services Department on August 16, 2005. Local community-based organizations, offenders nearing release, and Bureau staff were invited to participate as a way to extend efforts to strengthen the relationship between offenders and their communities and families. Each community participant was given a copy of the Reentry Campaign's signature film, *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs*, and a packet of reentry related publications. Offender participants were also given packets of information and invited to participate in a screening of *Outside the Walls*.

Ransom reports on the audience response to the screening and what it means for the future of the program: *"I have never had a more positive response from an audience than this one. All program participants were interested in the film and expressed their emotions and opinions openly and honestly during the discussion period following the screening. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response, I believe that this program will become a permanent fixture of our reentry initiative. Community representatives seemed to feed off the inmate comments and expressed an interest in participating in future events with offenders. This film allowed each person to see the many challenges offenders face upon release."*

A key outcome reported by Ransom was securing vital partnerships. *"After participating in this event, community participation and interest in our reentry initiative greatly increased and we were able to form strategic partnerships with the University of Pittsburgh, North Central Workforce Investment Board, Pennsylvania CareerLink, Pennsylvania Department of Public Assistance, and numerous local faith-based organizations."*

The backstory of OMAR & PETE is the Maryland Reentry Partnership, which Ransom found informative. *"As offender employment specialist, I deal with issues of reentry on a daily basis. This film allowed me the opportunity to see how other jurisdictions are dealing with reentry and the effectiveness of their programs."*

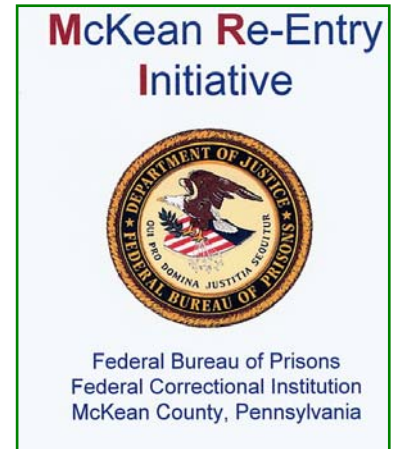
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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS HOST REENTRY CAMPAIGN SCREENINGS, Continued

He also talked about his own views on reentry and the program he is creating. *"I believe that effective reentry programs must involve communities, family, employment, and education. Without community and family support, an offender is more likely to return to the criminal justice system. In an effort to better serve society, offenders, and the criminal justice system, I am in the process of creating a structured reentry program for offenders being housed at our institution that are soon to be released."* He concludes by saying: *"OMAR & PETE was very useful and will remain a permanent part of our reentry library."*

Mr. Ransom as organized an Offender Transition Day, featuring special guest, Mr. Glenn Martin, co-director of the National H.I.R.E. Network on October 26, 2005 at the facility. The event will include a mock job fair and a tour of offender transition programs at McKean. For more information, please contact Gary Ransom at 814.362.8900 or gransom@bop.gov.

As part of his own work on the McKean Re-Entry Initiative, Mr. Ransom co-authored a resource manual, *McKean Inmate Transition Program Resource Guide*, for reentry program administrators. The guide is also useful for formerly incarcerated men and women and features information about workforce sites, housing information, social security benefits, and much more. Mr. Ransom gave permission to the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign to make the guide available on its Web site at <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/additional.htm>. This link also provides access to the Bureau of Prison's *Employment Information Handbook*, prepared by the Inmate Transition Branch.



GETTING OUT Screening, Buffalo, NY

On July 28, 2005, Karima Amin, spokesperson for Buffalo's Circle of Supporters for Reformed Offenders hosted a screening of GETTING OUT as part of her organization's monthly documentary film and speaker series, *Prisoners are People Too!* The purpose of the series is to highlight the challenges facing prisoners reentering their families and communities. The screening, which took place at a local community center, was followed by a panel discussion featuring Veronica Nichols, coordinator of the Community Action Organization's Restorative Justice Program, and Minister Darieck Foster of Second Change Ministries. Guests also appreciated the opportunity for discussion and networking.

Ms. Amin commented: *"I know I'll be using [Reentry Campaign] films again. The discussion guide was very helpful. The film was well done and I was glad to see 'happy endings.'"*

Amin reported that the audience for the screening was diverse – teens, children with parents, teachers, youth workers, community activists, seniors, artists, journalists, entrepreneurs, clergy, and former prisoners. Significantly, many topics presented in the film resonated with audience members. These included:

- Child custody: *"Several women from Paradise Home, a halfway house for women, had much to say about this issue. Some are fighting now to get their children back."*
- Employment: *"Two former offenders showed up with their resumes. Two other individuals present were in a position to take the resumes for possible job openings."*
- Education: *"A group of retired educators expressed a desire to work with former offenders."*

Amin was pleased with the event's success: *"We were able to raise awareness, promote networking, provide prompt referrals, and boost community building and camaraderie."*

REENTRY NEWS AND RESOURCES

In 2006, **Open Society Institute's U.S. Justice Fund** will support individuals through two programs: the Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowships and the Soros Justice Media Fellowships. The program will fund outstanding lawyers, advocates, grassroots organizers, activist academics, journalists, and filmmakers to implement innovative projects that address one or more of the U.S. Justice Fund's criminal justice priorities. Applications for both programs are due on October 14, 2005. Guidelines and application information are now available at: http://www.soros.org/initiatives/justice/focus_areas/justice_fellows

Proposals Solicited for W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship by the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. Deadline: February 1, 2006.

The W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship Program seeks to advance the field of knowledge regarding the confluence of crime, justice, and culture in various societal contexts. The fellowship places particular emphasis on crime, violence, and the administration of justice in diverse cultural contexts. The DuBois Fellowship complements NIJ's other fellowship programs and provides talented researchers early in their professional careers with the opportunity to elevate independently generated research and ideas to the level of national discussion. For more information, visit: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/sl000706.pdf>

Fall Calendar: Occasional Series on Reentry Research at John Jay College

For its Occasional Series on Reentry Research, the Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice presents emerging research on reentry issues with an opportunity to reflect on how the findings can lead to improved policy and practice. The next events in the fall series are the following:

Friday, October 21, 2005: Community Supervision
The event features Amy L. Solomon, senior research associate at the Urban Institute and author of *"Does Parole Work? Analyzing the Impact of Postprison Supervision on Rearrest Outcomes,"* co-written with Vera Kachnowski and Avinash Bhati (March 2005). The discussant is Martin Horn, Commissioner of the New York City Departments of Corrections and Probation and former Corrections Secretary for Pennsylvania.

Thursday, December 8, 2005: Families and Reentry
For the event, Johnna Christian, assistant professor at Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, will present her research on the impact of incarceration and reentry on family members. Discussants include New York Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry, chair of the Corrections Committee, representing the 35th Assembly District in Queens; and Elizabeth Gaynes, executive director of the Osborne Association, a community-based organization in New York City that offers a wide range of educational, employment, treatment, and family services to individuals affected by incarceration.

Both events will take place at 8:30 a.m. in New York City at John Jay College: 899 Tenth Avenue, between 58th and 59th Streets, in Room 630.

Please RSVP to Debbie Mukamal (212.484.1327; dmukamal@jjay.cuny.edu). Download the event flyer at: http://www.njisj.org/pubdocs/red_090805_fall_occasional_series.pdf.

New Report: The Urban Institute Documents Prisoner Reentry in Illinois

New research from the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center documents many facets of prisoner reentry in Illinois, including health, housing, and employment. The research highlights challenges faced by exiting prisoners and offers suggestions for policymakers and service providers looking to improve the success of pre- and post-release programs.

- **Download Returning Home Illinois Policy Brief: Health and Prisoner Reentry** at http://www.njisj.org/pubdocs/red_090805_ui_health_prisoner_reentry.pdf
- **Download Returning Home Illinois Policy Brief: Prisoner Reentry and Residential Mobility** at http://www.njisj.org/pubdocs/red_090805_ui_residential_mobility.pdf
- **Download Returning Home Illinois Policy Brief: Treatment Matching** at http://www.njisj.org/pubdocs/red_090805_ui_treatment_matching.pdf
- **Download Returning Home Illinois Policy Brief: Employment and Prisoner Reentry** at http://www.njisj.org/pubdocs/red_090805_ui_employment.pdf

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REENTRY NEWS AND RESOURCES, Continued

Sentencing Project: Comments and Recommendations on Racial Disparity in Sentencing to the United States Sentencing Commission



The Sentencing Project has submitted a set of recommendations on racial disparity to the United States Sentencing Commission in conjunction with the Commission's request for establishing priority issues for this year's amendment cycle. The recommendations call on the Commission to engage in analysis that builds on the Commission's recent 15-year report, which concluded that sentencing factors outside the federal guidelines "have a greater adverse impact on Black offenders than did the factors taken into account by judges in the discretionary system...prior to guidelines implementation." [Excerpted from OSI Justice News]

[Download the Sentencing Project's comments and recommendations](http://www.sentencingproject.org/pdfs/ussc-2005-6.pdf) at <http://www.sentencingproject.org/pdfs/ussc-2005-6.pdf>.

Also on The Sentencing Project's Web site is *Relief From The Collateral Consequences Of A Criminal Conviction: A State-By-State Resource Guide* (<http://www.sentencingproject.org/rights-restoration.cfm>) by Attorney Margaret Colgate Love. This comprehensive survey describes for each U.S. jurisdiction the laws and practices relating to restoration of rights and obtaining relief from the collateral disabilities and penalties that accompany a criminal conviction. It illustrates the extraordinary variety and complexity of state and federal laws that impose a continuing burden on convicted persons long after the court-imposed sentence has been fully discharged. It is an important resource for policymakers interested in offender reentry and reintegration, for practitioners at all levels of the criminal justice system, and for people with a criminal record who are seeking to put their past behind them.

The resource guide for the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign's ***To Serve This Present Age: Reentering through Faith*** features The Sentencing Project in its Disproportionate Minority Confinement module. The video capitalizes on the black church's growing commitment to play an active role in addressing the substantial impact of crime and imprisonment on families and communities. The goal of the production is capacity building and competency training for clergy and lay leaders. The film is organized around five modules:

- Reentry Support and Mentoring of Formerly Incarcerated Men and Women
- Mentoring Children of Prisoners
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Strengthening Families and Communities
- Disproportionate Minority Confinement



A list of reentry strategies and suggestions for capacity building conclude each module. A Viewer Resource Guide supporting usage of the video is available on the DVD as well as downloadable from the Reentry Campaign Web site. The DVD also includes a seven-minute video overview of the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign and video excerpts from Tod Lending's documentary, *OMAR & PETE*, the story of two African-American men returning to their community following a 30-year cycle of imprisonment and release.

Order a complimentary copy (video or DVD) of ***To Serve This Present Age*** on the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign Web site: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/faith.htm>

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>!

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION AIRS THE BUSINESS OF REENTRY



On **November 17, 2005**, television viewers in Rhode Island will have the opportunity to watch *The*

Business of Reentry, airing on Rhode Island PBS. This public information forum discusses employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated Rhode Islanders. The panel features local economic development, employment and training, community, and business leaders. Part of the ongoing Rhode Island PBS Reentry media outreach initiative, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, this program is presented in partnership with *Making Connections* Providence, Family Life Center, Rhode Island Department of Corrections, and the Roger Williams University School of Justice Studies.

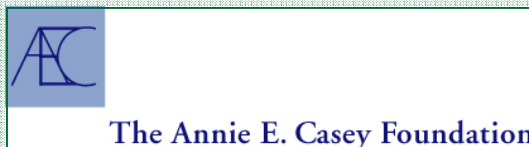
Subject to change before broadcast, the panelists will be:

- Peter Wells, Moderator
- Adelita Orefice – Director, Department of Labor and Training
- Sol Rodriguez – Director, RI Family Life Center
- Ronald Caniglia – Business owner who hires formerly incarcerated employees

For more information about the broadcast, please contact Lucie Houle at lhoule@ripbs.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.



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>).**

For more information, please contact:
Denise Blake, Reentry Project Director
Outreach Extensions
denise@reentrymediaoutreach.org
770.964.5045

Contributing Editor: Anne Llewellyn

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