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2010
Annual Report

May 2011

Judicial Process Commission -2010 Annual Report

Chairperson's Message

Dear Friends,

JPC is like a shining little diamond. It is a small organization that tackles a difficult job. We obtain excellent results, at low cost, and do it with a high concern for each individual. We're what a non-profit should be. In 2010, JPC helped 1800 men and women ex-offenders living in the Rochester area. We helped more individuals re-start their lives than all other local groups combined. Our resources do not allow us to provide comprehensive services to every client; we do what we can with what we have and are proud of our work. JPC helps ex-offenders find somewhere to live, re-connect with family, obtain training or education, find a job, deal with addictions, and interact with a myriad of agencies. We help them obtain official identification and correct errors in their Rap Sheet to remove job barriers. We help many of them change their lives so that courts will award them certificates affirming they are "safe" to hire. For each client JPC keeps out of crime, taxpayers are saved \$35,000-\$50,000 per person, the cost of incarceration. Each crime and incarceration is a tragedy for the victim, the perpetrator, the families, and public safety. We stop all that agony.

JPC won national recognition two years ago. Jointly with RIT, we were one of less than 8% of applicants selected for a grant to start a new project to help women in the County Jail who are pregnant or have young children. Our program operated successfully all last year with innovative techniques. In recent months, JPC received recognition from New York State and two local organizations who contacted us to help them serve local residents returning from incarceration. In addition, JPC contacted all African-American churches in our zip code, and an African-American professional group, to ask them to help mentor ex-offenders.

JPC's finances are not good. In recent months, we were notified that a large contract would not be renewed, and a large grant would not be awarded. We have been trying to obtain funding in other ways, but all sources are tight because of our nation's recession. We need you more than ever.

Fred Schaeffer, JPC Board Chair

Director's Message

Greetings,

In total, 2010 was an exciting year! In January 2010, we launched the *Women's Re-entry Project* and have served 33 women and their children exiting the Monroe County Jail. Only 7 clients have been rearrested – (mostly misdemeanor level charges) and 12 are receiving pre-release services. Largely, clients have stayed out of the criminal justice system and are moving forward on their reentry goals: 5 women found safe and stable housing, 1 has work, 1 is in college, and 4 reunited with their children. Another mom is moving toward reunification with children in foster care. 8 single bedroom apartments for men or women returning from incarceration that are homeless and disabled will be filled shortly. The funds come through a new JPC Shelter Plus program affiliated with the Rochester Housing Authority. New alliances with several property management companies and a motel helped our clients leave unlivable situations become stable and move in to new apartments.

Fun events for mentor and client were held with a fashion color consultant, hair technicians, holiday celebration and a graduation party. Small businesses stepped up to provide the Holiday luncheon meal, and gift certificates to a hair salon, shoe store, and other stores/services. Partnerships with RIT and Monroe County Correctional staff play a critical role in the success of our clients and this project.

JPC's *Legal Action Project* will be offered to more clients through the *Access to Recovery Project*. This new project recognizes the importance of support services beyond traditional treatment. JPC is just one provider that is part of a large new network of providers that will offer enhanced recovery supports through the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene,

The enthusiastic dedication of our *staff and faithful funders brought hope* to over 1,800 men, women and children that we serve. Your continued support provides a second chance and helps break the cycle of re-incarceration for area offenders; and reaffirms that everybody matters. Thank you!

Susan K. Porter, Executive Director

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JPC Vision

The Judicial Process Commission envisions a society with true justice and equality for all. We understand that in a just society, all institutions will be based on reconciliation and restoration, instead of retribution and violence.

Mission

The Judicial Process Commission is a grass roots non-profit organization that works to create a just, nonviolent community. We support the rights of all people affected by the criminal justice system and promote changes to that system that help them achieve their fullest potential. We do this by providing support services, educating the public and advocating for systemic change.

PROGRAMS

1) Ex-offenders Support Services (ESS)- Includes service coordination, wrap around services, legal services, rap sheet reviews, certificate of relief from disabilities/ of good conduct, and mentoring.

Service Coordination – Staff and volunteers provide one on one support, coordinated referrals, employment services and advocacy for individuals coming out of the criminal justice system.

Wrap Around Services - JPC provides Wrap Around Services to low income, ex-offenders returning to the greater Rochester community that include bus transportation, used clothing, bedding, work boots, identifications, and 1st months rent (Women's Re-entry Project only).

The Promise of A Second Chance. Over the past five years, I have worked in lock-step with JPC staff and volunteers to improve the lives of those returning home from prison and those living with the stigma of a criminal record in our community. We have touched the lives of thousands of individuals and saved hundreds of jobs and professional licenses for people who would have been otherwise denied these opportunities based solely on their convictions, despite any rational connection between the jobs and their crimes. The work done at the JPC has been and continues to be essential to ensuring those who have paid their debt to society secure the promise of a second chance to better their lives and the lives of their families." **Jason Hoge, Esq. Re-Entry Project**

Legal Action Project - This is a first of its kind collaborative effort with Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. (LAWNY)-Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (MCLAC) to reduce and/or eliminate legal and illegal barriers that make it much more difficult for ex-offenders to rejoin the community and succeed in almost every important aspect of life. Major activities/services include:

RAP Sheets – JPC, working in collaboration with MCLAC, requested 625 New York State Rap Sheet for individuals with criminal records from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and FBI.

Certificates of Rehabilitation: Certificate of Relief from Disabilities and Certificate of Good Conduct - JPC service coordinators, MCLAC attorney and clients worked together to prepare materials for 115 applications to apply to various courts for these certificates. These Certificates remove any automatic barriers to individuals' employment or licensure caused by a criminal conviction and serve as legal evidence of rehabilitation that assists individuals in gaining stable housing, employment, or licensure.

Job Discrimination Education and Referrals –This service ensures that New York State law and public policy designed to encourage employment of persons convicted of crimes is enforced. Staff researched RAP sheets, wrote letters to employers and referred cases to MCLAC for further advocacy and/or litigation. JPC and MCLAC staff gave twenty-four presentations to service provider staff regarding employment discrimination against ex-offenders and advocacy efforts.

Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project (FCAMP) - FCAMP assists individuals coming out of the criminal justice system by providing them with a trained mentor that serves as a guide or coach to support their successful return to the community. Our mentor champions, Rev. Lawrence Hargrave and former Mayor William Johnson continue opening doors to recruit new mentors and serve as mentors of young ex-offenders as well. 85 new mentors were trained in 2010. Mentors and mentees work together to identify employment resources and housing, to problem solve and to identify other community resources. In 2010, we contracted with Catholic Family Center to provide mentors for *David's Place* ex-offender program. Several of the mentees obtained employment and some started attending MCC. This was a one year contract; however, several mentors continue to coach their mentees. We started a bi-weekly *Team Mentoring Group* at

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Monroe Correctional Facility led by two mentors that facilitated discussion on: Communication Skills, Healthy Relationships and successful transitional plans, etc. The program attendance soared to as high as 16 attendances.

2) Public Policy Group –Twelve activists meet bi-monthly developing strategies, fact sheets and reports advocating for more reentry resources for prisoners returning to Monroe County. This is a racially diverse group that includes parolees and mentors; people directly affected by the issues, as well as citizens active in faith communities and interested in social justice and reentry issues. A white paper is underway advocating for free birth certificates for the poor.

3) Jail-Prison Correspondence Project – Staff responded to more than 500+pieces of mail in 2010 from local jail inmates, prisoners, and prisoners from facilities around the United States. These include complaints of abuse, discrimination, inadequate health care, reentry and legal needs.

4) Justicia – Our electronic bi-monthly publication is distributed six times a year to 449 individuals/organizations. When funds are raised, we would like to reinstate postal mailings to our larger database of 4,609 people. Board member Dorothy Siegel edits the newsletter. It contains articles and reports on re-entry, the death penalty, prison conditions, restorative justice, current JPC issues and events as well as interviews/profiles of our staff and volunteers. This is a volunteer publication and the only one of its kind in the region.

Derrick is a 34 year old African American man who at 20 years old made some poor choices selling drugs and was sent to jail, giving him a record. 14 years later, he graduated from his RN program but due to the conviction, was not allowed to take his Nursing Board exam without first obtaining a Certificate of Relief. JPC assisted him in getting his Certificate and he is now working in Rochester as a nurse. "I thank the JPC because they helped make my career dream a reality and I am now able to provide for myself and my family."

JPC Client Service Statistics - 2010

Category (Tracking all clients with limited staff is not possible.)		
Unique Individuals Served:		1,802
# by Age	17-29 (244) 30-49 (486) 50+ (125) Unknown (947) = 1802	
Female: 301 Male: 614		
Walk-Ins (Clients who registered at reception each day: not all are entered into db.)		2,641
# Rap sheets applied for		625
# Rap sheets: received/reviewed (In cooperation with MCLAC)		251
# Certificate of relief/Certificate of good conduct: applied for/approved		115/78
# Obtained a job** (for those we could track)		90
# Entered education/training** (for those we could track)		36
# In treatment program** (for those we could track; others in treatment prior to JPC)		52
# In support group** (for those we could track)		178
# Parole/probation (underreported: self disclosed) (County Prob: 72) (State: 85) (Federal: 11)		168
# Mentors trained (Some return to faith communities to start their own program.)		85
# Jail-prison correspondence received		500

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22 Community Partners - 2010

Catholic Family Center: Restart, Freedom House & Prodigal Sons and Daughters
Foodlink
Monroe County Correctional Facility Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program
Monroe County Department of Human Services-Work Experience Program (WEP) & Shelter Plus Program
Monroe County Legal Assistance Center, Reentry Project
Monroe Community College
Monroe County Reentry Task Force
Monroe County Probation & Community Corrections Dept.
New Yorkers for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
New York State Parole
Rochester AmeriCorps

Rochester Friends Meeting
Rochester Correctional Facility (NYS Work Release Facility)
Rochester Housing Authority
Rochester Institute of Technology, Dept. of Criminal Justice
Safer Monroe Area Reentry Team (SMART)
Spiritus Christi-Jennifer House
Pathstone-Sojourner House
United States Probation and Pre-trial Services
Unity Health Services-Daisy Marquis Jones Women's Residence
Vocational Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities - VESID
Volunteers of America Store & Working Women's Wardrobe

2010 Key Funder & In-kind Support

Key Funders

Catholic Family Center
Church of the Assumption
Lois Davis
First Unitarian Church
Mulligan Trust
Monroe County Bar Foundation
Mt. Rise United Church of Christ
Church of the Assumption
St. Louis & St. Catherine's, Roman Catholic Parishes
United Church of Christ, Genesee Valley Association

Key Funders

Presbytery of Genesee Valley
Rochester Area Community Foundation
Rochester Society of Friends
Spiritus Christi
US Department of Justice, Second Chance Act
Fred and Floy Willmott Foundation
John F. Wegman Fund
Marie C & Joseph C Wilson Foundation

In-kind Support

Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (In-kind legal staff)

Carly is a 48 year old White woman working as a Certified Nurse's Assistant. She lost her job because she had an extensive criminal record; even though she had a clean record for the past 13 years. With 3 children and a grandchild to support she was desperate and feeling hopeless. Word of mouth got her to us. JPC was able to contact the Dept. of Health and get them the documents they requested in order for her to be cleared to return to work.

"I am so happy that I am now working as a nurse full time in the health care field and have set my life back on the right track to be able to provide for my family."

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Current Board Members & Advisory Board

Mary Boite, *Vice-Chairperson*
Fundraising Committee, Chair

Gregory Bouie
Willow Group, LTD, Batavia
Marketing and Client Service

Helen Cheves
Adjunct Faculty, Dept of
Communication, SUNY Brockport
II Steps Ahead, President

Jane Coons, *Treasurer, Finance Chair*

Linda Harnell Davis
Business owner - Wade and Me Salon

Duncan McElroye, Action for a
Better Community &
Synnex/Concentrix Corporation

Isabel Morrison
Public Policy Group

Gail Mott, *Secretary*
Fundraising

Deacon John Mourning, Mentor

Fred Schaeffer, *Chairperson*
Public Policy Group, Mentor

Suzanne Schnittman, PhD.

Public Policy Group, Governance
Committee

John Perry Smith
President, Total Information Inc.
Finance Committee

Advisory Board

John Klofas, PhD, Director, Center
for Public Safety Initiatives; Prof.,
Dept. of Criminal Justice, RIT

Emmanuel Oparah
Asst. Program Director
Action for a Better Community

Current Staff, May 2011

JPC staff are both paid and volunteer and come to us through a variety of avenues. In 2010, JPC benefited from the work of eleven in-kind/ volunteer staff from five organizations including, AmeriCorps; M C Depart. Human Services Work Employment Program; Rochester Rehabilitation Options; and Monroe Community College students.

Staff

Susan K. Porter
Ex. Director

Kamilah Richardson
Sr. Service Coordinator

Valerie White-Whittick
Mentor Coordinator

Cynthia Consaul
LCSW-R
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Jeanette Gartland Creighton
LMSW, Licensed Master Social
Worker CASAC Credentialed
Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
Counselor

John Mourning
FCAMP Outreach

Mavis Eagan
Client Navigator/Evaluator

Consultant

MacClurg Vivian
Freelance Grantwriting
Consultant

Rochester AmeriCorps

Darnell Smith
Thomas Cardot
Service Coordinators

*Monroe County Legal Assistance
Center*

John Busby, Esq.

*Rochester Rehabilitation,
Options Program*

Amanda Alvarado
Administrative Assistant

Devon Davenport
Administrative Assistant

Monroe Community College

Shawna Gary, LAP Assist.

Mary Knapp, Mentor

Community Volunteers

Donna Banks
Administrative Assistant
Dorothy Chung, Special Events
Organizer

Volunteer Staff

Sr. Veronica Casey
Financial Assistant

Ed Johnson
Financial Assistant

Betty Wynn
Administrative Assistant

Shalanda Patterson
Administrative Assistant
Prison Advocacy &
Correspondence

