



REENTRY

National Media Outreach Campaign

Volume II, Issue V

October 2004



Indianapolis' WFYI Hosts Reentry Event

Public television station WFYI hosted a successful event entitled *Family Preservation* on September 8, 2004, at the Indiana Women's Prison, the oldest women's prison in the U.S. The event, which attracted 75 community members, was part of the station's participation in the Reentry Media Outreach Campaign. Key speakers focused on family preservation programs for women who are incarcerated or were formerly incarcerated. People in attendance included human service workers, pediatric residents from the University of Indiana, adult probation officers, college professors, undergraduate students, youth workers, Head Start program directors, and others who are engaged in issues and programs related to the incarceration and release of women as well as the care of their children. Evelyn Ridley-Turner, the state's corrections commissioner, was present.

The event began with a presentation by Dana Blank, superintendent of the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP). A proponent of creating environments that are gender specific, Dana is a strong believer in prison programs that protect the motherhood status of female prisoners. An example is its Family Preservation Program, which was named by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care as its Program of the Year in 2003. Conceived by Dana, the program is a vast network of multidisciplinary services, both in the prison and outside, geared toward fostering healthy families. One component allows children to visit their mothers in prison. Dana spoke to attendees about the varied needs of the diverse population of women prisoners, and how IWP differs from men's prisons.

Attendees then watched a brief clip of the Reentry Campaign documentary PRISON LULLABIES, produced and directed by Odile Isralson and Lina Matta, Brown Hats Productions. Janet Schadee, who directs the Family Preservation Program, spoke briefly and then introduced Arlene Lee, director of the Federal Resource Center for Children of Prisoners, Child Welfare League of America. Arlene offered a national perspective on women in prison and presented data on what happens to children whose mothers are incarcerated.

Each of WFYI's community partners introduced the services it provides. Mentoring Children of Promise described its mentoring services for children of prisoners, including mothers incarcerated at the Indiana Women's Prison. One mother who was present expressed her gratitude for how much this organization was helping her children. Because her children have someone to talk with about emotional and other issues they face, their grades have improved significantly. According to WFYI's Gail Thomas Strong, the woman's first-person account of what Mentoring Children of Promise has done for her family was one of the most inspirational parts of the event.

Craine House, which offers residential programs and transitional services to formerly incarcerated women and their children, reported that 85 percent of its female clients do not return to prison after completing its programs. Volunteers of America talked about its new 80-bed facility, Theodora House, which provides mental health services for women and a place for children to stay with their mothers overnight.

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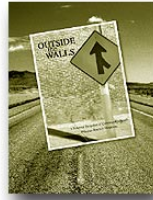
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For more information, or to sign up for the Reentry bi-monthly e-newsletter, please contact:

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The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign is now offering *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs* in DVD format. The DVD offers the full 2½-hour video as well as the 200 page resource guide. The DVD helps users to understand the issues surrounding reentry and the relevance to public policy, as well as to learn about and replicate program practices.



The resource guide contains briefing papers on the six reentry categories – education and employment, health, housing, family, public safety, and faith – as well as profiles 100 reentry programs. The broad array of reentry activity from across the country illustrates some of the exciting ways that communities and jurisdictions are beginning to think, work, and collaborate around the pressing issue of prisoner reentry.

Produced by D. R. Lynes, Inc. in collaboration with Outreach Extensions, the *Outside the Walls* videotape highlights 23 reentry programs. Profiles of each program describe its services, highlight partnerships, and provide outcomes that document why the program is effective. 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 policymakers, parole and probation departments, departments of correction,

government agencies, and community leaders. Strategic partners and advisors included the Urban Institute, Council of State Governments, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and a Faith Advisory Council. Transcripts of the video as well as the companion resource guide are housed on the Reentry Web site (www.reentrymediaoutreach.org).

Local organizations, formerly incarcerated adults and youth, reentry service providers, college and university educators, faith-based groups, and law enforcement and corrections professionals can easily order either the VHS or DVD versions of *Outside the Walls* on the Reentry Campaign Web site: www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/otworder.htm. For your convenience, a usage report form is included with each order. This form must be returned to Outreach Extensions describing how *Outside the Walls* was used in your work.

Reentry Conference in Indianapolis -- WHEN IS THE DEBT PAID?

New to the reentry dialogue, a national conference entitled *WHEN IS THE DEBT PAID?* will be held October 28, 2004 in Indianapolis, IN. Hosted by Christamore House and Westside Weed & Seed, the conference will address perceptions and practices related to how and when formerly incarcerated men and women are considered to have paid their debts to society. Plenaries and breakout sessions will include employment and education issues, housing rules, sealing and clearing of records, and responsibilities of formerly incarcerated individuals. Adults and youth who were formerly incarcerated, along with policy leaders and reentry program staff will be on hand to participate in a closing session. Bilingual services will be provided.

Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign materials will be made available for conference participants including copies of the *Outside the Walls* video. Clips from additional campaign documentaries may also be shown during the event. For more information on this conference, contact Christamore House at 317-635-7211 or executive director Olgen Williams at OWilliams@christamorehouse.com. Westside Weed & Seed may be contacted at indywesco@aol.com.

Established in 1905, Christamore House has been a red brick fixture at the corner of Tremont and Michigan since 1925. Much has changed in Indianapolis since then, but the abiding mission of Christamore House – to serve the ever-changing needs of its community – has not altered. From the beginning, a primary goal was to help people live full and productive lives, not to merely dispense charity. The center welcomes everyone in every stage of life – from preschoolers to children and teens to senior citizens – providing education, recreation, service, and respite. Westside Weed & Seed is a model site for the U.S. Department of Justice's Operation Weed & Seed, a community-based, multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration.

OMAR AND PETE

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign will soon begin organizing local screenings of *OMAR AND PETE*, a newly completed documentary by Academy Award® nominated and national Emmy award-winning filmmaker Tod Lending,



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 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 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.

On the day of his release, Omar reconnects with Pete, a long-time friend, at the transitional house to which he's been 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 Program, which was also helping Omar, 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.

OMAR AND PETE provides a rare glimpse into an intense and very personal web of support. Case managers, many of them former addicts and former prisoners, dedicate themselves to the mission of redemption. This honest and unflinching portrait shows how challenging life on the outside can be for men who have lived much of their lives behind bars. It is a story of what can happen when support is offered – and accepted. And it reveals that no matter how much support is given, pride, pain, and fear are the demons that every man must face in himself.

For more information on *OMAR AND PETE*, please visit www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/r. Community screening opportunities will be announced shortly!

Over the past several months, Outreach Extensions has collaborated with the National Religious Affairs Association (NRAA), an affiliate of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, to develop and disseminate effective, meaningful reentry training tools for clergy and laypersons. The NRAA has embarked on a National Reentry Initiative to respond to the needs of the Black Church with regard to reentry and to engage them in training, organizing, and mobilizing efforts to deal with the consequences of crime and reentry on the family and community.

Five topics have been identified by the NRAA as particularly important:

- ✦ Reentry and Mentoring Offenders
- ✦ Mentoring Children of Offenders
- ✦ Racial Disparity/Disproportionate Minority Confinement/ Detention Reform
- ✦ Public Education, Training, and Civic Participation
- ✦ Strengthening Marriages and Families

These five topics are the focus of a one-hour training video that is currently in production as part of the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. Offering ideas for local replication, the video will include interviews and comments from experts in the field of criminal justice and “how-to’s” from faith-based practitioners engaged in creative ministries to address reentry challenges. The video will help clergy and laypersons to understand how all the different elements of crime and criminal justice interconnect and the domino effect they have on congregations, victims, families, and communities.

Reentry Campaign participants can now preview the eight-minute promo for the clergy training video on the Reentry Web site: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/faith.htm>. The complete video will be available for distribution next spring. Check back often! Additional faith-based reentry training materials will continually be added to this section of the site.

Maryland Public Television (MPT) Launches Statewide Reentry Project



Navigating the Road to Reentry: A Community Approach is an MPT initiative designed to educate the community about the facts surrounding prisoner reentry in Maryland and engage Marylanders in constructive dialogues about the shared implications of successful reentry programs. Partnering with community groups and organizations,

criminal justice, faith and victim support organizations, MPT will convene a number of community gatherings, addressing issues such as families, youth, education, and employment.

To enhance its local efforts, MPT is participating in the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. Activities include several free community screening/discussion events that will be held in a variety of public venues in the Baltimore/Washington area. Each event will include a screening of excerpts from one of MPT’s broadcasts, a discussion panel of local experts and/or a keynote speaker, as well as a related activity (e.g., material donations for reentry programs, mini job fair) in which attendees can participate.

In addition to a slate of documentaries from the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, MPT will debut its local production *Out from Behind the Fence* on Thursday, November 18, at 8 p.m. The film is a comprehensive look at prisoner reentry in Maryland that includes personal interviews with incarcerated men and women who are preparing to leave prison and enter society. The documentary also explores successful reentry initiatives including the Maryland Re-Entry Partnership and Maryland ReStart state initiative, both aimed at making reentry a success for formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. The program includes a look toward the future and provides hope for making communities safer and healthier by creating prisoner reentry programs that can create a positive impact on society.

MPT has also assembled a repository of Maryland reentry resources. Across the state, numerous faith and secular organizations, community leaders, advocates, and crime victims are working with government agencies and policymakers to assist formerly incarcerated men and women seeking to lead productive lives. In collaboration with the work of local law enforcement, parole and probation, and the department of corrections, they constitute a statewide network striving to improve public safety and strengthen families and communities. Learn more about these resources and MPT’s statewide project on its Web site:

www.mpt.org/reentry.

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign congratulates Slawomir Grunberg, founder of Log In Productions. Slawomir has been selected by the Hope and Dreams Art Center to receive the **DreamCatcher Award** at the 2004 Hope and Dreams Film Festival to recognize his commitment to documentary filmmaking and the art of storytelling. This year's festival theme is *Changing the World – One Film at a Time*. The awards ceremony will be held on October 3, 2004 at the Hope School in Hope Township. Visit the Hope and Dreams Art Center Web site:

www.hopeanddreams.com.



Slawomir Grunberg is the award-winning director of the Reentry Campaign documentary, *BORDERLINE*. The film 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 ultimately released on time served.

When she was first brought in for questioning, Eunice, who did not understand her Miranda rights, signed a false confession. The document states that while babysitting young Charlotte Kurtz, Eunice intentionally killed the child by locking her in her bedroom and turning the thermostat up to 90 degrees on a hot June day. The defense in her trial claims that a short in the thermostat's circuitry caused the sweltering heat inside the home, a fact that is confirmed by the sworn testimony of an electrical expert. Eunice's lawyer also asserts that his client, due to her limited cognitive capacity (her IQ is between 65 and 78), did not realize that the heat posed a severe threat to the three-year-old child.



Read more about *BORDERLINE* on the Reentry Campaign Web site: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/borderline.htm>.

Indianapolis' WFYI Hosts Reentry Event, *continued from page 1*

The event included a panel discussion with four of the mothers in the Indiana Women's Prison, two with short sentences, who will soon be released, and two with longer sentences – 20 years for one. The two women with longer sentences gave very powerful and moving testimonials. One of the woman said, "I feel like I'm loosing my battle to be a mom." She talked about her frustration and remorse about not seeing her children, a situation that Dana Blank is trying to address through creating programs to help those with longer prison sentences remain connected with their children.

One topic discussed at the event was the need to create a state-wide transportation network so children will have a way to visit their mothers in prison. In addition, Dana is trying to create partnerships with schools. She hopes to establish a program in which mothers and schools can exchange e-mails about their children, and the mothers can keep track of their report cards and assignments. Dana also spoke about the Indiana Women's Prison's summer day-camp program, which gives 80 children aged 5-12 a chance to spend time with their mothers and grandmothers, in order to support and strengthen family bonds. Dana encouraged audience members to volunteer and become involved in that program. The event ended with a question-and-answer session; the most common question among attendees was, "How can I help?" A professor from Franklin College, who attended the event with several of his undergraduate students, plans to bring all of his students to the prison to learn first-hand about its programs. He and Dana Blank will work together to start a college volunteer program in which students will work at the prison for blocks of time.

WFYI's *Family Preservations* event made an impression on all the event attendees, who gained a greater understanding of family preservation issues related to incarceration and reentry. One evaluation noted, "This event helped me understand that you can't punish kids for mom's mistakes." After the event, Gail Thomas Strong received a call from a woman affiliated with St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis' largest congregation. The woman was inspired by the event to become involved in the prison ministry program. Gail put this woman in touch with Mentoring Children of Promise, which sent a speaker to all three of St. Luke's Sunday services, reaching a total of 3,000 congregants. Another church has requested a similar presentation on mentoring.

WFYI is conducting three additional events for its Reentry Media Outreach Campaign. One highlighting services to youth occurred on September 29 at The House at Glendale Mall. The next event, on transition services for women, will be held on October 19 at Theodora House, the VOA's center for women transitioning out of the criminal justice system. The final event at the 2004 Spirit and Place Civic Festival will include an additional partner, The Writer's Center of Indiana. This annual festival attracts thousands to activities that feature the arts, humanities, and religion. The 2004 theme, "Building and Belonging," allows WFYI and its partners to create a program that will enable participants to consider community within the walls and outside the walls of a prison, using the Reentry Campaign's documentary *WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO TO YOU*. Part of public television's acclaimed POV series, the film was produced by Madeleine Gavin, Judith Katz, and Gary Sunshine.

Learn more about WFYI's Reentry Campaign activities on its Web site: www.wfyi.org/wfyi2003/learningServices.asp#reentry.

- **SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2004** – H.R. 4676, the Second Chance Act of 2004, is a bipartisan approach to coordinating federal agencies and policies on prison reentry. The bill increases support to states and community organizations to address the growing population of former offenders returning to communities. The main areas of focus within the bill are jobs, housing, substance abuse/mental health treatment, and strengthening families. The bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on June 23rd by Representatives Rob Portman (R-OH), Danny Davis (D-IL), Mark Souder (R-IN), and Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH). The legislation currently has more than 25 co-sponsors. Read more about the Second Chance Act here: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.
- **WINGS MINISTRY** – Ten years ago in Albuquerque, Ann Edenfield founded Wings Ministry for family members of incarcerated individuals. The program's goal is to connect these families to area churches for additional support during their loved ones' incarceration. In 2002, the Secretary of Corrections for the State of New Mexico invited Wings Ministry to host Wings Parties, referred to as Events, inside all the New Mexico prisons. The Corrections Department reported that inmates who participated in Christian programs in the prisons had the lowest rates of recidivism. The overcrowding of the New Mexico prisons has also led the Secretary to search for successful programs that would help keep families together and cut the recidivism rate.

Wings Ministry has hosted three successful Wings Events in the following prisons:

- Central New Mexico Correctional Institution, Men's Minimum Restrict Unit – Los Lunas, New Mexico
- Women's Correctional Facility – Grants, New Mexico
- Santa Fe Minimum Restrict Unit – Santa Fe, New Mexico

The events inside the prisons bring families and prisoners together for music, Bible study, crafts, games, discussion, and sharing a meal. Often, this is the first time that the families have worshipped and prayed together. The Wings Ministry prison events are unique because they allow the entire family, including the prisoner, to worship together inside the prison. For more information on Wings Ministry, please visit www.wingsministry.org.

- **YOUTH WITH PROMISE** – It is well documented that many young people in New Mexico are at high risk. A large number of young offenders are caught in a revolving door of probation violations and detention. As repeat offenders, they are unable to break out of their negative and self-destructive cycles and patterns of behavior that keep them on the treadmill of the juvenile justice system

and lead to their subsequent graduation into adult correctional facilities. The vast majority of these juvenile offenders are of Hispanic and Native American descent and come from economically disadvantaged circumstances. Local juvenile justice authorities are becoming increasingly aware of studies that conclude that music and other arts can have profound and sometimes transformational effects on the physical, mental, and emotional health of people in these settings.

The Youth With Promise program has been providing guitar, dance, and visual arts workshops to juvenile offenders in detention and on probation, to at-risk youth in shelters and residential treatment programs, and to other underserved youth in the community. Upon release from detention, they can continue these same workshops during the critical period when they are most at risk of becoming repeat offenders and vulnerable to drifting back into a negative lifestyle. Learn more about Youth With Promise at <http://www.outsideinproductions.org/youthwithpromise.html>



SAM LEYBA leads a mural workshop.
Photo Credit: Donna Bollard

- **INCARCERATED VETERANS OUTREACH PILOT** – As part of his work at the V.A. Medical Center, Bradley Schaffer has helped to establish the Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Pilot (IVOP) Project, a multi-agency approach for incarcerated veterans. The IVOP is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) at Lebanon and Warren facilities, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries, and Joseph House, a transitional housing facility. The goal of the partnership is to provide integrated and comprehensive transition planning for veterans prior to release from prison as well as ongoing case management and support. The ODRC's counselor, the V.A. staff, and the veteran, with input from each agency involved in the veteran's community transition, coordinate and implement this plan.

The program is designed for any incarcerated veteran in the Ohio ODRC to receive assistance. The inmate veterans under custody in the ODRC and county facilities are estimated to be 10 – 14.5 percent of the general population. Many veterans who have been incarcerated are unaware of the range of services and innovative programming available to them through V.A./community resources. To learn more about the work of the Incarcerated Veterans Outreach Pilot, contact Bradley Schaffer at Bradley.Schaffer2@med.va.gov.

RHODE ISLAND PBS COLLABORATES WITH *MAKING CONNECTIONS* PROVIDENCE ON REENTRY EVENTS

Rhode Island PBS and *Making Connections* Providence join forces to host four free community screening/discussion events as part of local outreach efforts in association with the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. The planning coalition, mapping the impact of incarceration and reentry in Providence and other communities in Rhode Island, brings together the following partners: A.T. Wall, director of Rhode Island Department of Corrections; Joy Fox, community and media relations, RI Department of Corrections; Sol Rodriguez, executive director for Family Life Center; Carol Scott, *Making Connections* Providence communications specialist; John Prince, formerly incarcerated resident and advocate; Jim Alexander, *Making Connections* Providence; Marshall Clement, research and education specialist, Family Life Center; Judge Clifton, Drug Reentry Court; and Peter Wells, Public Defenders Office.

The public screenings/discussions, which will present a specially created clip reel of Reentry Campaign productions as well as *Outside the Walls*, are designed to educate the communities on the impact of reentry. The screenings will be held in the four areas of the state most populated by individuals who were formerly incarcerated. In each site, the local mayor will offer greetings to participants. Scheduled dates include:

- Warwick, October 12, 2004 - Warwick Public Library; Mayor Scott Avedisian
- Newport, November 9, 2004 - Martin Luther King Center, Mayor Richard Sardella
- Providence, November 16, 2004 - The Met School; Mayor David Cicillione
- Pawtucket, November 23, 2004 - Pawtucket Public Library; Mayor James Doyle

Panelists at each screening will be comprised of the following individuals:

- One family member of a person who was formerly incarcerated
- One formerly incarcerated person
- Two from agencies dealing with reentry issues such as housing, finances, or health
- One from faith/clergy
- One local justice

A moderator and interpreter will also be present.

These screening/discussion events will culminate with a televised town hall meeting on reentry on November 18, 2004, at Rhode Island Public Television in Providence, and will feature a live call-in segment for viewers.

To publicize the events throughout the state of Rhode Island, the coalition plans to distribute a brochure, flyers, and postcards, printed in Spanish and English. The station's program guide, which is published in the *Rhode Island Monthly Magazine*, will highlight ROAD TO RETURN on October 7th and MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE on October 14th. This magazine reaches 45,000 households in Rhode Island.

For more information about these events, please contact Shirley Winslow at RIPBS, swinslow@ripbs.org, 401.222.3636, ext. 361.

Reentry Program Profile

This month's reentry program profile is **FOXO, Fraternal Order of X-Offenders**. FOXO founder and CEO, Brother El Bey, says that, "FOXO is a community-based organization in Baltimore, Maryland, spearheaded by former offenders who have personal experience, professional academic wisdom, and understanding about juvenile delinquency and criminal behavior. FOXO was designed to study and research the prevalence of various social ills within the communities of Baltimore city, particularly crime, drugs, and violence.

"Our organization has a proven track record of facilitating public forums and workshops that serve to articulate, educate, and stimulate positive change throughout affected organizations. We identify and develop partnerships that serve to build capacity in community-based organizations sufficient to address pathologies in a self-help approach. FOXO also assists partner groups with assessing funding sources and developing effective strategies."

Hear directly from Brother Bey with a welcome on FOXO Radio. The On-Demand radio programs can be heard at (<http://foxo.org/radio.htm>). Brother Bey recounts some startling criminal justice and incarceration statistics in Baltimore and the state of Maryland. More information about FOXO can be found on its Web site at www.foxo.org, or by calling or e-mailing its staff, 410-262-4456, info@foxo.org.

KQED and *Making Connections* Oakland Work with Project Pride

As part of its participation in the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, public television station KQED (San Francisco/Oakland) embarked on a series of creative arts workshops at Project Pride in Oakland. Project Pride is a residential shelter for women who have recently been released or diverted by the justice system to an alternative to incarceration program. It has a mandate to serve women who suffer from addiction and drug abuse.

Every five weeks beginning in May 2004, the women at Project Pride participated in weeklong intensives. Over four days, two master teachers and an on-staff drama therapist guided the women through writing, movement and spoken word exercises that led to a performance on the fifth day. Each of these workshops started with viewing a film. WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO TO YOU allowed the women to explore their own words and voices. Part of public television's acclaimed POV series, WHAT I WANT MY WORDS TO DO TO YOU was produced by Madeleine Gavin, Judith Katz, and Gary Sunshine. GIRL TROUBLE, produced by Critical Images Inc. in association with Independent Television Service and KQED, sent the women back into their own childhood. PRISON LULLABIES, produced and directed by Odile Isralson and Lina Matta, Brown Hats Productions, offered the women time to reflect on their relationships with their children. MANHOOD AND VIOLENCE: FATAL PERIL, produced by Hudson River Film and Video, allowed the women to explore their relationships to men and male violence.

This pilot was a great success. Janet Kirk, Director of Project Pride says, *"These workshops are the high of our year. Many women at Pride are unable to make use of classic psychotherapy models. They don't come from a verbal culture and there is a stigma attached to being verbal. But the workshops are working- the women are experiencing vulnerability together, not alone in a therapist's office. Some of the women are speaking for the first time."*

As a result of the workshop, Project Pride plans to make some institutional changes: 1) implement creative arts workshops throughout the year by hiring a second drama therapist. The organization currently has one drama therapist on staff. 2) Project Pride operates on a semester system with classes scheduled once a week for twenty weeks. A few times a year, Pride would like to implement five-day intensives with some of its other classes such as parenting, substance abuse or group.

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>).**

