



Junior Nunez

Reentry Services: Remarkable Achievement

Junior Nunez came to the Community Solutions Incorporated (CSI) Jersey City Community Resource Center (CRC) straight from incarceration as part of the State of New Jersey State Parole Board's *Stages to Enhance Parolee Success* (STEPS) Program. Community Resource Centers (CRC) are non-residential programs that provide a number of services to male and female offenders and also provide "step down" services for offenders transitioning from prison or residential community programs. CRC's provide offenders with the appropriate level of services to aid with their successful community adjustment.

When Junior arrived at the Jersey City CRC, he was unemployed, had no place to live, and no support system in place. His mother lived in New York and he was estranged from his father. Junior was assigned to David Vazquez, Case Manager, and after addressing his immediate needs together, they began focusing on his requirements and goals for completing the program. He worked very closely with his case manager, teacher Irina Zaki and the CRC staff to accomplish all of his goals. Junior received several perfect attendance certificates, participated well in groups and was responsible and respectful. He has demonstrated a willingness to learn and a positive attitude towards his classmates.

Junior was recently approved to receive Financial Aid and is now attending University of Phoenix for a degree in Business Management. Once he graduates, Junior would like a job in communications. He is well on his way to success.

Mr. Nunez claims his most remarkable achievement is his decision to live a drug free life style. "It may not sound like a big deal to some but for my daughter and me, it has been a life changing experience. Today I have my own place to live within the same block where my 4-year daughter lives and I am able to be a better father. I am a contributing member of society and I feel that I am not a burden to the community."

When Junior was asked what he thought his chance of reoffending again was, he said without a doubt "Zero." I owe it to Community Solutions. They made me the man I am today."

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FACTS ABOUT REENTRY PROGRAMS

More than 61,000 offenders have been served through Coalition of Community Providers over the last five years. It's a fact that the Pew Study (page 2) has confirmed: Ex-offenders that participate in community corrections programs are less likely to go back to prison. One number worth noting; there has been an 8% decrease in the NJDOC population since 2006. Your work is working!

REHABILITATION AT WORK: PARTICIPANTS IN FY 2010 CONTRIBUTED...

Gross Wages	\$5,033,507
Federal Taxes	\$274,332
Fines/Fees/ Restitution	\$436,759
Maintenance Fees	\$1,201,794

F.O.R.G.E. Program Support for Female Ex-Offenders

Over the past six years, the New Jersey State Parole Board intentionally explored the benefits of gender-responsive supervision strategies in an effort to improve the reentry outcomes for women under parole supervision. Parole officers supervised female offenders in communities with marginal resources for women and a myriad of networks which were often difficult to navigate for reentry purposes. From these efforts, the SPB created the Female Offender Reentry Group Effort (FORGE). FORGE has proven effective as gender-responsive strategy to meet the needs of women on parole. FORGE programs are currently run in Camden, Essex and Passaic Counties by Coalition Providers.



Women from Volunteers of America Delaware Valley's Garrett House program

Each of the provider agencies is committed to working with the State Parole Board on how they can continue to provide a gender-responsive track that meets the specialized needs of female offenders in our communities. The Coalition of Community Corrections Providers of New Jersey is very supportive of gender-responsive strategies targeting the needs of returning female offenders. Gender responsive programming for women provided by community corrections provider professionals has contributed to a nearly 43% drop in admission for women into prison in New Jersey since 2008. Gender responsive programming makes a difference in the lives of the women served and improves public safety.

Pew Study Good News for New Jersey

A just-released study conducted by the Pew Center found that New Jersey was one of just six states, and the only one in the Northeast, that saw a significant decrease in the number of offenders returned to the state prison system.

The study was conducted with help from the Association of the State Correctional Administrators. It asked states to report three-year return-to-prison rates for all inmates released from their prison systems in 1999 and 2004.

In New Jersey the percentage of offenders returning to state prison decreased by 11.4%

Officials from NJDOC suggested that the reduction including the drug and mental health courts, reentry initiatives and day reporting centers. State Department of Corrections were asked to report "return to prison" for two reasons: committing a new crime or a technical violation of supervision. Agencies were asked to provide three-year follow-up rates for 1999 and 2004 for comparison.

This study confirms what we, as a coalition, knew all along to be the unequivocal truth; providing resources and rehabilitation reduces recidivism. It's that simple.

Source: NJ.com

Improving Reentry

In April of this year, the Coalition provided recommendations to the state in regards to a reentry strategy that would continue to improve the already impressive statistics we have helped create. We want to expand community programs and continue to measure what works and set realistic goals that promote public safety.

- We recommended creating a permanent reentry policy council that would oversee reentry strategies.
- We believe that incentives work and motivate offenders to actively participate in the programs. Therefore, we would like to see an expected release date tied to expectations in a reentry program.
- We value the expansion of community resource centers to include offenders other than persons on parole.
- Also, one of our recommendations was to leverage labor resources and invest in proven employment and training initiatives.

This is the time to measure results and set goals for the future. In the last 20 years, there has been a 21% reduction in New Jersey's prison system due, in part, to community programs and a more cost-effective way of housing offenders.

Rehabilitation at Work in New Jersey

NJ has invested in a significant re-entry infrastructure. Over the last two decades, there has been substantial growth in community programs mostly in response to prison overcrowding. On any given day, NJ now has over 3,500 beds in more than 30 residential programs serving both inmates and parolees. There are 11 day reporting centers (now community resource centers) serving 750 parolees, statewide.

Community Corrections Providers deliver positive results and promote public safety. Since 1999, the prison population in New Jersey has shrunk approximately 21% due to the successful community corrections strategies. Simultaneously two community based programs in NJ demonstrated a more than 30% reduction in recidivism.

Community Programs save tax payers dollars. NJ has defied the national trend and reduced the number of people in State prisons by expanding community programs.

There is a substantial body of research supporting evidence-based practices in re-entry. New Jersey's Department of Corrections and State Parole Board have compelled community corrections providers to use evidence-based approaches in their work to promote the best possible outcomes and responsible rehabilitative efforts.

The public/private partnership that has been forged in the last 15 years that affords re-entry services nearly 12,000 offenders is unique, robust and replicable for other justice-involved populations. In some states, the effort to expand alternative evidence-based implementation portfolios is attempting to target moderate levels of 20% of eligible offenders. Annually, New Jersey's community providers outpace this level and serve nearly 32% of inmates leaving state prison. There are approximately 16,000 people on parole in New Jersey at any given time. Community providers served more than 7,000 of those individuals on parole in fiscal year 2010 in both residential and non-residential settings. Over the last five years, more than 61,000 offenders have had a multitude of treatment and employment needs met through community corrections providers.



CONTINUUM OF CARE; PROMOTING RECOVERY PROFILE: OSCAR WILLIAMS

Oscar Williams was one of ten children in a home where alcohol use was prevalent. He began his journey with substance abuse at a very early age, and by the time he reached his teens addiction was affecting his life. With continued use of alcohol and drugs he experienced being expelled from school, distance from his family, and violent episodes which ultimately led to a crime against another. His life descended into a myriad of court dates, family estrangement, and desperation from substance abuse.

He was sentenced through the NJ criminal justice system and entered Northern State Prison (NSP) where he was introduced to the ROIS continuum of Fresh Start Therapeutic

Community, Talbot Hall Assessment Center, The Harbor and Anchor aftercare program. Mr. Williams grabbed on to the principles introduced to him and expressed a desire to change his life and experience a clean and sober lifestyle. He is grateful to the ROIS program where he continued as a participant into The Harbor, CEC's residential reentry center in Newark, N.J., which offers a fully structured treatment program for those transitioning back to the community.

Mr. Williams claims without exposure to this program he would not have had the opportunity to have been given effective tools that enabled him to change. By hard work and consistent practice he has al-



lowed himself to gain a new approach to life and assume responsibility as a result of being a participant in the ROIS continuum

At this time Mr. Williams devotes time to helping others as a CEC alumni member and revisits The Harbor on a volunteer basis to work with present ROIS residents. He attends the Newark Gospel Tabernacle Church, is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies, assists with Sunday services at the Newark Goodwill Mission, and is engaged to be married.



**The Coalition
of Community
Correction
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THE JOURNEY OF DANNY FELICIANO

The Mountain View Project was founded in 2004 by Professor Don Roden in collaboration with the Kintock Group and Rutgers University. The Mountain View project is a bridge from Community Corrections to formal education offered to offenders with the purpose of reducing recidivism.

Danny Feliciano was admitted to Kintock's Community Corrections treatment program, located in Newark, NJ in March 2006. He was one of the first participants to take advantage of the Mountain View opportunity and began taking college courses before successfully completing his community corrections placement at Kintock in March 2007. He was a Hudson county resident who was arrested at age 19 for armed robbery and was incarcerated for over five years. Once incarcerated, he said he was

alone in a one-man-cell. . While in prison, Danny's mother convinced him to get his GED and he did through Union County Community College. He states that he never thought he could reach for anything more than what he already was. He also became involved in a prison program called "Project PRIDE" promoting responsibility in drug education. This program afforded him the opportunity to give back to the community by sharing his experiences with high school students as well as with other inmates in the prison. He learned how to speak publicly and appreciated every moment he had outside the prison walls. Now, Danny Feliciano is the first participant to go completely through the college program and will graduate from Rutgers University with a BA.



Danny Feliciano

I believe Danny is most proud to share this moment with his wife of eight months, Jessica Feliciano, who he claims does not hear the "noisy record" that he feels is always following him.

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Please Visit
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For more information

The Coalition is a body of organizations that contract with the New Jersey Department of Corrections, New Jersey State Parole Board, and the Juvenile Justice Commission to provide community corrections programs such as assessment centers, residential work-release programs, substance abuse treatment programs, and day reporting centers for parolees. CCCPNJ collectively represents community corrections providers, addresses community corrections issues and advocates for rehabilitative services for offenders in New Jersey.