



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

Spring 2018



**Employment Information
For Repatriates:**

Page 3



**President Trump
Speaks Prison Reform**

Page 4



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

Page 6

"No More Victims"



Investing in the youth Annual Youth Summit

Continued on page. 8

INSIDE/OUT COALITION TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

Interview with Repatriate Mr. Damonte Martin:

By Kim Woods

When you look at Damonte Martin you are looking at a young man who is making positive changes in his community. Currently, Damonte works with the developmentally disabled in the mental health field. Inside/Out interviewed Damonte to find out how he stays positive and uses a negative time in his life to inspire others to succeed.

Question: Where were you incarcerated?

I was incarcerated in New Orleans. It was right after Hurricane Katrina so it was a tough time for the city. I was riding with my friend and we were pulled over for a broken brake light. We were in possession of cocaine and booked on a felony offense. I had children and I felt that cocaine would provide more money. **Cocaine, in both powdered form and as crack, is one of Louisiana's most heavily trafficked illegal drugs.*

Question: How did you change your life for the better?

I returned to Lake County upon my release. I had a heart to heart talk with State Representative Eddie Washington. He helped me by making me think about what I wanted to do. I respected him because he presented himself as a "real guy". I knew he cared about me. He suggested I fill out an application for employment right away. I got a full time job and my life changed.

Question: What have you done or are doing to help others?

I'm driven by helping people on the streets. My goal is to assist people in making better life choices and living a better life. I recognize that the youth today are fearless. That can be a double edge sword because they can set their goals to be anything they want to be but, being fearless can make them take chances that can negatively effect their lives. They need people who are "real" to talk to them and help guide them on the right path. My goal is to help bring unity in the community. I hosted a father/daughter prom. During the holidays I gave out turkeys during Thanksgiving and toys to families in need during Christmas. I'm only 33 but I can still make a major impact in changing lives. I want to show young guys on the street that your young age should not stop you from being a leader. I volunteer my service as a math tutor for free. I'm on the board for Lake County Black Lives Matter. We focus on decreasing black crime and helping others see the value in their lives. I'm currently working on creating a community wide Juneteenth event. I want people to know that they control their own destiny. If you are on the wrong path you can always make a turn for the better. Just believe in yourself and know you have a divine cause.



About Inside/Out

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.

How to Reach Us:

By Phone: (847) 244-4900
By Fax: (874) 244-5185

By Email: coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com
www.reducerecidivism.org

By Mail:

Coalition to Reduce Recidivism
149 S. Genesee St. Waukegan, IL 60085

If you have news or updates for our newsletter or if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please call 847-244-4900 or email kwoods@waukegantownship.com.

Upcoming Coalition Meetings You Don't Want To Miss!

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 St., 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:

Corporate Membership \$500

Faith Base Membership \$500

(Level 3) 301+ Congregation Size

Faith Base Membership \$250

(Level 2) 101 - 300 Congregation Size

Faith Base Membership \$150

(Level 1) 1- 100 Congregation Size

Agency Membership \$150

Board of Directors \$100

Individual Membership \$50

Seniors (65+), Student & Other \$20



Coalition Membership Chair
Jennifer Witherspoon,
Coalition Vice President
Esquire, Lake County Sheriff's Officer

If you would like to donate to the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, please call 847-244-4900 or email coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com.

Legal Help Desk



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

Attorney Kathryn Vanden Berk
&

Attorney David Weinstein

Information on how to file for an expungement is available through the Lake County Clerk's Office, 18 N. County St., Waukegan, or online at: www.lakecountylil.gov/CircuitClerk/CivilCriminal/Pages/Expungements.aspx.

Help is also available at:
www.illinoislegalaid.org

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 information, please call (847) 244-4900.

Member Agencies:

- ◆ Waukegan Housing Authority ◆ Gary Oltman
- ◆ Catholic Charities ◆ Lori Moss
- ◆ College Of Lake County ◆ Live4Lali, Inc. ◆ Community Renewal Society
- ◆ Harbor Lites Chapter - Links, Inc. ◆ Lake County Sheriff's Office ◆ Congressman Brad Schneider
- ◆ Lake County State's Attorney's Office ◆ Zion Township ◆ L.C. Workforce Development
- ◆ Nicasa Behavioral Health Services ◆ Lake County Veteran & Family Svcs ◆ UMMA
- ◆ National Association of University Women ◆ 10th Congressional Dems ◆ City of North Chicago
- ◆ Shields Township ◆ Waukegan Township ◆ Libertyville Township

Lake County Workforce Development has launched a new program called [Revive Lake County](#) to equip returning citizens or individuals who have a criminal background with the essential skills needed to succeed in today's workplace.

Starting Feb. 8, 2018, Lake County Workforce Development, supported by the **Lake County State's Attorney's Office** will begin the new five-week program that focuses on life skills, career awareness, employability skills, and essential workplace skills. Individuals who successfully complete the program may be eligible to receive financial aid for job training or a paid work experience.

Demar Harris, Director of the Revive Lake County Program for Lake County Workforce Development, explains that the primary purpose of the program is to reduce recidivism. "The program's curriculum takes a holistic, strength based, solution-focused approach. It will include connections to services and

resources as participants successfully transition back into their community to obtain and retain sustainable employment." For more information contact Ashananti Ross of Lake County Workforce Development, Phone: 847-377-3438 or Email: aross@lakecountyil.gov.



DEMAR HARRIS
Director of Programs and EEO Officer
| Job Center of Lake County
Lake County Workforce Development

News You Can Use

To date, 1,639 Repatriates have obtained employment since August 2005.

Jan 2017 - Nov 2017:

118 Employed - Full time

22 Employed - Temp Agency

68 New Clients

Expungement & Sealing Data

Executive Clemency - 67 (61

Pending & 6 Granted)

Waukegan Township Office

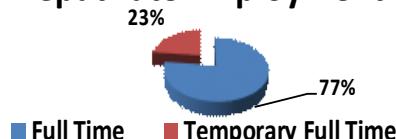
Expungement - 60 (34 Pending & 26 Granted)

LEGAL HELP DESK

Sealing- 70 (37 Granted & 33 Pending)

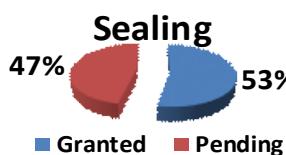
Coalition Jobs Report January 2017 - November 2017 Statistics

Repatriate Employment

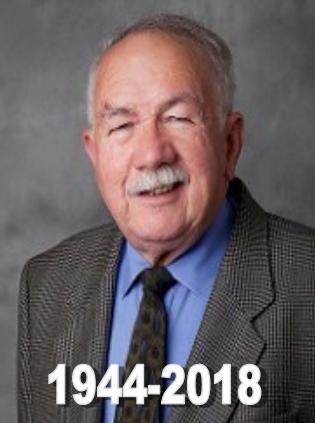


Johnnie Jenkins
Employment Specialist

Expungement



- ◆ Total Township clients served from November 2016-2017.
- ◆ Waukegan 87
- ◆ Shields 17
- ◆ Zion 13
- ◆ Benton 7
- ◆ Warren 7
- ◆ Avon 6
- ◆ Deerfield 4
- ◆ Vernon Hills 4
- ◆ Libertyville 6
- ◆ Antioch 4
- ◆ Ela 2



Remembering Dr. Phil Carrigan

While words can never fully express how much someone means to us, they can still provide comfort, solace, hope and even inspiration following the passing of a dear friend or loved one. With that, on Sunday, January 28th 2018, Waukegan Township and the community, lost a very dear friend and loyal supporter. Dr. Carrigan was a dedicated member of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism's Executive Board as well as the Eddie Washington Center and Staben House Advisory Councils. He will truly be missed.

Punishing the Families, Not the Inmates

As of late, if you have any family or loved ones who may be incarcerated you may have found out that trying to add funds to their account may cause you to go a little deeper into your pockets. The reason for this is because some institutions have adopted a new method for payments. Private companies, such as GovPayNet., and JPay, Inc. offer families the services of adding funds to an inmates account as a quicker and more efficient way to send cash. Did I forget to mention that there is also a service fee for using this new method? The private companies allow you to use their services while charging a 35% fee on top of what you are already depositing into the account. For example, If you are looking to deposit fifty dollars you may pay close to seventy dollars to complete the transaction. Many people have found this to be troublesome and demanding and are realizing that agencies make it far more difficult for poor families to escape poverty so long as they have a loved one in the system. JPay handles money transfers for 1.7 million offenders, or nearly 70 percent of the inmates in U.S. prisons.

Money Gram and Western Union are still effective and cheaper ways to add funds to an inmates account, however due to the rise of private companies these options are slowly starting to deteriorate.



President Trump Promises His Administration Will Pursue Prison Reform

President Trump invited governors, faith leaders and conservative activists to the White House on January 30th as he gave his State of The Union speech to discuss a law-and-order issue with a economic conservative twist: Prison reform. The shift of focus is now revolved around programs to help prisoners re-enter the workforce and reduce the rate of recidivism, ultimately saving taxpayer's money. "We will be very tough on crime, but we will provide a ladder of opportunity for the future" President Trump said. " We can help brake this vicious cycle" Criminal justice reform is an issue that unites the left and the right. However congress has found consensus elusive in recent years, leading former President Barack Obama to take executive action to shorten sentences of drug offenders and encourage employers to hire former prisoners.

- Gregory Korte, Fredreka Schouten and David Jackson, USA Today

Lake County Sheriff's Office, Health Department and TASC to Train At-Risk Inmates on Naloxone

Lake County, Ill. – On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Lake County Health Department and Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) launched a Naloxone education program for Lake County Jail inmates. The program kicked off with a Lake County Health Department representative visiting the pods and informing inmates of the opportunity for Naloxone training. TASC is set to provide Naloxone training to inmates preparing for release, with a goal of reducing opioid-related deaths.

Sheriff Mark C. Curran, Jr. stated, “We know inmates with Substance Use Disorder have a high rate of relapse. Through this program, we hope to educate inmates on how to prevent overdoses and on the rehabilitative resources that are available. If they refrain from using during their first couple weeks out of jail, they may be more likely to seek help for their addiction.”

“Research determined that former inmates are at high risk for death from drug overdose, especially in the immediate post-release period,” said Mark Pfister, the Health Department’s Executive Director. “A person’s drug tolerance can diminish during their time in jail, so the risk of overdose is higher.”

A Lake County Health Department representative will make monthly visits to each pod at the Lake County Jail to educate inmates on the use of Naloxone and encourage them to register for individual training. Inmates who register will be trained to use the overdose antidote by a TASC representative. Following completion of the training, a dose of Naloxone, along with information about addiction treatment services, will be added to the inmate’s property bag. These items are made available to the inmate upon release from jail.

The new program is funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), administered through the Department of Human Services.

“Collaborating with our community partners helps us to address the growing problem of opioid addiction in Lake County,” stated Curran. “This initiative enables us to discuss recovery and harm reduction with inmates while they are still in jail.”

“These individuals face a difficult transition back into society, often heading back into an environment that encourages their return to substance use,” said Pfister. “This is an intervention that we hope will save lives.”

Government Quietly Cutting Funding For Halfway Houses

Prisoners face uncertainty as a number of halfway houses will lose funding and will be forced to close down. The Justice Department has ended contracts with several halfway houses across the country, that change means inmates will likely stay in prison longer and have a tougher transition back to society. The bureau provided a list of 16 contracts due for expiration around the country, from West Virginia to Illinois to Colorado. Each is contracted for at most a few dozen beds, with some managing people in home confinements as well. Some expiration dates had already passed and others indicated the bureau would exercise its authority to end them soon. For more information visit www.npr.org.

Halfway House Defined:

Halfway houses, also known as a residential reentry centers (RCCs), are transitional homes for inmates. Living in a halfway house allows them to become slowly integrated back into society while serving the remainder of their sentence.

List of Illinois Residential Reentry Centers (formally known as Half Way House)

PRAIRIE CENTER 122 W. HILL ST. CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820 PHONE: (217) 356-7576	SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES 1307 W. MAIN ST. MARION, IL 62959 PHONE: (618) 997-5336	MINT PROGRAM 120 NORTH 11TH STREET SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703 PHONE: (217) 544-9858
DIRECTORY OF ACTIVE CONTRACTS SALVATION ARMY FREEDOM CENTER 105 S. ASHLAND CHICAGO, IL 60607 PHONE: (312) 421-2406	RESIDENTS IN TRANSITION 1005 NE Jefferson Ave. PEORIA, IL 61603 PHONE: (309) 671-8966	TRIANGLE CENTER 120 NORTH 11TH ST. SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703 PHONE: (217) 544-9858

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

Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017 (S.860):

This bill provides funding for delinquency prevention programming. It passed in the U.S. Senate on August 1st, 2017.

Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017 (H.R.695):

This bill provides no/low cost national background checks for youth serving organizations.

Local youth programs who may benefit from this bill.

- Youth Build Lake County
- Frontline Street Intervention
- Youth Conversation Corps



Youth Conservation Corps
Every young adult has a pathway to success regardless of life circumstances



**State Representative
Rita Mayfield
60th District**

More than 200 Illinois laws took effect - January 2018:

Changes in Illinois law that take effect January 1, 2018 should allow flexibility in sentencing in some drug cases while also allowing prosecutors another option to go after those dealing drugs.

Anyone convicted of a second felony methamphetamine charge will not be required to be sent to prison. It's one of more 200 new laws that take effect in 2018. A few laws that may affect you are listed below:

HB 188 - Clarifies the procedure for a court establishing jurisdiction over parties in a case.

HB 270 - Requires each law enforcement agency to develop a written policy regarding the investigation of officer-involved criminal sexual assaults.

HB 514 - Allows records of charges that result in an acquittal or dismissal with prejudice, except for minor traffic offenses, to be immediately sealed after the final disposition of the case.

HB 649 - Creates a formal process for the county sheriff and DHS to handle the custody of defendants found either unfit to stand trial or found not guilty by reason of insanity.

HB 736 - Establishes a small business grant program that will provide money to low- income individuals on public aid who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs.

HB 2390 - Adds crimes committed on the grounds of a religious facility to the definition of a hate crime. Removes the \$1,000 restitution cap and allows courts to impose a fine based on the severity of the crime and damages.

HB 2534 - Adds and removes several scheduled substances from the Illinois Controlled Substances Act to prohibit synthetic drugs like bath salts.

HB 2559 - Requires courts granting a name change to a person with a criminal record who has not received a pardon, or who has a pending arrest or charge, to forward a copy of the name change order to the ISP.

HB 2738 - Requires prisons to allow inmates to receive visitors in person or via video teleconference, with some exceptions for behavior.

HB 3084 - Removes the statute of limitations on prosecution for aggravated DUI causing death.

HB 3712 - Allows the Department of Corrections to provide inmates with temporary access to content-controlled tablets for educational and visitation opportunities as a reward for good behavior.

HB 3718 - Consolidates provisions regarding obtaining and issuing orders of protection and no contact orders, creates a criminal offense for the violation of no contact orders, and allows the State's Attorney to petition for protective orders on behalf of a victim.

HB 3803 - Changes the criminal offense of "unlawful contact with a gang member" to "unlawful participation in street gang related activity."

By Matt Hopf Herald-Whig

From the desk of Lake County State's Attorney Mike Nerheim: "A Way Out"

The "A Way Out" program is a pre-arrest diversion program designed to route people struggling with addiction into treatment through the police. This voluntary program recognizes that many people that struggle with addiction decide, on their own, that they want treatment. Many of these people, however, do not know where to go or what resources are available. Participants can go to one of 11 entry-point police departments in Lake County and simply ask for treatment. If they come in voluntarily and are in possession of drugs or paraphernalia, they will not be arrested. The 11 entry point police departments are Mundelein, Zion, Deerfield, Libertyville, Gurnee, Round Lake Park, Round Lake Beach, Grayslake, Lake Forest, Fox Lake, and the Lake County Sheriff's Department. Participants can be from any community in Lake County or even outside of Lake County. For more information on the program, please visit awayoutlc.org.

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We Spotlight a Coalition To Reduce Recidivism Member Agency:



UMMA
EDUCATE • EMPOWER • UNITE

We are UMMA, a nurturing community of volunteers, partners and supporters who are helping people of all backgrounds transform their lives and communities in Lake County, Illinois. At our center in Waukegan, we offer free GED classes, tutoring, basic needs support including our food pantry and clothing drives, and our CareerLink program which helps clients get into living-wage employment

Upcoming Classes - Sign up for FREE:

- **GED Classes** - get your GED and get on your way! 2017 saw our biggest GED graduating class ever, and we're ready to break that record - so sign up today!
- **CareerLink** - gain the skills and confidence to get your next great job! Last year CareerLink placed 65 graduates in living-wage jobs, and we couldn't be prouder of these UMMA Achievers!
- **Cooking Classes** - on-site monthly classes to learn healthy cooking and eating, as well as smart and budget-friendly shopping for nourishing ingredients! Plus you get to enjoy Yvonne's delicious cooking during class!
- **Financial Literacy Classes** - learn how to manage your money so it doesn't manage you! Learn how to get out of debt and be confident about your financial future!
- **Computer Literacy Classes** - beginner to advanced adult classes for all skill-levels in English and Spanish! Learn essential skills for office work, administrative jobs, and more. You'll know how to search online, how to check your kids' report cards online, how to email and how to use social media. Are you confident with your browsing and social media, but want to improve your Microsoft Suite skills for your job? Learn tricks of Excel, PowerPoint and more through UMMA-U.
- **Salesforce Classes** - Learning Salesforce admin skills put you at a great advantage for office jobs. This new program was just launched in 2017 and has already had its first graduating class. They're all thrilled to have received certificates and now display this skill on their resumes!
- **English as a Second Language (ESL)** - Learn the basics or improve your confidence in conversation! ¡Aprenda los conceptos básicos o mejore su confianza en la conversación!

More FREE classes are on their way in 2018 - stay tuned!

UMMA
Executive Director - Matthew Kostecki
221 Washington St,
Waukegan, IL 60085 (847-336-6136)



Investing In The Youth



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

As we continue to make a strive for an easier transition for those being reintroduced back into society, we must realize that the true development begins within the youth.

Early intervention plays an important role in keeping minors from embarking on a life of criminal behavior. A large social science research study by the University of Chicago Crime Lab, in partnership with Chicago Public Schools and local nonprofits, found that counseling and mentoring actually work. It's the first scientific evidence that a violence reduction program could actually lead to a decline in violent crime arrests among youths.

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism understands the connection of positive mentoring and the reduction in youth criminal behavior. Our annual Youth Summit's mission is to educate and motivate middle school and high school students in the Lake County area, while also providing them with the proper tools to become productive citizens and guiding them to be socially and culturally aware of their surroundings.

The Summit will include dynamic sessions which aim to ignite conversation and inspire the youth. Professional speakers will present workshops on Social Media, Cyber-Bullying, Decreasing Gang/Street Violence, The Importance of Decision Making, and What Do You Want To Do vs. What Do You Want To Be.

Special thanks to President Dr. Mary Roberson, Dr. Sylvia Johnson Jones as well as the rest of the Youth Summit Committee for your endless hard work and commitment that you provide to ensure the productivity of our youth moving forward. We will be partnering with the CLC Campus of Grayslake, IL on Friday April 13th, 2018 and Friday May 4th, 2018 from 8:30am– 1:00pm to host our annual youth summit. If you are interested in joining the committee you may call 847-244-4900 for more information.

*Thank you to the Coalition Executive Board
for your steadfast and commitment to change.*



Dr. Mary Roberson,
President
Coalition to Reduce
Recidivism

Dr. Mary Roberson 2017 Reflection:

As 2017 ends my heart is filled with love and respect for the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism's (C2RR) Executive Committee and our agency and individual members.

As I reflect over the past year's milestones I am still amazed at the wonderful works that is being accomplished. Some of the many highlights were the Youth Summits. This year we expanded to include the middle school as well as the high school students. Dr. Jones and her committee did a phenomenal job of coordinating with the school principals and chaperones to ensure a good turnout. The workshops on cyberbullying, juvenile incarceration and goals setting were all well received. A big surprise at one of the Youth Summits was a visit from the first African American Mayor of Waukegan, Sam Cunningham.

As planning got on the way for our Annual Luncheon and Job Fair, Chairman Todd Fletcher and his committee hit the ground running. Decisions on location, menu, keynote speakers and awardees are just a few of the details to be worked out. Ms. Jenkins securing the employers and other vendors for the job fair was a bonus for returning citizens. The luncheon was a huge success and will continue to benefit the mission of the C2RR.

Membership is another key component of the C2RR. As we look forward to next year, our membership Chair Jennifer Witherspoon is extending a call to action to increase the number of agencies and individuals associated with the C2RR.

We are very pleased with the new members who joined us in our work in 2017 and we look forward to what 2018 will bring.

As your current President, I have had the honor of representing the C2RR on multiple fronts. One being attending the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. (Court Help and Assistance Network for Community Entry) Program and Veteran Treatment Court Graduation at the Dirksen United States Courthouse in Chicago. I must say it was mindboggling to be in such a huge court to witness returning citizens graduate from a federal defender program, as well as veterans involved in the judicial system.

Another honorable event was moderating a discussion after the viewing of the documentary 53206 Milwaukee with the grassroot organization Indivisible of Northern Lake County. In this zip code in Milwaukee, 62% of the African American men are incarcerated. The documentary and discussion highlighted the continued need for the work of C2RR.

In closing, thank you all for the time, resources and advocacy for our returning citizens, their families and our communities. We believe in the motto No More Victims and A Felony Conviction Does Not Have to Be A Life Sentence.