



CIRCLES OF SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

SERVING FOND DU LAC, THE FOX VALLEY, GREEN BAY, OSHKOSH & SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Winter 2011

A PROGRAM OF GOODWILL NCW 

Bay Area Employment Pipeline Identifies Gap for Newly Released Offenders...Jim Golembeski, Executive Director, Bay Area Workforce Development

In state prison, the environment is completely managed by the Department of Corrections. The internal environment is well-coordinated to maintain safety and control. When the offender walks out the door, however, he or she suddenly needs to deal with a wide range of agencies and personal responsibilities that can be confusing and lack any sense of coordination.

One particular issue that the Bay Area Employment Pipeline Committee has identified involves access to medication for newly released offenders. While offenders are incarcerated, the state provides contracted medical services, including prescription medication. That ends, however, when that person is released. At the time of release the offender is provided with a two-week

supply of prescribed medication and a 30-day script. Waiting lists for psychiatrists can reach months, and the newly released offender is often not able to connect with a physician and a program that pays for the medication before the two-week supply is exhausted.

This is especially true when medication for mental illness is involved. Sadly, a high percentage of our offender population suffers from some form of mental illness. In extreme cases, going off prescribed medication can result in serious coping problems for the offender.

The Bay Area Employment Pipeline Committee has recognized the importance of close collaboration among the various agencies that are engaged with an offender upon release. In this particular

case, county human services offices are key players in making sure there is continuity in access to prescription medication. This is not an easy task with 72 counties with various residency restrictions, and offenders that are scattered around the state at a variety of prisons. A lot of responsibility also falls to the local Community Corrections agents who generally are assigned a generous caseload of individuals to supervise.

If Wisconsin is to reduce the cost of its prison system, a coordinated approach to reentry for offenders will be a requirement. This issue is one example of the need to put resources and time into coordination efforts that reduce recidivism and promote successful transition back into local communities.

Fox Valley Circle's Founder Receives Corrections Award...

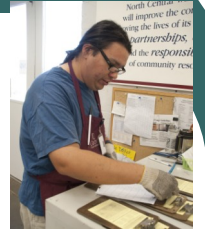
Jim Miller, one of the founding volunteers with the Fox Valley Circles of Support, was awarded the 2010 Sanger B. Powers Memorial Award for Excellence by the Wisconsin Correctional Association at its September conference. This award is given annually to recognize individuals for their contributions to the field of criminal justice.

Jim began his career with the Dept of Corrections in 1969 as a social worker at the Kettle Moraine Boys School and retired in 2006 as a Community Corrections Regional Chief. Accepting this award, Jim stated that he had been fortunate to have worked under the leadership of Sanger B. Powers, then Administrator of Corrections, whose visions and values of correctional rehabilitation significantly influenced his career as a corrections professional. After retirement, Jim began his volunteer activities with the Fox Valley Circle of Support, where he has facilitated Circle meetings with the participants and been a valuable team member in the growth of the Circles program.

Inside this issue:

Circles participant receives Goodwill's Outstanding Achiever Award	2
Circles Happenings	3
Volunteer Spotlight	3
Gifts Needed	3
Gifts Received	4
What We Do	4
How to Refer or Volunteer	4

Goodwill's 'Outstanding Achiever for November' Jointly Nominated by Circles of Support and American Indian Services of the Fox Valley...



"We must have strong case management systems in place to 'meet offenders where they are' while supporting them as they make their journeys toward making positive and legitimate contributions in their communities."

(GII, 2008)

"They gave me a chance to create myself a 'New History.'"

Matthew Cornelius of Appleton was named the "Outstanding Achiever for November" by Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin (NCW). Cornelius was jointly nominated by two Goodwill NCW programs – Community Circles of Support and American Indian Services of the Fox Valley (AIS-FV). Circles provides recently released prisoners with a support network of volunteers who offer guidance, mentoring and direction to help them successfully transition back into the community and reduce the likelihood that they will re-offend. AIS-FV provides Native Americans with case management services while offering information, education, advocacy and cultural enrichment activities that reflect and embrace their cultural and tribal values.

Danel Burchby, Circles program coordinator, and Lisa Hurst, AIS-FV program director, said their programs are proud to be part of the Goodwill team that helped Cornelius beat the odds and overcome obstacles that kept him from being a productive, contributing member of the Fox Valley community.

"According to an age-old Native American philosophy, 'It takes a village to raise a child,' so it stands to reason that it takes a team to help a recently released inmate successfully transition from incarceration to the community," Hurst said.

Cornelius connected with Circles in August 2009 after the program was suggested by his probation/parole agent, and he began attending group and individual sessions. Through Circles' guidance and mentoring, Cornelius has accepted responsibility for past criminal behavior, acknowledged the harm he caused others, created a personal plan for success, followed through with mutually agreed upon goals that focus on law-abiding and productive community behavior, maintained sobriety, developed a positive attitude toward money management and secured housing.

With help from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections' Reentry Community Corrections Employment Program (CCEP), Cornelius was placed on a CCEP Work Experience at Goodwill's Grand Chute store in January 2010. By March, he had transitioned into a permanent position and, through the support of Store Team Leader Cindy Schmidt, he continues to work at this site as a donation attendant.

AIS-FV helped him get and stay connected to Oneida's Tribal Supportive Services, apply for and secure the financial aid needed to enroll at Fox Valley Technical College, work through the application process and prepare for the placement examination. He plans to start FVTC's Culinary Arts program in spring 2011.

"Before I came to Goodwill, I was overwhelmed by my past," Cornelius said. "I felt like I was on a one-way track back to prison. Goodwill's programs and services helped me do the work I needed to relieve my burdens. They gave me a chance to create self a 'New History.' For the first time in my life, I can dream about and plan for my future."



Circle Happenings...

- Circles of Support received a \$1,000 grant from the [Fond du Lac Community Foundation](#).
- Circles of Support nominated Linda Doro, Green Bay Circles Volunteer for the [Green Bay Packer Community Quarterback Award](#). "My community is a caring and supportive one and we really want new people to find their way safely back into it as productive individuals.
- They have made serious bad choices in the past, and without community caring, we set ourselves and them up to fail," Doro says.
- **Community Opportunity:** [Our Hidden Community: Experiencing Poverty](#) (Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.) -
- Take part in a 2 1/2 hour poverty simulation where participants will experience a month's worth of real-life situations of someone living in poverty. RSVP to Judy Knudson at UW-Extension., 391-4610.

"33.5% of Wisconsin residents volunteer, ranking them 13th among the 50 states and Washington, D.C. providing 158.6 million hours of service each year."

—Volunteering in America.gov

Volunteer Spotlight...

The Circles volunteer spotlight for this edition falls on Ray Salm.

Ray has volunteered with the Circles since it's inception in Fond du Lac. His willingness to go the extra mile and be genuine with the participants makes Ray shine.

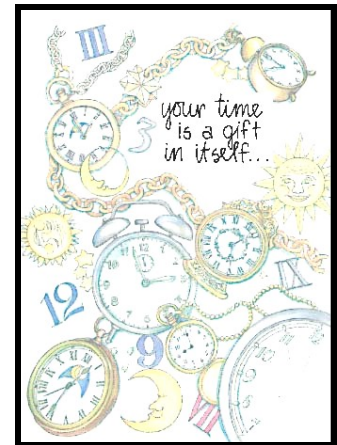
His fellow volunteers note that he maintains unconditional regard for

participants, is a great role model, and livens the group with his sense of humor.

Ray retired in 1995 from teaching and began volunteering in prison ministry before coming to the Circle. Ray's philosophy is: "Treat every person (no strings attached) with dignity and respect, and

they will most likely respond as a person feeling worthy and hopeful. I believe in second chances."

Ray attends the Circles group meetings and meets individually with participants as needed. He sees volunteering as giving his time to help another person reclaim his or her true identity.



www.211now.org



Gifts Needed...

- 2011 Calendars
- Bus passes
- Notebooks
- Hygiene Products
- Backpacks

"People helping people transition from incarceration to the community"

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Join "Community Circles
of Support" on **Facebook**



What We Do...

Community Circles of Support is a reentry support program. Trained volunteers meet with releasing offenders in a group or "Circle" format to specifically address transitional issues for men and women returning to our communities from incarceration.

Circles offers three main services: pro-social support, breaking down barriers, and concrete resources linkage.

How to Be a Volunteer...

Volunteers are what make Circles an effective, meaningful program. Adult volunteers are sought to meet in a group setting with ex-offenders to provide support and encouragement for good choices and assist in raising participants' accountability. Time commitment is once or twice per week. Training is provided. To apply, call Danel Burchby at 920-968-6832 or 1-877-490-3120, or e-mail dburchby_gw@gwicc.org, or visit our [Web site](http://www.circles-of-support.org).

How to Refer a Participant...

All Circle communities are currently accepting participant referrals. Recently released men and women may be referred by their agents, community organizations or self-refer. Participants must attend Circles voluntarily, take accountability for their crimes and be open to feedback on various life issues. To refer, please call Danel Burchby at 920-968-6832 or 1-877-490-3120, or e-mail dburchby_gw@gwicc.org, or visit our [Web site](http://www.circles-of-support.org).

We are thankful for the support we receive from our community! We say thank you for the following donations:

- ShopKo—gift cards
- Golden Corral—gift cards
- Sunrise Restaurant—gift cards
- Starbucks—coffee product
- Cousins Subs—gift cards
- Woodman's—gift card
- Breadsmith—coupons
- Fleet Farm—calendars
- RSVP Program—scarves
- Brown County United Way—hygiene supplies
- Presto—Casual Day proceeds
- Chuck and Jean Gintz—\$100.00
- Jack and Gloria Grandone—\$500.00
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church—quilts/pillows
- Oneida Casino
- Brother's—gift cards
- Community First Credit Union
- Brown's Family Dentistry—toothbrushes
- Bouessa Dental Associates—hygiene products
- Goodwill Industries NCW
- McDonalds, Appleton Rd.—gift certificates
- McDonalds, Racine St.—gift certificates
- McDonalds, College Ave.—gift certificates
- Harmony Café—gift cards
- Lakeview Credit Union—calendars
- David Jordan—Express gift cards
- Manderfield's Bakery
- Ace Hardware
- Nativity Church—Hygiene Kit
- Walmart—gift card
- Judy Jacobs—scarf
- Nancy and John Gardynecky—calendars, cards