



"No More Victims"  
Winter 2019



Employment Information  
For Repatriates:

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Find out the latest  
legislative news of importance  
that can affect you.

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"A conviction does not  
have to be a life sentence"

# INSIDE/OUT COALITION TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

Everyone  
Deserves A  
Place To  
Call Home



## Assisted Senior Living Care For Repatriates

As we age, the harder it is to think of ourselves as "elderly." But as far as the government is concerned – specifically, the federal corrections system – you're "aging" or "elderly" once you turn 50. Illinois houses one of the country's biggest populations of elderly prisoners. And gradually, it also releases them.

Research has shown that the older the person is, the less likely he/she is to return to prison after being released. People over 65 have about a zero percent chance of returning to prison. But leaving prison at an older age brings other challenges. More than 10% of those coming in and out of prisons and jails are homeless.

Below are a few answers regarding housing that you may find helpful:

**Can you be denied housing because of a felony?** No matter how long ago your conviction may have been the landlord holds the right to deny you housing based on your past convictions. Not renting to a person with a felony is a rental standard designed to minimize the landlord's liability risk.

**Can you get low income housing with a felony?** Yes, some repatriates can qualify for Section 8 HUD public housing depending on the type of felony that they have been convicted of.

**Can a convicted felon get Section 8 housing?** One of the oft-asked questions of convicted felons is if they can qualify for Section 8 housing or HUD. The answer is not often clear-cut, unless you are registered for life in a sex registry or you were convicted of selling methamphetamine near public housing. As far as the felon's candidacy for Section 8 benefits, it is important to understand what factors will be looked at, in terms of their criminal record.

For more information visit: [www.helpforfelons.org](http://www.helpforfelons.org)

## Some Local Nursing Homes

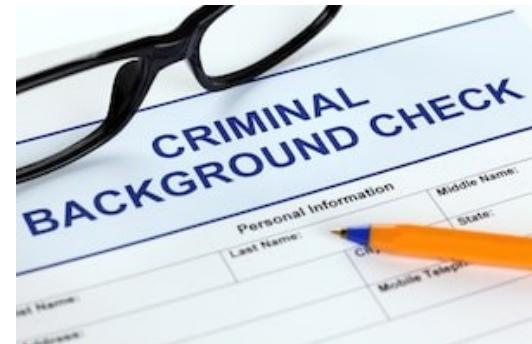
- Ann M Kiley Dev Center  
1401 W Dugdale Rd.,  
Waukegan, IL 60085
- Bayside Terrace  
1100 S Lewis Ave.,  
Waukegan, IL 60085
- Glenlake Terrace Nursing & Rehabilitation  
2222 W 14th Street,  
Waukegan, IL 60085
- Lake Park Center  
919 Washington Park,  
Waukegan, IL 60085
- Pavilion Of Waukegan  
2217 Washington St,  
Waukegan, IL 60085
- Pine Terrace  
2017 North Pine St,  
Waukegan, IL 60085
- Terrace Nursing Home  
1615 Sunset Ave,  
Waukegan, IL 60087

## New Changes In Expungement & Sealing Laws

There have been some big changes in Illinois' expungement and sealing laws. These changes make it possible for many more people to benefit from getting their criminal records cleared.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- There is no longer a limit on the “class of felony” that can be sealed except sexual and violent crimes. Now, if a judge deems it warranted, any felony can be sealed.
- Cases that still have fines owed may be sealed. This does not remove the debt, but it does remove the conviction from your record.
- Waiting periods are shortened. You can seal a conviction three years after completing your sentence, and expunge a non-conviction two years after completing a successful supervision.
- Juvenile offenders no longer have to wait until they are 18 years old to petition for expungement of non-convictions.



NOTE: Expungement and sealing decisions are made at the judge's discretion, based on factors such as rehabilitation, education, community involvement, time elapsed since the conviction, etc. Some crimes cannot be sealed, including DUIs, Reckless Driving, Domestic Battery, Criminal Sexual Abuse and animal cruelty.

Types of convictions that are often **NOT** eligible for expungement include:

- Murder
- Felonies and first degree misdemeanors in which the victim is under 18 years of age
- Rape

- Sexual Battery
- Corruption of a minor
- Sexual imposition
- Obscenity or pornography involving a minor
- Serious weapons charges.

## United States First Step Act

On December 18, 2018, the Senate passed the Formerly Incarcerated Reenter Society Transformed Safely Transitioning Every Person (FIRST STEP) Act, a bill which could provide relief to thousands of federal inmates and an untold number of future defendants for federal drug crimes.

The FIRST STEP Act, which is legislation geared toward reducing mass incarceration through rehabilitation programs, has been favored by Trump and spearheaded by his senior advisor, son-in-law Jared Kushner.

The bill is broadcasted as a “first step” toward prison reform, because of how it theoretically reduces the level of recidivism by forcing inmates to go through rehabilitative programs. In addition to the rehabilitative aspect of these programs, inmates who participate can potentially earn time credits that count toward their release.

Currently, there is a waiting list for inmates to enter rehabilitative programs, with the bill proposing to allocate 80 percent of \$50 million per year over the course of five years, in order to provide more programs. Research has shown that rehabilitation programs in prison, like education programs, can help reduce recidivism.

All that said, the FIRST STEP Act is aptly named because it only serves a small segment of the nation's incarcerated population and thus cannot be the endpoint in the ongoing struggle for criminal justice reform. The United States holds over two million people in jails and prisons, mostly at the state and local levels. To the eligible prisoners who will be affected by FIRST STEP, the law may be a godsend, but for the vast majority of inmates, nothing will change when the President signs the bill into law.



*The American criminal justice system holds almost 2.3 million people in 1,719 state prisons, 102 federal prisons, 1,852 juvenile correctional facilities, 3,163 local jails, and 80 Indian Country jails as well as in military prisons, immigration detention facilities, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals, and prisons in the U.S. territories.*

## The Coalition Gives Local Youth A Voice

On November 14th, The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism took a group of students from Waukegan Township to see the movie, The Hate U Give. A group discussion allowed students to discuss how they were able to see a little bit of themselves in one or more of the characters or how they identified emotionally with the storyline.

Thank you to the speakers, volunteers, and sponsors who helped make this possible.

Adapted from Angie Thomas's critically acclaimed YA novel by the same name, The Hate U Give is a film about Starr (played by Amandla Stenberg), a black teenager who sees her childhood best friend, Khalil (Algee Smith), get shot and killed by a police officer after a routine traffic stop goes horribly wrong. Starr is then forced to decide whether she'll adhere to the code of the street and keep silent about what she saw, or testify in front of a grand jury and join a burgeoning movement to end anti-black violence and police misconduct in communities like hers. Poignantly and judiciously rendered, The Hate U Give has received praise from critics and moviegoers. Another movie outing is planned for Spring 2019!



“Sometimes you can do everything right and things will still go wrong. The key is to never stop doing right”.

**Angie Thomas**



## Don't Worry...There's Help For You!



**Support Group**

### Repatriate, Empowering Support Group for the Formerly Incarcerated:

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of every month -  
5:30pm - 6:30pm., at  
149 S. Genesee Street  
For info call 847-244-4900

### Infinity and Beyond Workshops:

(Interview Training)  
Meets 1st Monday of every month -  
10:00am - 11:30am., at  
149 S. Genesee Street  
For info call 847-244-4900

**Meetings open to the public.  
Please call 847-244-4900 to register**

**Wed, Nov 14th 10:00 a.m.**  
  
**Gurnee Mills,  
6144 Grand Ave,  
Gurnee, IL 60031**

**Each student  
received this  
complimentary  
book mark.**



## Advice From Repatriate Elvin Saldana:

### How did you change your life for the better?

After seeing all the damage my actions had created, not only to the victim's family but also to my mom and daughters; I begin to self evaluate my life, path, and objective.

### What have you done or are you doing to help others?

I have maintained my path so others can see my reflection and have a guide to follow. I have visited elementary schools within the area and have spoken with the children about the importance of staying in school. "The greatest gift society has to offer is an education". I have volunteered my services at Midwest Veterans Closet among other places.

### Any advice for individuals who may be going through what you did?

Truthfully, whatever your ambitions are, you must educate yourself. School is a great gift that society offers us. It provides the key to your future. Accept this gift, do not disdain from it, and you will go far in life. Through education you will unlock the treasure chest of the world literature and begin to sense the beauty of music and art. But above all, if I was able to do it, I'm sure YOU can too. I made my choice, NOW you make yours.

### How has the Coalition helped you?

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism has help me find job sites and adjust in society. Its supplied me with the tools I needed to succeed. If it wasn't for the leadership of Mrs. Johnnie and this program I, and many others would have no one to turn to.



## Improvements to the Legal Help Desk Coming in 2019!

Some of the Executive members from the Coalition met Friday, January 25th to discuss suggested expansion to the Legal Help Desk. Attendees at a meeting with Chief Judge Jay Ukena which was spearheaded by C2RR chairperson, Patricia Jones. Those in attendance also included the following members from C2RR: President-elect, Jennifer Witherspoon, County Clerk, Erin Cartwright Weinstien, Help Desk attorney, Kathryn VandenBerk and Employment Specialist, Johnnie Jenkins Lee. In addition, to Judge Ukena, Judge Rosetti and County Court Administrator, Danny Davis were present.



Earlier this year, Hip Hop Artist Remy Ma announced a partnership with the clothing brand, V.I.M. Vixen. The Remy Ma Collection is available now. Portions of the proceeds go toward The Remy Ma Foundation, which helps women who have experienced incarceration. The organization provides opportunities and life-long resources to help enhance their lives and the lives of their families. Resources include counseling strategies to help women who have endured trauma to develop better coping skills and cultivate positive thinking. In addition, the foundation will aim to support women who are facing homelessness as well as provide employment assistance, legal aid and expungement assistance, free healthcare, drug and alcohol counseling and other services to help women transition into society upon their release. The foundation's official website highlights the fact that so many services are dedicated to men post-incarceration and women are often under-served. For more information visit their website at [www.remymafoundation.org](http://www.remymafoundation.org).

Toya Sharee



On Wednesday, December 19, 2018, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism hosted a Culver's Restaurant Fundraiser in Zion, IL. The community was invited to bring the fundraiser flyer into Culver's between the hours of 5pm to 8pm. Culver's agreed to donate 10% of the sales receipts to the Coalition.

Thank you to everyone who participated and showed your support. The funds raised to toward assisting returning citizens with employment placement and supportive services that promote self-sufficiency.



## Prairie State Teams Up With The Coalition



Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS) provides free legal representation to low-income clients. One program, the **Ready to Work Program** (R2W) helps clients with legal issues that are affecting their employment.

Criminal records can stop people from being hired for a job, keeping a job, or getting a better job. The attorneys in R2W educate clients about their rights and eligibility for sealing and/or expunging their records. In many cases, the Program will file petitions and provide representation in court to get criminal records sealed or expunged. The Program also helps with other legal issues related to getting or keeping a job, including: driver's license issues, transportation issues, unpaid or underpaid wages, professional licensing denials, inaccurate credit reporting and identity theft.

Prairie State Legal Services may also be able to help clients with other types of legal problems including: housing, public benefits, family law, and domestic violence issues, among others.

For more information about PSLS services, special projects, and applying for legal help, see the Prairie State website, [www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org).

01/03/19

**Daily Herald**  
Big Picture . Local Focus

 **PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES**  
*Equal Access to Justice*

**BREAKING NEWS**

**READY TO WORK PROJECT**  
**Receives \$725,000 Grant!**

### Prison Policy Initiative Unemployment rates for former inmates and the general public:

- White Men: General Population (4.3% / Former Inmates 18.4%).
- White Women: General Population (4.3% / Former Inmates 23.2%).
- Black Men: General Population (7.7% / Former Inmates 35.2%).
- Black Women: General Population (6.4 % / Former Inmates 43.6%).

[www.esrcheck.com](http://www.esrcheck.com)  
Jul 16, 2018

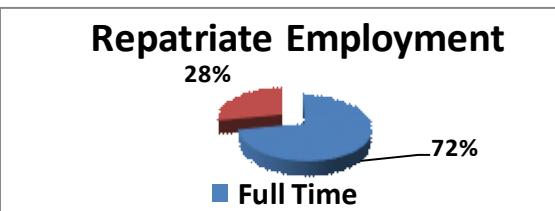
**News You Can Use**

**Coalition Jobs Report**  
**Jan - Dec 2018 Statistics**

To date, **1,796** Repatriates have obtained employment since August 2005.

**Jan 2018 - Dec 2018:**  
**149** Employed - Full time  
**58** Employed - Temp Agency  
**77** New Clients  
**58** Confirmed Employers

**Repatriate Employment**



Employment Type	Percentage
Full Time	72%
Part Time	28%

**LEGAL HELP DESK**  
Total clients seen through the Legal Help Desk: 178



Johnnie Jenkins  
Employment Specialist

**“A conviction does not have to be a life sentence”**

Inside/Out is a publication of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, which is based in Lake County, IL. The newsletter intends to raise awareness and discuss issues that affect the lives of men, women and children who are incarcerated and who have been released from incarceration.

The views and opinions included herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Coalition's executive board or its individual members. If you have news or updates for our newsletter, you can send them to: [kwoods@waukegantownship.com](mailto:kwoods@waukegantownship.com).

How to Reach Us: By Phone: (847) 244-4900, Fax: (874) 244-5185, or email: [coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com](mailto:coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com). Our website is [www.reducerecidivism.org](http://www.reducerecidivism.org). The mailing address is Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, 149 S. Genesee St. Waukegan, IL 60085.



## Upcoming Coalition Meetings

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Executive Board will meet the 1st Friday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., at 149 S. Genesee Street., Waukegan, IL.

The public meeting will be the third Monday of each month at 8:30a.m. to 10:00 a.m., 330 S. Greenleaf Street, Gurnee, IL.

Please consider joining the growing movement in support of the formerly incarcerated. Annual membership dues goes directly to supportive services on their behalf. Membership dues are as follows:

## 2019 Coalition Members:

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism is a collective unit of social service agencies, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, medical institutions, criminal justice institutions, entrepreneurs, community advocates, governmental entities and repatriates; all geared to work with returning prisoners and help them become productive members of society.

### Chairperson

- ◆ Patricia Jones, M. Ed.

### Honorary Chairmen:

- ◆ Ill. State Representative Rita Mayfield

### Coalition Officers:

- ◆ Jennifer Witherspoon, President, Esquire
- ◆ Stella Jones, Vice President, Community Renewal Society
- ◆ Warren Thomas, 2nd Vice President, College of Lake County
- ◆ Dr. Gary Oltmans, Secretary, Rosalind Franklin University (retired)
- ◆ Arlene Day, Treasurer, Teacher (Retired)

### Executive Board Members:

- ◆ Gwen Beckwith, Board Member, Principal (Retired)
- ◆ Pastor Todd Fletcher, Board Member, Lake County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Sylvia M. Johnson Jones Ed. D., College of Lake County
- ◆ Marc Jones, Board Member, Director, Eddie Washington Center
- ◆ Mary Roberson, Ed. D., Past President, Consultant
- ◆ Erin Cartwright Weinstein, Lake

### County Clerk

- ◆ Stella Jones, Community Renewal Society
- ◆ Mary Turley, MBA., UMMA Center
- ◆ Demar A. Harris, Director, Lake County Workforce Development
- ◆ Jacqueline Small, Catholic Charities
- ◆ Jeff McBride, Waukegan Public Schools #60
- ◆ Johnny Outlaw, Chicago Torture Justice Center

### Agencies Members:

- ◆ Catholic Charities
- ◆ College Of Lake County, Grayslake
- ◆ Harbor Lites Chapter, Links Inc.
- ◆ Lake County State's Attorney's Office
- ◆ Lake County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Nicasa Behavioral Health Services
- ◆ National Assoc. of University Women
- ◆ Waukegan Housing Authority
- ◆ Schneider for Congress
- ◆ Lake County Workforce Development
- ◆ Lake County Veterans & Family Services
- ◆ Tenth Congressional District Democrats

- Corporate Membership \$500
- Faith Base Membership \$500 (Level 3) 301+
- Faith Base Membership \$250 (Level 2) 101 - 300
- Faith Base Membership \$150 (Level 1) 1 – 100
- Agency Membership \$150
- Board of Directors \$100
- Individual Membership \$50
- Seniors (65+)

### UMMA Center

- ◆ Community Renewal Society
- ◆ Community Action Partnership of LC
- ◆ Southwire
- ◆ Faith in Place
- ◆ Building Families Together
- ◆ Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
- ◆ Warren Township Democrats
- ◆ Indivisible Lindenhurst

### Municipal Members:

- ◆ Waukegan Township
- ◆ Zion Township
- ◆ City of North Chicago
- ◆ Shields Township
- ◆ Libertyville Township
- ◆ Benton Township
- ◆ Grant Township
- ◆ Vernon Township
- ◆ West Deerfield Township

### Faith Base Members:

- ◆ First Baptist Church of Lake Forest
- ◆ Mount Sinai Baptist Church

### Corporate Members:

- ◆ Harris & Harris

## The Coalition Legal Help Desk Benefits Lake County Repatriates



People with criminal records can now receive free advice and assistance through the Legal Help Desk, offered by the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism in partnership with Waukegan Township.

Arrests and acquittals are expungable. Guilty pleas, probation, supervision and convictions, are not. The filing fee for an expungement is \$60.

### Volunteer Attorneys To Assist You:



Attorney Kathryn Vanden Berk



Attorney David Weinstein

The Coalition's Legal Help Desk is comprised of attorneys who offer free legal advice to people with criminal convictions to help determine their eligibility for expungement and sealing. Hours are: **1st Friday of the month from 8:30am – 12:30pm & 3rd Wednesday of the month from 12:30pm - 4:00pm.** Walk In Preferred (No Appointment).

The Legal Help Desk is located at Waukegan Township Supervisor's Office, 149 S. Genesee Street Waukegan, IL 60085. For information call 847-244-4900 or email coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com.

Please bring your RAP SHEET and CRIMINAL HISTORY  
For adult criminal Lake County cases: Request your rap sheet at the Lake County Clerk's Office, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, IL 60085, Basement Floor. Office open from 9am-5pm. Service fees required. For more

## We Spotlight a Coalition To Reduce Recidivism Member Agency:



Building Families Together provides training, mentoring and reentry services to incarcerated or released men and their families in Illinois to break the cycle of recidivism and intergenerational incarcerations.

How can you become involved?

**Be a Mentor** - We are always looking for male mentors with a love for humanity to provide guidance, time, expertise, and talents to returning citizens.

**Be a Partner** - We are looking to partner with organizations, corporations, and businesses that take the lead in being agents of change for their communities. More importantly, we are looking for employers who know the value in hiring returning citizens.

**Join Our Team** - We provide you with a team with the resources, tools and support – so together we can create happier, healthier families and communities. We have many different positions available. If you are unsure what you would like to do contact us.

### Contact:

P.O. Box 924  
Streamwood, IL 60107  
Email: [connect@buildingfamiliestogether.org](mailto:connect@buildingfamiliestogether.org)  
Text or Call: (630) 465 -4268





Patricia Jones, M.ED  
Founder, Chairperson  
Waukegan Township Supervisor

## 15th Annual Coalition Luncheon - Honoring The Past and Shaping The Future

On Friday, October 12, 2018, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism hosted its 15th annual Luncheon at the Park Place Center in Waukegan, IL. This year's celebration featured a panel of guest speakers which included the keynote speaker, Victor B. Dickson, President and CEO, Safer Foundation. We celebrated and recognized the founding members of the Coalition. We are grateful for your presence and for all the ways you have participated in building this organization. The Coalition members contribute their time, talent and finances, to help the organization thrive as a vibrant resource for those reentering society. The Coalition Luncheon honors individuals and organizations who promote and create programs to help lower recidivism rates.

### 2018 Honorees:

Employer of the Year - SouthWire - Ms. Trish Cook,  
Service Provider of the Year - UMMA Center - Ms.  
Mary Turley, Faith-Based Community of the Year - Mt.

Sinai Baptist Church - Pastor Gerald Wilcoxon, Justinian of the Year - Attorney Lacy Burpee, Repatriate of the Year - Mr. James Sisson, Repatriate of the Year - Ms. Brandy Fredrick, Chairman's Award- Jeff McBride

Thank you to our 2018 Sponsors: Platinum Sponsors: Waukegan Township, Tap Room Gaming, and College of Lake County. Gold Sponsor: Waukegan Housing Authority Silver Sponsors: North Shore Church of Christ, Senator Terry Link, and the Waukegan Police Department. Bronze Sponsors: Shiloh Baptist Church of Waukegan, Express Employment Professionals, and Lake County Regional Office of Education.

Nick Kallieris, Director of Resource Development and Legislative Affairs at the College of Lake County says, "It was wonderful to learn about the true impact the Coalition is making by changing lives for the better for those who just needed a second chance. The speakers were engaging and were passionate about their calling. I enjoyed attending the event. Congratulations on 15 years of service"!

Thank you to the community for your continued support! Proceeds from the luncheon benefit the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism programs.



Dr. Mary Roberson,  
President  
Coalition to Reduce  
Recidivism

Season Greetings Coalition to Reduce Recidivism friends, families and community partners.

As we approach the end of 2018 I am filled with joy and gratitude. As most of you know my tenure with the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism (C2RR) is ending. With the start of the new year there will be a new slate of officers who will continue the work of the past 15 years.

Over the years, it has been very gratifying to be involved in the work of assisting individuals who have been released from incarceration to have a second chance. Our work at the C2RR has not only impacted the individuals, but also the families and the surrounding communities.

From the beginning, my engagement as an agency member fueled my desire to not just be a paying member, but also to get involved in the mission of the C2RR. It is with great honor that

I have served in the recent years as President and have witnessed some very influential legislation get passed, a more diverse C2RR membership and the development of a youth component to help safe guard our future leaders.

We know that there is still much more work to do. I implore you all to get involved with the work of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism. As our state government changes leadership, the voices of the individuals, families and coalition members need to be heard. As our motto states, A conviction does not have to be life sentence. Let's make a joyful noise!!