



REENTRY

National Media Outreach Campaign

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NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH TAPE NOW AVAILABLE!

This month's film offer is **REENTRY: LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE**. The film documents the first-hand accounts of former prisoners who have made the transition from prison to the community, citing their struggles, successes, and failures. In the 50-minute video, a diverse group of formerly incarcerated men and women speak openly and honestly about



post-release issues related to housing, substance abuse, employment, education, and family. In addition, their children provide powerful, moving testimonials that reflect the emotional and psychological trauma they've experienced as a result of their parents' incarceration. The program features in-depth interviews and analysis from educators, practitioners, and program directors on factors that are predictors for relapse, re-offending, and

recidivism. The film was produced by Reentry Productions; Keith Thomas, Executive Director. To apply for the film, please visit the Web site at www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/reentry.htm.

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REENTRY PROGRAM PROFILE – COMMUNITY JAIL LINKAGE COALITION, INC.

The Community-Jail Linkage Coalition, Inc. (CJLC) serves inmates in Miami-Dade's Correctional facilities and after release. Its target population is male and female offenders at high risk for HIV and/or who are HIV-positive or at risk for STDs and other infectious diseases and who reside in and will be released from the Miami-Dade County jail system. The nonprofit CJLC was founded in February 2003 and is dedicated to bringing urgently needed HIV/AIDS and STD prevention, testing, care, and support services to these inmates.



Amazingly, individuals are ten times more likely to be infected by HIV in jail than on the street. Of the estimated 10,000 -15,000 county jail inmates infected with HIV, only about 2,000 are receiving some form of care in the jails, and 30 percent receive no care in the community once they are released. Untreated, they can spread the infection.

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

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REENTRY PROGRAM PROFILE – COMMUNITY JAIL LINKAGE COALITION, INC., Continued

Miami-Dade County has the second highest rate of HIV infection in the nation (an estimated 27,000 cases of HIV/AIDS). For many years the epidemic there has hit minorities the hardest, extending into the local jails. The Miami-Dade County corrections system houses nearly 7,000 people on any given day or 100,000 in a year. The National Institute of Justice, in a report to Congress, stated that 13 to 18 percent of HIV-positive individuals will pass through the Miami-Dade County jails (an estimated 5,000 people).



**John Delgado, President,
CJLC**

Through its program services, CJLC expects a one-third reduction in the rate of HIV infection within the jails through education, the identification of HIV-positive persons through testing, and the prevention of transmission to the community by released inmates by education and links to services within the first year, and an 80 percent reduction over the life of the program.

The Community-Jail Linkage Coalition, Inc. is led by John Delgado, who was himself incarcerated for 13 years. He has emerged as a real-life role model, being named one of Senator Frederica Wilson's 5000 Role Model Mentors, after being out of prison for just six years. Mr. Delgado's current work focuses on empowering at-risk youth and other at-risk populations in order to reduce HIV/AIDS infection rates, STD infection rates, and violence, particularly gang-related incidents.

Self-motivated to learn about HIV/AIDS, John began researching the disease in 1984. By 1992, while in prison, he was working as a medical aide, caring for persons with AIDS in the Lawtey and South Florida Correctional Facilities. In 1996, Mr. Delgado began working as a peer educator in the Lawtey Correctional Facility and by 1997, was transferred to a Dade Correctional Institution to initiate a new program focused on educating inmates about HIV/AIDS and STD's. This program, unlike any other, trained inmates about the diseases so that they could train and educate other inmates.

After John left prison, he went on to work as a health educator and outreach worker at the University of Miami; Positiva, Inc.; Christ Crusaders; and Borinquen Health Care Clinic. A common theme throughout his time working in the HIV/AIDS community has been "doing the outreach no one else wanted to do." John's focus on hard-to-reach populations and his acute understanding of the jail and prison systems make him a natural to continue to work inside correctional facilities. As the single outside entity able to enter South Florida jails to conduct counseling and testing, the Coalition has brought together Miami-Dade County's HIV/AIDS providers with the Department of Corrections Health Services to administer services.

To learn more about the Community-Jail Linkage Coalition and the programs and services offered in South Florida, or to view Mr. Delgado in action in the video, MAKE A DIFFERENCE: SPREAD THE WORD, please visit its Web site at www.cjlc.org.



OMAR & PETE WILL AIR SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 ON PBS!

Omar and Pete are determined to change their lives. Both had been in and out of prison for over thirty years — never out longer than six months. This intimate and penetrating film follows these two long-time friends for several years after what they hope will be their final prison release. In that time, their lives take divergent paths as one wrestles with addiction and fear while the other finds success and freedom through helping others.

Omar was just weeks away from the end of a ten-year prison sentence for armed robbery when Oscar-nominated filmmaker Tod Lending began filming him. At the time, Omar had been drug-free for eight years. He was a devout Muslim and was participating in a new prison release program designed to help long-term recidivists stay out of prison for good. Upon release, the Maryland Reentry Partnership supported Omar with case managers, transitional housing, healthcare, employment assistance, and educational opportunities. Like nine out of 10 men incarcerated in Baltimore, Omar's past crimes were closely tied to his drug addiction.

On the day of his release, Omar reconnects with Pete, a long-time friend, at the transitional house to which he's assigned. Both men had grown up in the same blighted Baltimore neighborhood and struggled with addiction. Pete had been out of prison for ten months and was doing well. Through the Maryland Reentry Partnership, he was managing the transitional house and had a job counseling others at a mental health clinic. When Omar arrives, the two rekindle their friendship, become roommates, and support each other through the transition back into society.

This Reentry Campaign documentary will air September 13, 2005 on PBS' Acclaimed P.O.V. Series (www.pbs.org/pov). Please check local listings for confirmation. OMAR & PETE was produced by Tod Lending, Nomadic Pictures.

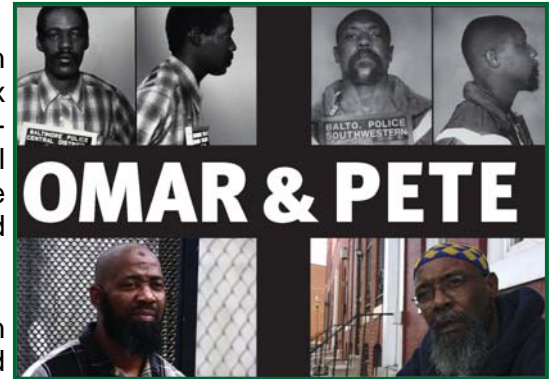
Community screening tapes of OMAR & PETE are still available! Please download the application form on the Reentry Web site. **A usage report MUST be submitted following your outreach activities.** OMAR & PETE is accompanied by a discussion guide featuring remarks from filmmaker Tod Lending; a first-person interview with William "Pete" Duncan; background information on key support organizations, The Maryland Reentry Partnership and Tuerk House; and discussion questions. The application for the film and the discussion guide may be downloaded at <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/r.htm>.

Additional opportunities to participate in local activities for OMAR & PETE include:

- The **12th National TASC Conference on Drugs and Crime** in Cleveland, Ohio, September 11-14, 2005. Acclaimed speakers, workshops, pre-conference training, networking opportunities, and exhibits feature adult, juvenile, and community partnerships to restore individuals in the justice system. The conference is an important vehicle for blending the needs and goals of treatment and criminal justice systems to improve system outcomes and protect public safety. National TASC anticipates 400 people to attend from the criminal justice, treatment, social services, legislative, judicial and research fields.

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign's project director Denise Blake will present a media workshop at the annual conference, and will introduce a premiere screening of the Reentry Campaign documentary, OMAR & PETE. Mr. William "Pete" Duncan, profiled in the film, will share his personal testimony.

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OMAR & PETE WILL AIR SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 ON PBS!, Continued

- **KQED Public Television and East Side Arts Alliance**, Friday, August 26, 2005, 7:00 pm, Oakland, CA screening and discussion. For more information, visit www.eastsideartsalliance.com.



- **The Ephrata Public Library, Ephrata, PA**, will screen OMAR & PETE on August 31st, 2005 at 1 pm. The library will partner with various local organizations, including: TNT Ministries, Ephrata Area High School, and Ten Thousand Villages. They hope the film will spark community dialogue on important issues in their community. For more information, visit www.ephratapubliclibrary.org.

- **The San Diego Public Library** will host a screening and discussion of OMAR & PETE, Sunday, September 4, 2005. For more information, please call the library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Web site at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

- **WSIU, Carbondale, IL** – This local public television station will host a screening and discussion of OMAR & PETE in partnership with the First United Methodist Church of Carbondale and other churches and interfaith organizations. WSIU is engaged in a locally funded outreach project known as, "Reunion: Reconnecting Prisoners and their Families with the Community of Faith." For date and location, contact Beth Spezia at beth.spezia@wsiu.org.

TO SERVE THIS PRESENT AGE: REENTERING THROUGH FAITH DEBUTS IN DALLAS

With over 200 criminal justice professionals, faith-based leaders, and community stakeholders in attendance, on Wednesday morning, July 20, 2005, *To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* was screened by the **National Alliance of Faith and Justice** at the 32nd Annual Conference and Training Institute of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) in Dallas, Texas. *To Serve This Present Age* (video/DVD) was developed by Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign in collaboration with The Annie E. Casey Foundation and the National Alliance of Faith and Justice.



Among the distinguished guests at the debut screening event were Mr. Stephen McFarland, Director of the Taskforce on Faith and Community Based Initiatives, U.S. Department of Justice; Mr. Harley G. Lappin, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons; and Ms. Gwen Chunn, President of the American Correctional Association. Others represented included the Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. Representative, 30th District of Texas; Sheriff Harry Lee, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana; and Rev. Al Lawrence, Ombudsman, Prison Fellowship Ministries. Judy Ravitz, President of Outreach Extensions, offered comments on

the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign and new video/DVD. Joy Thomas Moore, program officer and partner with The Annie E. Casey Foundation, was also on hand, and received an award of appreciation from the National Alliance of Faith and Justice.

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TO SERVE THIS PRESENT AGE: REENTERING THROUGH FAITH DEBUTS IN DALLAS, Continued

To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith 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 need for the video is based on the large numbers of men and women, disproportionately people of color, who are returning home following incarceration. Many seek assistance from houses of worship, which are striving to meet this demand. The goal of the video/DVD is capacity building and competency training for interfaith and interdenominational lay people and clergy.

The production and its accompanying Viewer Resource Guide are 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

Offering specific strategies, the 54-page guide functions as a "call to action," encouraging clergy and lay people to create or strengthen their local ministries or programs to assist former prisoners and their families. Each module provides brief profiles and contact information for organizations and houses of worship presented in the video/DVD, and ends with scriptural references. Additional resources include a glossary of reentry terms, suggested federal funding sources, and a list of national organizations that may be helpful in developing a reentry initiative.



Consistent with the release of *To Serve This Present Age*, NABCJ's president, Mrs. Faye Lassiter, announced that the 2005-2006 national priorities of the organization will be reentry and disproportionate minority confinement, covered on two of the five training modules in the video/DVD.

NABCJ was founded to act upon the needs, concerns, and contributions of African Americans and other people of color as they relate to the administration of equal justice. In January 2001, NABCJ's national president appointed the Reverend Warren Hugh Dolphus as the Chair of the first Religious Affairs Committee for the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice. It was the President's goal to establish a working body of faith within the association that would set a platform in criminal justice issues and decisions. From this concept the Religious Affairs Committee was formed. Renamed in 2005, today the National Alliance of Faith and Justice of NABCJ serves as its training and technical assistance affiliate.

Read more about this project, download the Viewer Resource Guide, and beginning August 15th, view the Dallas debut program on the Reentry Campaign Web site: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/faith.htm>. Videotapes of *To Serve This Present Age* are **available now!** DVD format will be available in September. To order a copy, please visit the [Web site](#).

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>)!

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA and XIARA'S SONG

On Tuesday, July 19th, Reentry Campaign director Denise Blake participated in The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Prisoner Reentry Workshop at the National Council of La Raza's Annual Conference in Philadelphia. The National Council of La Raza is the largest national constituency-based Hispanic organization and the leading voice in Washington, DC for the Hispanic community. It is a private, nonpartisan, tax-exempt organization established to reduce poverty and discrimination and improve life opportunities for Hispanic Americans. Four major functions provide essential focus to the organization's work: capacity-building assistance; applied research, policy analysis, and advocacy; public information efforts; and special and international projects. These functions complement NCLR's work in five key strategic priorities – education, assets/investment, economic mobility, health, and media/image/civil rights.

Founded in 1968, NCLR began as a regional organization concerned primarily with providing grassroots support to Mexican Americans in the Southwest. Headquartered in Washington, DC, NCLR has field offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Phoenix, Sacramento, San Antonio, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Through its community-based efforts, NCLR reaches more than four million Hispanics through a formal network of "affiliates" – more than 300 Hispanic community-based organizations that serve 41 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia – and a broader network of more than 35,000 groups and individuals nationwide.

John Delgado, Executive Director of the Community Jail Linkage Coalition in Miami; Judith McBride from the Family Justice Center's La Bodega de La Familia in New York City; and Julia Medina, Executive Director of Exodus Transition Center, also in New York, participated in the panel discussion of reentry issues, particularly as they affect ethnic minorities, including the U.S. Latino community.

As part of her presentation, Denise Blake screened the orientation video for the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign and discussed the HBO/Cinemax documentary, XIARA'S SONG, recently added to the campaign. The Cinemax Reel Life film, produced by Moxie Firecracker Films, 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 seven-year-old 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.

Read more about the film on the Reentry Web site: www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/xiara. A downloadable companion resource and discussion guide is now available on the Web site in **English and Spanish!** **You can watch XIARA'S SONG on HBO/Latino, September 5, 7, 12, 15, 22, and 30.** Community screening copies of the film will be offered in October.

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.

REENTRY NEWS

New Book: The Center for Community Problem Solving Reentry Guide

For interested individuals in New York, The Center for Community Problem Solving recently published *A Handbook for People Coming Out of Jails and Prisons and for Their Families and Communities*. Responding directly to urgent requests by people facing the challenges of reentry in and around New York City, and shaped by comprehensive interviews of thousands of New Yorkers, The Center for Community Problem Solving Reentry Guide offers a resource that connects those facing problems with those who might help address them. The Reentry Guide targets those coming out of prisons or jails, families and friends of those living with arrest records, service providers hoping to connect with others to stretch their capacity, and funders aiming to invest scarce resources in increasingly effective and accountable problem solving.

The Reentry Guide offers vital information, shares valuable knowledge, and provides sample documents to help diverse people and institutions understand how best to respond to emergency situations and plan for long-range goals. Central to the Reentry Guide are detailed profiles of more than 100 area service providers – including easy-to-follow program descriptions, eligibility requirements, languages spoken, business hours, locations, cross-streets, and directions.

Learn more about the guide, including ordering information, by visiting the Web site at: www.communityproblemsolving.org/publications/index.html.

Vera Director Michael Jacobson discusses "Downsizing Prisons" on public radio

The most recent statistics show the U.S. prison population continues to grow at a steady pace. Vera Institute of Justice Director Michael Jacobson recently talked to WNYC radio about New York City where, in a countertrend, historic drops in crime have been accompanied by declining numbers of people being sent to prison.

[Vera Institute of Justice Web site](#)

[Bureau of Justice statistics](#)

[Listen in to the broadcast \[13.6 MB MP3 audio\]](#)

[Download the World Prison Population List](#)

Excerpted from the *New Jersey Reentry Digest*, www.njisi.org

Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative

The State of Michigan has embarked on a statewide Prisoner ReEntry Initiative to reduce crime and enhance public safety by implementing a seamless system of services for offenders from the time of their entry to prison through their transition, community reintegration, and aftercare in their communities. Organizers of the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative plan to implement a seamless plan of services and supervision developed with each offender, delivered through state and local collaboration, from the time of their entry to prison through their transition, reintegration and aftercare in the community. For more information and MPRI's services please visit www.michigan.gov/reentry.

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REENTRY NEWS, Continued

New Publication – Leaving the Street: Young Fathers Move from Hustling to Legitimate Work



Public/Private Venture's new report *Leaving the Street: Young Fathers Move from Hustling to Legitimate Work*, by Lauren Kotloff, explores employment and hustling among men in **Fathers at Work**, a three-year national demonstration designed to help low-income, noncustodial fathers secure living-wage jobs, increase their involvement with their

children, and manage their child support obligations. As part of P/PV's evaluation of the initiative, researchers undertook an in-depth interview study. When they learned that more than three quarters of all **Fathers at Work** participants had been convicted of a crime, they focused the interview study on 27 men who had relied on "hustling" – primarily selling drugs, but also other illegal activities – as a source of income. The report describes how the men became involved in hustling and what led them to seek alternatives. Participants' hustling and work experiences are detailed, with four distinct patterns emerging; researchers found that these patterns appeared to influence early employment outcomes. The report closes with a look at the ongoing challenges faced by the men, and recommendations for programs working with similar populations.

Access the report at: http://www.ppv.org/ppv/workforce_development/workforce_development_publications.asp?section_id=5#pub183

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

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.