



# REENTRY

National Media Outreach Campaign

Volume II, Issue VI

December 2004



## PBS'S READING RAINBOW ADDRESSES CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS



Reading Rainbow, hosted by LeVar Burton, is a critically-acclaimed award-winning half-hour PBS series that turns children on to books and reading. The series targets 4-8 year olds, and is based on research that identifies these early years as the optimum time for children to learn to read, and to adopt positive reading habits, skills, and attitudes.

A new episode of Reading Rainbow, **"Visiting Day"** (Episode #146), will air on December 15, 2004 and again on January 17, 2005 (check your local PBS listings for date and time). In this episode, LeVar introduces a family separated by a prison sentence. The viewing audiences join the family for visiting day and find out what life is like for kids when a parent is incarcerated and what it's like for a parent who can't be at home with his family. Reading Rainbow plans to create a teacher's guide with discussion questions to accompany the show. This episode provides a special opportunity for current participants in the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign to engage 4 – 8 year-old children and their parents and caregivers. Please visit the Reentry Web site after December 15 for more information on Reading Rainbow's **"Visiting Day."**

### Helping Kids Prepare for School

Having an interest in books, reading, the world, and learning is key to success in school. Reading Rainbow motivates children to read, introduces them to new experiences, teaches respect for others, and helps them develop a positive self-concept. It also reinforces the fundamentals of literacy – comprehension, grasping the main idea, predicting the outcome, comparing and contrasting, extending the story to other experiences, summarizing, sequencing, organizing information, and using descriptive language.

Reading Rainbow's dynamic, fast-paced, magazine-style format features on-location adventures, colorful animation, and hip music videos. Popular personalities, including Bill Cosby, Tyne Daly, and Whoopi Goldberg, narrate the program's feature book, while captivating illustrations appear on-screen. "Kid-on-the-street" interviews allow real kids to sound off about issues, and in every episode kids the age of viewers recommend three additional books to read.

In July 1983 Reading Rainbow premiered as a summer television series with the intent to promote reading during non-school months. By 1990 the series moved to year around broadcast and, presently, each of the 139 episodes air about twice a year. Over the years, Reading Rainbow has expanded its scope of topics and issues while keeping the joy of reading at the center of its message. Some of these episodes explore science and math, while others include social issues such as homelessness, the Vietnam Memorial, music of slavery, and youngsters talking about gangs and their community of Watts.

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

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## READING RAINBOW, Continued

Reading Rainbow has been recognized with over 150 awards: 18 Emmys (seven for "Outstanding Children's Series"), a prestigious Peabody, eight CINE Golden Eagles, seven Parent's Choice Awards, and three international Prix Jeunesse Awards. In a more personal way, the series' impact is acknowledged by the actions of children. Librarians and booksellers report that books featured on episodes receive enormous requests and quickly become "classics" in kids' personal libraries; and young children often ask for books seen on Reading Rainbow by title and sometimes even by author.

A Reentry Campaign resource, "**Children Left Behind**" also deals with children and families. Produced by David Freudberg, part one of the 59-minute audio documentary provides background information on issues related to children whose parents are incarcerated. In the second part, Freudberg looks at programs trying to reach out to this vulnerable population of children left behind. The program was distributed by Public Radio International and National Public Radio. Hear the full documentary on the Human Media Web site at [www.humanmedia.org/children](http://www.humanmedia.org/children). Outreach Extensions has developed a companion guide in collaboration with the Federal Resource Center for Children of Prisoners. The guide can be found on the Reentry Web site ([www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/leftbehind](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/leftbehind)).



You can explore other Reentry Campaign programs dealing with issues of family on the Reentry Web site: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/links.htm>.

The following books can be used in conjunction with Reading Rainbow's "**Visiting Day**."

### VISITING DAY

by Jacqueline Woodson, James Ransome

*Editorial Review From Publishers Weekly*  
This poignant picture book chronicles a joyful girl narrator's hard-to-bear anticipation and special preparations for a journey with her grandmother to see her father. Both text and artwork keep the destination a mystery, wisely focusing instead on the excitement of the upcoming reunion. As Woodson's (The Other Side) rhythmic prose, punctuated by the refrain ("only on visiting day"), builds a sense of expectation, Ransome (Satchel Paige), too, underscores the build-up. Wordless spreads depict Grandma fixing the narrator's hair and the pair climbing aboard the bus. Meanwhile, the girl imagines her father making his own preparations. Ransome portrays a handsome man in khaki shirt and slacks; a calendar on the wall marks the days to his daughter's visit, hanging next to her artwork accented with red hearts. Ultimately, "the bus pulls up in front of a big old building where, as Grandma puts it, Daddy is doing a little time." Ransome shows barbed-wire atop high walls and a guard tower in stern relief against a perfect blue sky. Throughout, he uses a radiant, rich, marine blue (the bus's accents, the girl's dress and a prison guard's uniform) to contrast freedom and captivity. Told completely from a child's perspective, the narrative makes no judgment about what Daddy did or why he's incarcerated. A shared feeling of hope and family togetherness pervades each spread, from Grandma cooking fried chicken in the morning for the



bus ride, to the narrator sitting down with crayons when she gets home to make Daddy more pictures. Any child who has been separated from a loved one can identify with the feelings of this winning heroine.

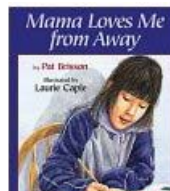
Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc., Ages 4-8

### MAMA LOVES ME FROM AWAY

by Pat Brisson, Laurie Caple

#### Kirkus Reviews

Separated by a prison sentence, a child and her mother find ways to stay connected in this affecting story. Sugar and Mama are extremely close. They share the same birthday and love to spend time together telling stories. But life takes an unexpected turn when Mama is incarcerated-Brisson doesn't give details, but all readers need to know is revealed in Sugar's eyes.



Copyright 2004 Boyds Mills Press, Ages 4-8

### LET'S TALK ABOUT WHEN YOUR PARENT IS IN JAIL

By Maureen K. Wittbold

This book offers well organized, truthful (not sugar coated), and easy to understand explanations about the various aspects of having a parent in jail. The book even mentions how sometimes children go to live in a foster home when their parent is in jail. Addressing such a difficult topic in a way that young children can understand is commendable.



Copyright 1998 Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., Ages 8—11

## Thirteen/WNET Hosts Screening for ROAD TO RETURN

Thirteen's outreach department hosted a very successful event on November 11, 2004 in its studios. Over 150 people attended the screening of ROAD TO RETURN, a film that examines the difficulties of reentering society after a period of incarceration. Lack of education is considered to be one of the primary causes of recidivism, and event outreach partner Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prisons is dedicated to providing inmates with opportunities for educational advancement while serving their sentences.

In addition to screening the film and introducing attendees to Thirteen's outreach offerings, participants also had the opportunity to sponsor Hudson Link students to receive courses, textbooks, and other items necessary for their continuing education.



A full house at WNET's screening

A panel discussion followed the screening, featuring Superintendent Brian Fischer of Sing Sing Correctional Facility; Sean Pica, a masters graduate of the Hudson Link program; Vivian Nixon, executive director of College and Community Fellowship; and Julio Medina, executive director of Exodus Transitional Community. Pica, Nixon, and Medina, all of whom were formerly incarcerated, have benefited greatly from their opportunities for higher education.

All are now engaged in providing service and guidance to other reentering adults. Superintendent Fischer is deeply committed to providing educational opportunities to the inmates of Sing Sing.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation to philanthropist Doris Buffett, sister of Warren Buffett, who is a great supporter of Hudson Link. The current class of Hudson Link created a beautiful thank you card to acknowledge her support in providing them with educational opportunities.



Philanthropist Doris Buffett

Finally, this event generated interest among attendees in creating and/or participating in additional screening events in the future, providing opportunities to further establish Thirteen as an active presence in the community.

Thirteen will participate in the first annual open house for the Women in Prison Project of the New York Correctional Association. The program includes a screening of WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO YOU, followed by speakers who include formerly incarcerated women featured in the film as well as producer Judith Katz. The open house will take place from 12-5 p.m. on Saturday, December 18th, with the screening beginning at 3:00. The event will be held at New York Open Center, 83 Spring Street, New York, NY. For more information, or to attend, contact Annalisa Loeffler at 212.560.6816 or [loeffler@thirteen.org](mailto:loeffler@thirteen.org).

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## OUTREACH EXTENSIONS ADDRESS THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK MAYORS IN FT. LAUDERDALE

On Friday, December 10th, Outreach Extensions will present the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign at the 17th Annual Leadership Institute for Mayors, hosted by the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM). The Leadership Institute for Mayors is a three and one-half day series of training sessions on various aspects of municipal administration. It helps prepare newly elected mayors for their role as chief executives, and provides in-service training for sitting mayors. Course offerings range from leadership development to waste management.

The Leadership Institute has four main objectives:

- To provide mayors with a mechanism to exchange ideas and interface with experts on municipal administration;
- To improve mayors' capability to analyze needs and resources in order to solve problems;
- To assist mayors in aligning resources and service delivery to achieve maximum community benefit; and
- To improve knowledge and skills in governmental processes and management.

This year, in response to requests from participating mayors, NCBM is hosting a workshop on prisoner reentry. Reentry Media Campaign Director Denise Blake will be joined by Amy Solomon, The Urban Institute; Eddie Rosario, Fifth Avenue Committee; and Michelle Light from the Chicago Mayor's Office to discuss reentry strategies in the 21st century. The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign will provide copies of the *Outside the Walls* DVD ([www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/video.htm](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/video.htm)) as well as materials outlining the entire campaign.

## REENTRY NATIONAL MEDIA OUTREACH CAMPAIGN IS PRESENTED AT WOMEN WORKING IN CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Outreach Extensions presented a workshop entitled *Using Media to Frame the Reentry Dialogue* at the 10<sup>th</sup> national conference of Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice (WWIC/JJ) on November 2, 2004. The theme of the conference, held in Baltimore, was *Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Envisioning the Future*. Almost 1,000 corrections and juvenile justice professionals from around the country attended.



Secretary Mary Ann Saar, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Corrections, opened the conference with a welcome and address, followed by the keynote address by Major Elaine White of the Hillsborough County, Florida, Sheriff's Office. Maryland's First Lady, Kendel Ehrlich, featured speaker at the Monday, November 1, breakfast meeting, spoke on the topic of "*Women in Leadership Positions - How Women Can Achieve Success through Focus and Time Management.*"

Other featured speakers included Suanne Cunningham, Vice President and National Director, Corrections/Criminal Justice Program, Heery International; Patricia Caruso, Director, Michigan Division of Correction; Gwendolyn C. Chunn, President of the American Correctional Association; and Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Presiding Prelate, 13th Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church and first female AME bishop.

The conference featured a myriad of workshops with topics ranging from correctional leadership, program strategies, personal growth, and wellness. Outreach Extensions' workshop, presented by reentry project director Denise Blake, drew participants from around the country who viewed video clips from *Outside the Walls (OTW)*, *PRISON LULLABIES*, *GIRL TROUBLE*, and *WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO TO YOU*. Attendees received copies of the *OTW* DVD, the campaign production pipeline, a one-sheet handout describing the campaign, and samples of the resource guides that accompany films in the campaign. Interested participants signed up to receive the Reentry Campaign E-Newsletter.

Outreach Extensions (OE) invited Maryland Public Television's (MPT) outreach director Faith Michel to attend the workshop and give a presentation on MPT's statewide reentry media project. Faith described the role of public television stations in campaigns such as the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign as well as talked about the roles of community partners and local stakeholders in offering, utilizing, and distributing key resources. OE provided Faith with the names of the Maryland workshop participants to add to MPT's database for invitations to events and other local information alerts.

In attendance at OE's workshop was Pat O'Brien, professional development specialist for the **American Correctional Association (ACA)**. Ms. O'Brien invited Outreach Extensions to present a similar workshop at ACA's summer Congress of Correction on August 6 – 11, 2005, in Baltimore. The oldest and largest international correctional association in the world, ACA serves all disciplines within the corrections profession. Areas of focus and resources include professional development and certification, standards and accreditation, government and public affairs, research, and publications.

The Congress theme, *Building Alliances for a Stronger Voice in Corrections*, will serve as the central focus for the many workshops and sessions that will take place during the week. Some of the sessions already planned include Continued Professionalism in the Correctional Workforce; Customized Approaches in Juvenile Justice; Jails: The Front Door of the System; Reentry Begins at Entry; and Correctional Health Care is Public Health Care. For more information on this important upcoming conference, visit ACA's Web site: [www.aca.org](http://www.aca.org).

## NEW REENTRY CAMPAIGN FILM: *THE CENTER FOR YOUNG WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT*

Founded in 1993 in San Francisco, the Center for Young Women's Development (CYWD) is one of the nation's first youth-run social service organizations. The young women served by the organization assume responsibility for its direction. Adults no longer make decisions affecting young women of color without their input. The success of this model means that young women of color who were formerly incarcerated, working in street economies, who may or may not be in school, can be leaders, policymakers, researchers, employers, and activists – people who turn their ideas into new solutions to old problems.

CYWD was originally featured in the Reentry Campaign documentary *GIRL TROUBLE*, which takes a critical look at why current strategies are failing young women in the juvenile justice system. Filmed over a four year period, *GIRL TROUBLE* follows three teenage girls who are caught up in San Francisco's juvenile justice system. The film is produced by Critical Images Inc. in association with Independent Television Service and KQED Public Television, San Francisco. *GIRL TROUBLE* will air on PBS in 2005. A discussion guide for *GIRL TROUBLE* can be found on the Reentry Web site:



CYWD Executive  
Director, Lateefah  
Simon

[www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/qt.htm](http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/qt.htm).

To create *The Center for Young Women's Development*, which can stand on its own or as a companion to *GIRL TROUBLE*, Outreach Extensions worked with D.R. Lynes & Associates to develop a 15-minute film about CYWD. Its staff, all women under the age of 27, many of whom moved up through the program into leadership roles, provide services in four areas:

- *Health* – Physical, mental, and spiritual health services help women who have experienced domestic violence, assault, rape, emotional abuse, addiction, and other traumatic life events and health challenges. Services range from traditional counseling to alternative medicine, to self-defense classes.
- *Critical Thinking* – Young women develop the skills they need to come to terms with their own experiences, understand them in the larger context of our society, and take responsibility for how they choose to respond. Education methods include social biography, civic engagement activities, attending city commission and board meetings, political education, policy work, and other activities.
- *Community Building* – Rather than encouraging young women to escape their circumstances, CYWD helps them re-invest in their own communities by being involved and working for social justice. Activities include street outreach, organizing campaigns, conferences, trainings, social activities, and service projects.
- *Skills Development* – Training in literacy, math skills, job etiquette, personal economic strategies, resumes, interview skills, self-expression, assertiveness, and conflict resolution helps women become self-sufficient.

All of CYWD's services are based on women using their own experiences as the basis of their learning, on integrating all four of the areas listed above, and on bringing each of the four elements to young women in a manner appropriate to their particular situations.

CYWD works with young women in juvenile hall, on the streets, and on-site. They provide referrals and "street law" training, while also engaging in conversations with young women about the circumstances that led them to the streets. Peers share their own stories, offering a credibility that others do not possess. CYWD provides a place to heal and to experience a strong sense of sisterhood while providing the support, information, and skill-building that help young women get through difficult times and become positive change agents in their communities.

You can view the entire film and download the accompanying viewers guide on the Reentry Web site: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/qt.htm>. A tape offer for community organizations will be announced in a separate email alert. For more information on the San Francisco based Center for Young Women's Development, please visit its Web site at [www.cywd.org](http://www.cywd.org).

## A VIEW FROM THE TOP: One Ex-Offender's Perspective on Reentry

By Anthony Scott Washington



As a former crack addict, felony offender, and common street criminal who currently works as a staff attorney in the Montgomery County (Ohio) Common Pleas Court, I have a very unique perspective as to the criminal justice system; and more personally, the obstacles that confront the ex-offender upon release from incarceration. Not only has my own reentry into mainstream America been a difficult task (including but not limited to my application to sit for the Ohio Bar Exam – denied twice before final approval July of 2004), my current involvement in ex-offender reentry advocacy has illuminated the overwhelming need for reform. Clearly, the ex-offender's road to economic self-sufficiency and full community participation is long and arduous.

In my case, my recovery and rehabilitation was aided by my participation in 12-step programs such as AA, NA, and CA religiously for more than seven years. I still live by the principles and traditions that were born in AA. For instance, I have become a mentor for several ex-offenders here in the Miami Valley (Dayton Metropolitan area). So, I am constantly working with individuals who are on the road to recovery from drug addiction and/or rehabilitation from lifestyles of criminality and incarceration.

Equally important in turning my life around was my enrollment in junior college. I remained enrolled in school for the next 12 years. See, I contend that years of street life (e.g., drug addiction and habitual criminal behavior) leads to the deterioration of one's ability to reason and an inability to make the correct decisions at key moments in one's life (e.g., when one decides to commit a crime). I argue that education rebuilds an individual's ability to reason. What one learns throughout the educational process is how to think critically. An educated person is far more likely to make decisions based on logic and reason and not emotion or happenstance. This is why educational training is so important. We need to teach/coach/mentor our ex-offenders in the value of education and how available it is. I have found that, more often than not, individuals that have led lives of crime have no clue how easy it really is to just "go to school." Once an individual discovers that doing school is far easier than street life, it is not difficult to convince him/her that education is the most concrete mechanism for escaping a dysfunctional lifestyle.

I am currently Chair of the Ex-Offender Discernment Team, an advisory board for Workplace ReConnections. Located in Dayton, Ohio, Workplace ReConnections is a grass-roots nondenominational faith-based community service organization whose primary purpose is to offer guidance to those that are experiencing hardship in making the transition from a lifestyle of criminality and incarceration to a more productive crime free life. In addition, I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, also in Dayton. My commitment to ex-offender reentry is clear and unwavering.

During the 1980's, lawmakers began to enact policies that were designed to be "tough on crime." As a result of these policies, we have seen an exponential increase in the prison population in this country. Somewhere around 2.17 million individuals are incarcerated in the United States. Over 600,000 of them are released into our communities every year. Over the past two decades, we have incarcerated individuals for violent offenses, for property crimes, but for the most part, for non-violent drug offenses. Importantly, non-violent drug offenders, in general, do not serve life sentences. In fact, the vast majority of those incarcerated are ultimately released back into the community. As a result of the "get tough on crime" approach to criminal justice, the new millennium has seen an abundance of released ex-offenders re-entering our communities.

Today, our nation's prison population is literally bursting at its seams. Unfortunately, the demographic profile of our prison population is overwhelmingly minority and poor. Equally disturbing is the deteriorating conditions of disenfranchised neighborhoods across the country. One factor that must be considered when discussing our disenfranchised communities is the over reliance on incarceration as a method to prevent or deter drug use and addiction, as well as the nonviolent criminal conduct that accompanies drug abuse and addiction. These conditions are the residual and rippling effect of current criminal justice policies.

Efforts to reverse recidivism rates must attack the foundation upon which community disenfranchisement rests. The common thread that runs through disenfranchised neighborhoods and this nation's penal institutions is a lack of educational attainment. This phenomenon is fostered by the fact that our prisons are bulging with inmates who overwhelmingly come from the disenfranchised neighborhoods of this country. More importantly, a significant number of our incarcerated and ex-offenders returning to the community are illiterate or functioning at a near illiterate level. As such, educational attainment is the key to attacking this phenomenon.

*Continued on Page 7*

## JUSTICE SUNDAY

Outreach Extensions is working in collaboration with the National Religious Affairs Association (NRAA) of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) to support Justice Sunday. In addition to supporting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, the NRAA has launched **Justice Sunday** to honor Dr. King as a preacher and for his unselfish acts of service for the *Beloved Community*. Now in its fifth year, Justice Sunday 2005 events will be held on January 16, 2005. Justice Sunday efforts continue to increase volunteerism, tackling some of our country's most pressing issues related to crime and its consequences. The annual theme, **A Charge To Keep We Have: Service Before and Beyond**, is a call to action, mobilizing thousands of diverse community and faith-based volunteers who pledge acts of service on the day before the King holiday.



In keeping with the primary goals of the NRAA, Justice Sunday is designed to inspire increased dedication and new initiatives to engage and mobilize the faith community to work in the criminal justice arena. The Justice Sunday 2004 event reached its goal as 19 denominations reported the mobilization of more than 2,500 volunteers as mentors of children whose parents are incarcerated. The NRAA has chosen specific sites around the country in which to sponsor Justice Sunday service projects in NABCJ chapters. Each will partner with agencies, schools, churches, and organizations to conduct efforts in their local communities.

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## A VIEW FROM THE TOP, Continued

Education empowers recently released ex-offenders to reenter the workforce as valued and respected employees. We should address the issue of recidivism through this unique and progressive approach. Importantly, we should fund educational training programs. Educational training does not instruct the ex-offender in reading, writing, or arithmetic or any other academic discipline. Rather, educational training teaches the client how to excel as a student. My philosophy is that intellectual prowess has very little to do with becoming a successful student. [I am proof of that]. More significant than raw intellectual capacity for the vast majority of students who ultimately graduate and advance to successful careers is an understanding of how the educational system in this country operates.

A legitimate educational training program will stress encouragement and empowerment, never a message of incompetence. The program should promote confidence since much of success stems from a sense of confidence. In the short term, the goal of educational training is to provide a vehicle by which the ex-offender can become a successful student, a valued and respected employee, and thus, a well-appreciated member of the community. The long term goal is to turn around the lives of as many ex-offenders as possible. I currently offer educational training to men and women that I mentor at Workplace ReConnections.

As we proceed into the new millennium, criminal justice policy must be enacted that presents strategies for addressing social pathology without stripping our communities of their most valued resource – its people. In addition, the criminal justice approach to drug use and addiction should be abandoned and replaced with a public health approach that promotes prevention and recovery. It is imperative that our children have families that are available to them to instill a sense of family solidarity and values that were once the anchor of the community. We must re-invest in our children by passing legislation that promotes family togetherness. Our drug policy must focus on prevention and recovery so we can begin to build, or in many cases, rebuild our families, neighborhoods, and communities. For more information, Anthony Scott Washington can be reached at [washinga@montcourt.org](mailto:washinga@montcourt.org).

More information about Justice Sunday service projects can be found on NABCJ's Web site beginning in early January 2005 ([www.nabcj.org](http://www.nabcj.org)).

As referenced in the October 2004 Reentry e-newsletter, **To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith** represents a collaboration of The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, and the NABCJ/NRAA. This essential video resource for faith and lay leaders supports the work of the National Black Church Taskforce Initiative on Crime and Criminal Justice, a multi-year initiative of NRAA/NABCJ.

Available in spring 2005, this instructional video will capitalize on the black church's growing awareness of the significant impact of crime and imprisonment on their families and communities and the active role they need to play. This vital resource will supplement existing training conducted by the NRAA to provide an introduction and orientation to the following reentry issues facing formerly incarcerated men and women.

- Reentry and Mentoring of Offenders
- Strengthening Marriages and Families
- Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents
- Disproportionate Minority Confinement, Disenfranchisement, and Detention Reform
- Public Education, Training, and Civic Participation

Read more about this project and view the promo video on the Reentry Campaign Web site: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/faith.htm>.

## DPTV/DETROIT WRAPS UP 2004 REENTRY EVENTS



**Detroit  
Public Television**

Detroit Public Television (DPTV) will host its final 2004 Reentry community event on December 2, 2004 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Margrove College in Detroit. The event will feature segments of the Reentry Campaign's *Outside the Walls*, in addition to excerpts from campaign documentaries MANHOOD & VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL and WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO TO YOU. *Outside the Walls* looks at programs around the country that confront the problem of recidivism and take effective steps to reduce it. In addition to staff and partners of the various reentry programs, diverse viewpoints are presented, including individuals who were formerly incarcerated, crime victims and their advocates, as well as policy makers, parole and probation departments, departments of correction, government agencies, and community leaders. For more details on the event, visit [www.detroitpublictv.org/reentry](http://www.detroitpublictv.org/reentry) or contact Tim Rimer at [trimer@dptv.org](mailto:trimer@dptv.org).

### Event Details

December 2, 2004  
7:00 – 9:00 pm  
Margrove College  
Conference Center -  
Main Dining Room  
8425 W. McNichols Rd  
Detroit, MI 48221

DPTV has hosted four additional Reentry campaign screenings/discussion events this year. On September 30, Wayne State University and DPTV hosted an event around the feature film ONE DOWN and the Reentry Campaign documentary GETTING OUT. A panel discussion on prisoner reentry was moderated by criminologist Professor Stuart Henry, chair of WSU's Department of Interdisciplinary Studies.

On October 21, for an event at the University of Detroit/Mercy, DPTV worked with Professor Robert J. Homant, to host a screening of MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL. Sixty students in social work, criminal justice, and/or psychology were on hand for the screening and follow-up discussion.

The third screening/discussion event for A JUSTICE THAT HEALS took place at the Capuchin Monastery near downtown Detroit on October 28, 2004. Filmmaker Jay Shefsky and Steve Young, father of the murder victim in the film, attended. The discussion was facilitated by Fr. Tim Kane. Not far from the Monastery, the Capuchin Fathers maintain a halfway house for former prisoners.

On Monday, November 8, 2004, Detroit Public Television presented its fourth event, a focus group and panel discussion of the new documentary OMAR AND PETE from Emmy award-winning filmmaker Tod Lending. The screening was held at the Schoolcraft College Radcliff Center in Garden City, Michigan. Approximately 65 students from the departments of social work, criminal justice, and psychology attended the screening. Clarise Stovall, warden of a local prison, served as moderator of the panel. In addition, Robert Pearce, a professor of criminal justice at Schoolcraft, participated as a panelist along with additional Schoolcraft faculty and professionals working in the reentry field.

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>).**



The Annie E. Casey Foundation

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

*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>)!*