



COALITION TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

**Special
Youth
Edition**

INSIDE/OUT



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

Summer 2016

Coalition Youth Summit Page 4



Over 90 students attended the 2016 Youth Summit from the following junior high school districts: Round Lake, Waukegan, and North Chicago. We had several informative and exciting workshops with the dynamic speakers.



Page 7

Voting is a tremendous gift. Believe it or not, young people just like you in other countries actually fight and even die for this right; a right that so many youth in democratic nations take for granted. If you don't you may one day wake up in a country where you can't exercise your right to vote whenever possible.

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13th Annual Coalition To Reduce Recidivism Job Fair/ Luncheon



Save The Date
Friday, October 14, 2016

For more information call
847-244-4900 or email

coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com

2016 Luncheon Chair - Pastor Todd Fletcher

A Transition From Gangs To Glory - Inside/Out talks with Pastor Ricky Bueno By Kim Woods

Frontline Street Intervention

1631 N. Cherokee Dr.

Round Lake Beach, IL 60073

Office Hours: Monday-Friday

10am-3pm. (847) 340-3574

frontlinestreetintervention@live.com

[facebook.com/Frontline-Street-Intervention](https://www.facebook.com/Frontline-Street-Intervention)



Question: What contributed to you joining a gang?

I think for me and a lot of youth, we were looking for an identity. You try to fit in with the crowd. I was trying to find out who I was. When we moved to Round Lake, it was mostly white people. When I got into high school, that's where it was most noticeable. I was trying to find a place. I would go back and forth to the old neighborhood where my grandmother still lived. There I met members of a gang and started hanging out. I looked up to the gang members in how they carried themselves. I started to identify myself with them. Once I found that Identity, I wanted to live and die for it.

Question: It seems at a young age you figured out that you wanted to be the best at whatever choice you made, you wanted to put your all into everything that you were doing? Did you have a father figure or parents as role models growing up?

My biological father left when I was around 4 or 5 years old. I had a mother and stepfather who raised me. My stepfather grew up in Mexico. He had a tough upbringing and he was extremely strict. I started to resent him and didn't want to be around him. I found freedom hanging out with my friends. My mom was always caught in the middle. Today my relationship with my stepfather is much better. I think that has a lot to do with me having my own family now.

Question: When you decided to join the gang...did you seek them out or did they make you to join?

Honestly, I would watch the movies like "Scarface" and see how they would glorify that type of lifestyle. The media had a lot to do with glamorizing gangs. I also had family members who were gang members. All of this had an influence on me joining. Ultimately, it was me liking the way the gang members carried themselves. I felt they had love for one another, showed respect and took care of each other. I felt like I was being accepted and that's really what I was longing for.

Continued on page 7

"No More Victims"

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 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

By Mail:

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

If you have news or updates for our newsletter you can send them to: kwoods@waukegantownship.com

Upcoming Coalition Meetings You Don't Want To Miss!

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Executive Board will meet from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 6/3 (at Park Place), 7/1, 8/5, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4, & 12/2/16 at 149 S. Genesee Street., Waukegan, IL.

The next public Bi-Monthly Meeting will be Monday, July 18, & September 19, 2016 at 330 S. Greenleaf Road, Gurnee, IL.

Upcoming Speakers:

July 18th - Minard E. Hulse Juvenile Detention Center

September 19th - Cabrini Green Legal Aid

November 21st - Transitional Alternative Reentry Initiative

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 \$500,

Faith Membership Congregation 301+ \$500

Faith Membership Congregation 100 - 300 \$250

Faith Membership Congregation up to 100 \$150

Agency \$150

Board of Director \$100

Individual \$50

Student, Senior(65+), Unemployed Repatriates \$20



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

Be sure to visit us on the web at: www.reducerecidivism.org

Repatriates and Ex-Offenders



YOU CAN VOTE!

ACCORDING TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, OF THE ILLINOIS STATE CONSTITUTION, EX-OFFENDERS RIGHT TO VOTE ARE RESTORED UPON SENTENCE COMPLETION. THIS INCLUDES THOSE WHO ARE ON PAROLE OR PROBATION.

Register to vote at Waukegan Township Supervisor's office:
149 S. Genesee Street or Park Place -
414 S. Lewis Ave, Waukegan, IL

For more information contact the Lake County Clerk's Office at 847-377-2400 or visit www.lakecountyil.gov/161/County-Clerk

"Arts On The Move"



Art Bus

- ♦ The Waukegan Township's Art Bus travels throughout Waukegan Township and beyond.
- ♦ Provides services to any youth organization or youth event.
- ♦ Use for private events such as birthday parties or family reunions.
- ♦ Children may create many works of art in the bus varying from hand paintings, bracelets, necklaces to puzzles, sun visors, buttons and much more.

For Service fee & more information call 847-244-0805

COMING

SOON!

COALITION TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM YOUTH CHAPTER

For more information call
847-244-4900 or email
coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com



Legal Help Desk
Attorneys

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

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.lakecountyil.gov/CircuitClerk/CivilCriminal/Pages/Expungements.aspx.

Help is also available at: www.illinoislegalaid.org

The Coalition's Legal Help Desk has volunteer lawyers, that offer free legal advice to people with criminal convictions and help to determine their eligibility for expungement and sealing. Hours are 1st Friday of the month from 8:30am – 12:30pm. **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.

News You Can Use

To date, 1,470 Repatriates have obtained employment since August 2005.

1st Qtr.:

43 Employed - Full time
13 Employed - Temp Agency
31 New Clients

Expungement & Sealing Data

Executive Clemency - 60 (57 Pending & 3 Granted)

Waukegan Township Office

Expungement - 59 (34 Pending & 25 Granted)

LEGAL HELP DESK

Sealing- 46 (27 Granted & 19 Pending)

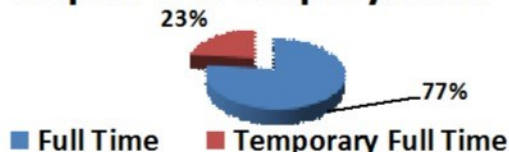
Total clients seen through the Legal Help Desk: 20

Coalition Jobs Report 2016 1st Qtr Statistics

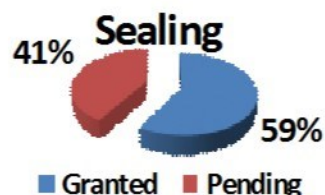
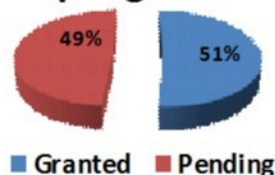


Johnnie Jenkins
Employment Specialist

Repatriate Employment



Expungement



The following companies are currently hiring. Please contact Johnnie Jenkins for employment opportunity and interview 847-244-4900:

- ◆ Polymax Thermoplastic Elastomers LLC
- ◆ Amazon
- ◆ Collision Solution
- ◆ Avado

Coalition Youth Summit - Friday, May 6, 2016



Over 90 students attended the 2016 Youth Summit from the following junior high school districts: Round Lake, Waukegan, and North Chicago.

We had a several informative and exciting workshops and the dynamic Keynote speaker was Pastor Josh Randolph. The students enjoyed a continental breakfast and pizza lunch that

was provided by Waukegan Township. Students also participated in a panel where Waukegan high school students shared their stories and asked a series of questions. The students were engaged in the sessions and showcased their talent as the summit was wrapping up. Waukegan Township provided gifts for the youth that showcased their talents. Overall, we have heard nothing but praise from the youth, teachers, and those who attended the summit. The presenters were well prepared and the sessions were well attended. Everyone felt that the committee did a superb job organizing the meetings, selecting thought-provoking topics and identifying schools. Congratulations on both a successful and a memorable summit. Thank you to the Coalition members who helped facilitate the day. Stay tuned for an upcoming dates for other Youth Summit events.

The 2016 Coalition Youth Summit Presenters and Speakers:

Sharon Epps, Brandi Coleman, Sylvia M. Johnson Jones Ed. D., Dr. Alfonso Baldwin, Pastor Joshua Randolph, Omar Alex Cendejaj, Marc Jones, Pastor Ricky Bueno, Det. Harold Rollins, and Yotoy McCoy.

Thanks to Waukegan Township &

College of Lake County Lakeshore Campus.

Special thanks to the 2016 Coalition Youth Summit Chair - Dr. Sylvia Johnson-Jones. Congratulations to Dr. Jones on receiving her Doctorate degree in May of 2016.



White House Announces New Summer Opportunity Project

Summer opportunities have been shown to divert youth from criminal involvement and reduce overall violence, and they also offer a chance for young people to get their first exposure to the workplace and build financial skills that they can build on throughout their lives. But these benefits are only possible if young people can find those opportunities.

To meet this challenge, state and local leaders, community-based organizations, private sector leaders, philanthropic leaders, schools and other youth-serving agencies are coming together to create a set of supports that enable strong transitions from school year to school year and from high school to college and to create careers by implementing and spreading proven interventions.



The Summer Opportunity Project will give young people access to their 'First Job,' and encourage investment in programs supporting summer meals and learning. "Let's make sure every young person knows that in America, we're all committed to helping them achieve their dreams."

-President Barack Obama

For more information visit www.whitehouse.gov. Press Release 02/25/16

"Celebrating Diversity"



Artis Yancey
1959 - 2014

-Waukegan City Clerk
-Lake County Coroner
-Waukegan Police Chief

Prepare for 2017!

Make your spring break an adventure!

Join Us Spring Break 2017!

Touring Grambling State University, Lincoln University, Harris-Stowe State University, Arkansas Baptist College, Philander Smith College, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Langston University, Texas Southern University, St Philips College, Prairie View A & M University, special visits to museums, art exhibits, and more. For more information

call 847-244-4900 or email
tsprings@waukegantownship.com



- Qualified Certified Chaperones
- One time fee which includes all meals & lodging for 7 days!
- Travel in a chartered motor coach

Open To All High School Students Grades 9th - 12th



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

Substance Abuse Problem?

Call Narcotics Anonymous for help in your area:

Hotline (708) 848-4884
www.chicagona.org

Working Together

In each edition, we will feature a service organization who offer services to assist former inmates and their families.

Community Action Partnership of Lake County (CAPOLC) is one of the largest social service organizations in Lake County serving 24,000 individuals and families annually. CAPOLC is one of 1,000 agencies across the United States established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's War on poverty. The Mission of the CAPOLC is to reduce the causes and effects of poverty, promote self-sufficiency of families and individuals with low incomes and improve the standard of living in the Lake County service area. For over 50 years, CAPOLC has provided a wide range of services in seven program areas: Pre-K education through Head Start and other early childhood education programs that focus on kindergarten readiness; Youth and Family Services that include emergency assistance, self-sufficiency case management, employment and training, scholarships, and a food pantry; Affordable Housing for low-income individuals and families plus long-term transitional housing for honorably discharged homeless Veterans; home heating bill payment assistance; home weatherization; Small Business Development and professional training; and the RSVP Senior Volunteer Program.

Community Action Partnership of Lake County
1200 W. Glen Flora Avenue, Waukegan IL 60058
Main Office: 847-249-4330

www.capolakecounty.org

Find us on [facebook.com/communityactionpartnership](https://www.facebook.com/communityactionpartnership)



community Action
PARTNERSHIP
Helping People. Changing Lives.
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF LAKE COUNTY

Mary Lockhart White,
Executive Director/CEO



Fathers Behind Bars: The Problem & Solution For America's Children

by Ryan Sanders

When it comes to fatherhood and prison, we are locking too many dads in jail with little to no help. The fathers behind bars are not connecting with their families from behind prison walls or upon release. These dads need help. They need our help or they are likely to reoffend.

- ♦ There is a crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 24 million children in America—one out of three—live without their biological dad in the home.
- ♦ There is a “father factor” in nearly all of the societal issues facing America today. We must realize there is a father absence crisis in America and begin to raise more involved, responsible, and committed fathers.
- ♦ Fathers in prison are, overwhelmingly, fatherless themselves.
- ♦ Youths in father-absent households have significantly higher odds of incarceration.
- ♦ Fathers are returning to their families without the skills they need to be involved, responsible, and committed fathers.

The National Fatherhood Initiative's InsideOut Dad® program for incarcerated fathers connects dads in prison with their children, heart to heart. InsideOut Dad addresses the marital/family domain that is concerned with an offender's family relationships, including:

- ♦ Relationships with parents and siblings;
- ♦ Marital history;
- ♦ Absence of parents;
- ♦ Parenting skills;
- ♦ History of family abuse and criminality
- ♦ Involvement in child abuse.

**National
Fatherhood
Initiative®**

To learn more about the National Fatherhood Initiative or to get involved visit www.fatherhood.org



A Father means so many things...
A understanding heart,
A source of strength and of support
Right from the very start.
A constant readiness to help
In a kind and thoughtful way.

With encouragement and forgiveness
No matter what comes your way.
A special generosity and always affection, too
A Father means so many things
When he's a man like you...
- Author Unknown

Did you know?

Kids who end up in juvenile jail have high rates of drug dependency:

More than 90 percent of males and nearly 80 percent of females who went through Cook County's juvenile detention center were diagnosed with drug or alcohol abuse and dependency at some point in their lives from childhood through their 20s and 30s, according to newly released findings from a Northwestern Medicine study. The report also found that abuse and dependence on "hard drugs" (cocaine, hallucinogen or PCP, opiate, amphetamine and sedatives) are less common among delinquent African American youth than non-Hispanic white youth. "Our findings add to the growing debate on how the war on drugs has affected African Americans," said one of the researchers. "We found that African Americans are less likely than other racial/ethnic groups to abuse hard drugs. Yet, African Americans are disproportionately incarcerated for drug crimes."

For more information visit:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-cook-county-juvenile-detention-drug-abuse-study-met-0318-20160317-story.html>

A Transition From Gangs To Glory - Inside/Out talks with Pastor Ricky Bueno

Continued from page one:

Question: How did you transition out of the gang?

I was in prison the fourth time and serving a 15 year prison sentence. I had two daughters from two different women and hurt a lot of people physically and emotionally. I put my mom through a lot. I was put in solitary and it gave me the opportunity to be alone and away from everybody. I started to ask myself if this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Do I want to be in these kind of places? I started to read the Bible that a minister had given to me. The thing that captured me about Jesus was the people he hung around with and identified with. If he could love the outcast maybe he had love for me. I accepted Jesus but I still struggled because I was holding on to the mentality of the streets.

Question: Oh man! You were still in prison and connected to your gang. How did the gang members receive your new found faith?

At first, I didn't say anything to anyone. The only people I told was my family. I kind of kept it to myself for a few months. My faith grew and eventually I was able to talk to the gang leader. I told him that I didn't want to participate anymore. To my surprise, he was very respectful. He told me that he didn't have a problem with me bettering myself. Now this is not everyone's story or typical. Just because you give your life to Christ does not mean that you can just walk away (from gangs). When I got out of prison the gang from the neighborhood did not receive my decision the same way. They began to threaten me and vandalize my home and car. I was married to the mother of my second child and I didn't want anything to happen to my family. We had to move away from the area. We eventually ended up in Round Lake. I got involved in a gang outreach ministry. I shared my story and eventually started my own not-for-profit gang outreach ministry - Frontline.

Question: To sum it up, what special words would you like to say to the youth?

I try to highlight to make better choices in life and be informed about some of your decisions. A lot of time when you hear about gangs they are always glamorized. You rarely hear the stories about what happens after you join. Don't go in blindly thinking that you will live this glamorous life, make lots of money, and be on top of the world. The reality is that there's death, crime, addiction, disease, and incarceration. The youth need to consider those things. We rarely see men and women coming out of the gang life, so when I speak at events I bring past gang members to share their stories. It's a good way to see how ex-gang members are living a productive life and able to give back, by helping their community.

Question: Let's say I want to get out of a gang. What's the first thing I should do?

That's a difficult question because it's a risk. I tell them

when you joined a gang you knew you were going to be in it for life. You don't think about that, but it's a reality. You risk death if you stay in the gang and you risk death coming out. For me I decided if I was going to risk my life it would be for something positive that could add value. If you are someone who really wants to get out make sure you have a support group. My organization Frontline can help. We have several mentoring programs for men and women who are trying to break free (from gangs). We offer childcare at the meetings and can assist with free gang tattoo removal and gang color (clothes) trade-in. We also have a monthly basketball outreach as a way to connect to the youth. We speak at different events and offer support to anyone who wants to leave a gang. It is my desire to connect with community leaders or individuals all over Lake County. Lack of transportation makes it hard to come to the Round Lake area. For that reason, we can train anyone who would like to start a Frontline in their area.



Don't Vote, Don't Complain!

By Daneishat

Youth voters consist of 18 to 29 year-olds in the United States but, there is a lack of political participation from this generation. Congress decides on key issues for young people, including student loan laws and rates, immigration reform, public education funding and tax reform. The top reasons youth don't vote are because they are too busy, have no interest in the candidates or they feel like their vote will not make a difference. Despite the big influence these policies have over young people's lives, millennials have the lowest voter turnout.

Many urban youth voters are coming out of college with tens of thousands of dollars, if not more, in student loan debt, yet they are unable to find work. If they are fortunate enough to become employed, it's often not in their chosen fields. It doesn't have to be this way. By coming together as Americans, Congress should create an environment conducive to continued economic growth. Even registering to vote sends a message. The government collects statistics on what age groups are registered to vote. If you are registered you become a potential voter. When the word gets out that record numbers of young people are registering to vote, politicians will get the message and will be more interested in what's important to young people. It helps you and young people everywhere if you register to vote.

<http://truestaris.com/why-should-young-americans-vote/>



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

Reach for the sky! Consider what you want from life and make sure your decisions help you reach your goals.

Every day you have choices to make. You may sometimes wonder, “Do my choices really matter?” The answer is yes. You’ve been taught that choosing to disobey the law brings consequences. But have you considered that the same is true for good choices? Whether for good or bad, consequences follow as a natural result of the choices you make”. Bad choices can lead to incarceration. Experts believe that incarceration can lead to financial problems for your future. Many inmates choose to let bills go unpaid. Going to jail for as little as three months could destroy even a solid credit report. Prison can affect your finances and mental state of mind. Even for the most hardened inmates, prison can be a scary place. The ongoing climate of

trauma can create anxiety, depression, phobias in prisoners who previously had no serious mental health issues. Almost 70% of people who have been incarcerated are arrested again within three years, and the dire state of mental health care in prisons could play a significant role in this high rate of recidivism.

Make choices that will set you up to succeed in the future. So how do you start? You could probably come up with a large list of the right things to do. A good place to start is to consider what you want from your life. Do you want to graduate from college and get a good job? If so, how do you get there? Just like builders need a blueprint to make a skyscraper, you need a plan to build a good life. Write down some of your goals and how you plan to achieve them. Keep that list where you can see it often. Then when you do have to make a choice, you can think about your list to make sure you don’t give up what you want most for something you want now. Setting goals also makes your choices deliberate and intentional instead of being haphazard, random, or based on circumstances. Remember, the choices you make now can help or hinder your future.

* A Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Youth Group would be a wonderful addition to your school. Please contact 847-244-4900 or email coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com for more information.

As we approach the 2016 Summer Season I greet you all with warm wishes. The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism (C2RR) is very excited about the Youth Summit that was held on May 6, 2016 at CLC Lake Shore Campus. Our youth of today are faced with many challenges ranging from violence in school, cyber bullying, single parent households and trauma, to name a few. The signs of stress may be different in each child. Some signs may be becoming anxious or fearful, having a hard time concentrating, developing eating disorders or self-harming behaviors. The C2RR’s Youth Summit addressed some of the challenges in ways to engage our youth of today.

Most recently, under the Obama Administration, the Department of Justice has taken major steps to make the criminal justice system more fair, more efficient, and more effective at reducing recidivism and helping formerly incarcerated individuals contribute to their communities by the recognition of a National Reentry Week, which was April 24th-30th, 2016 (SAMHSA, 2016). There is a great resource available titled Reentry Resources for Individuals, Providers, Communities, and States.

This fits in with the C2RR’s mission “to reduce recidivism by assisting ex-offenders in becoming productive members of the community.” The C2RR’s President attended the Swift Certain Fair Supervision, a training for courts, community corrections, law enforcement & service providers on May 6, 2016 in Chicago, sponsored by The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Courts, community corrections, and law enforcement agencies across the country have used Swift Certain Fair (SCF) guiding supervision principles to reduce re-offending, arrest, incarceration, and jail and prison violence.



Dr. Mary Roberson,
President
Coalition to Reduce
Recidivism

Thank you all for your continued support of the Coalition To Reduce Recidivism!!