



285 Ormond Street, Rochester, New York 14605
w. 585-325-7727 f. 585-325-2165
info@rocjpc.org www.rocjpc.org

2007 & 2008
Annual Report
February 2009

Chairperson's Message

Dear Friends,

I think of JPC as a jewel that shines brightly. Judicial Process Commission (JPC) is one of the few significant groups that help people coming home to Rochester after being incarcerated. We help them find jobs and housing, re-connect with their family, find training or schooling, and work with other agencies.

In 2006, we helped 400 ex-offenders. In 2007, we served more than 528 ex-offenders and in 2008 at least 1,099. Customer demand for this work exceeds our resources to meet it: JPC also corresponded with more than 1,063 prisoners in 2007 & 2008 about complaints of abuse, discrimination, health care, re-entry, and legal needs.

In 2007, JPC created the Mackey Awards for Leadership and for Training in restorative, criminal, or social justice. In 2007 & 2008, JPC expanded legal services to ex-offenders thanks to its partnership with Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc - Monroe County Legal Assistance Center.

Rochester faces significant challenges in reducing violence and crime. One way to address it is with a zero-tolerance policy, with its attendant high costs of police, the courts, and incarceration. A second approach is to address the root causes of recidivism for ex-offenders (i.e., substance abuse, mental health issues, isolation, insufficient job skills, etc.), which is what JPC does.

Each year more than 2700 ex-offenders come home to our area. Without the kind of help JPC provides, two out of three are back behind bars within three years. This is a terrible personal, public safety, social justice, and public funding tragedy that with your help, JPC tries to prevent. I would like to thank everyone who has supported these much-needed services and hope that your support continues.

Fred Schaeffer, JPC Board Chair

Coordinator's Message

Greetings,

The last two years have been a period of growth, with customers, office space, and staff. A full-time staff position was added with new funding from the US Department of Justice in collaboration with RIT Criminal Justice Department and US Attorney General's Office in Buffalo New York. This allowed us to develop our ex-offender customer database into the *most* comprehensive amongst local non profit service providers. Several temporary staff positions (two month-one year) were added through Monroe Co. Dept of Human Services, Work Employment Program. We are doing a better job of involving our customers in our work projects such as our newsletter mailing, snow shoveling, and our move. Our new offices are ideally located at the edge of the city center for our customers and offer free parking for all.

JPC's board has worked hard with a spring funding appeal and with our move. They have steadfastly guided us through a number of bumps in the road in the past two years. Another bright light has been our expanding relationship with the Monroe County Legal Assistance Center Reentry Project under the capable leadership of Jason Hoge, Esq.. This collaboration has brought new energy to our work and educates the employment and legal communities about employment discrimination toward ex-offenders and what can be done about it.

We started a new partnership with Vocational Employment Services for Individuals with Disabilities, which not only benefits clients but also provides a much-needed revenue source. JPC will be pursuing funding through a federal Second Chance Act in 2009 to fortify and expand our services in 2010.

Sue Porter
JPC Coordinator

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.

"The JPC has helped me restructure my life, not just with the legal aspect, but in getting a job, after 20 years of not working; they went much further than I ever anticipated." Ex-offender

PROGRAMS

1) Probationer and Parolee Support Services includes case management, wrap around services, legal services, rap sheet reviews, certificate of relief from disabilities/of good conduct, and mentoring.

Case Management – Staff and volunteers provide one on one support, coordinated 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 and include bus transportation, clothing, bedding, work boots, identifications, and 1st months rent.

W is 44 years old and spent half of that in prison, with 11 ½ years in federal facilities. He was released in 2007, and got a GED but only had a job history of general labor. The Judicial Process Commission provided job placement information, help with resume preparation and guidance in getting the IDs needed to find employment. The support he got there was the first and most important step, and the ongoing Monday Night Meetings kept him grounded. W likes working and being part of a team that accomplishes a goal. "Being in prison is very deadening to your senses; the camaraderie and socializing at work gives you a sense of being alive, a contributor to the work and to society. I am very willing to make a go of my life; I have another third to look forward to."

Legal Action Project - This is a 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.

Rap Sheets - JPC helps individuals with criminal records to obtain their official New York State Rap Sheet from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and FBI. Many of these are done in cooperation with MCLAC.

Certificate of Relief from Disabilities and Certificate of Good Conduct - JPC case managers, MCLAC legal staff and customers work together to prepare materials for judges/parole board to review and approve. When granted, a Certificate will help ex-offenders gain employment, housing, licensure and restore other rights.

"I was a VESID (Vocational Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities) client; my counselors there suggested that 'JPC is the way to go' and they were right. Sue Porter and Kamilah Richardson have been absolutely incredible! My boss went out on a limb for me, solely on their recommendation. I have felony convictions and didn't have the qualifications he needed, but he hired me as his Administrative Assistant, where I've gone from part to full-time work. It's been a journey, and JPC has been a huge part of that. I would do anything for Sue, Kamilah and JPC - all they have to do is ask. Women coming out of prison don't have as much support as the men do, but JPC has really supported me." Ex-offender

Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project (FCAMP) - assists individuals coming out of the criminal justice system by providing them with a trained mentor that serves as a guide or coach. The goal of mentoring is to support releasees in their successful return to the community. Most mentors are recruited from Rochester's faith communities. Trainings are held three times a year. Mentors and mentees work together to identify employment resources, housing, to problem solve and to identify resources from other local organizations. The FCAMP Advisory Committee meets monthly and includes representatives from key government agencies (e.g. NYS Parole,

Monroe County and Federal Probation), the Roman Catholic Chaplain at the Monroe County Jail and community activists.

2) **Public Policy Group** – Twelve activists meet monthly developing strategies, fact sheets and reports pushing 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.

3) **Jail-Prison Correspondence Project** – Staff responded to more than 463 pieces of mail in 2007 and 600 pieces in 2008 from local jail inmates, prisoners, and prisoners from 63 facilities around the United States, including 23 facilities in NYS. These include complaints of abuse, discrimination, inadequate health care, reentry, legal needs and requests for information.

"I spent 13 years in and out of prison. Now I want to work, stay out of prison, be a father to my kids. Even though I am a certified electrician, many doors closed when potential employers found out about my conviction and most didn't call back. The JPC made a big difference in my life - they helped me get the IDs I needed to re-establish my identity, helped put together a resume, and look for a job. Now I am working, thanks to JPC and an understanding employer, to whom I give my all because he took that chance on me. Ex-offender

4) **Reconciliation Network: Don't Kill In Our Name.** We continue as local organizer of the Reconciliation Network: Don't Kill in Our Name, which is dedicated to assuring the death penalty is not restored in New York State.

JPC Customer Service Statistics 2007 & 2008

Category (Note: **=db in development, #'s are underreported)						2007	2008
Individuals Served						536	1099
Year	Age	17-29	30-49	50-64	Unknown		
2007		90	311	88	42		
2008		259	648	160	31		
Female						180	400
Walk-Ins (Customers who registered at reception each day: not all are entered into db.)						1,930	2,969
# Rap sheets applied for						438	686
# Rap sheets: received/reviewed (In cooperation with MCLAC)						294/180	513/487
# Certificate of relief/Certificate of good conduct: applied for/approved						199/124	257/191
# Obtained a job** (for those we could track)						66	121
# Entered education/training** (for those we could track)						27	63
# In treatment program** (for those we could track; others in treatment prior to JPC)						10	17
# In support group** (for those we could track)						6	23
# New criminal charge (underreported: for those we could track)						7	14
# Returned to jail (underreported: for those we could track)						2	12
# Parole/probation (underreported: self disclosed) (County: 178) (State: 282) (Federal: 29)							489
Mentors Trained (Some return to faith communities to start their own program.)						45	73
Jail-Prison Correspondence Received						463	600
Requests for legal assistance						102	83
Reentry requests						87	162
Newsletter <i>Justicia</i>						137	240
Wrongful conviction/ attorney misconduct claims						28	21
Abuse/ medical/ censorship complaints						42	33

The Mackey Leadership and Training Awards
 By Mary M. Sullivan

Judicial Process Commission (JPC) honored its 2008 Virginia and John Mackey Awardees on May 29, 2008. The Reverend Virginia and John Mackey were outstanding advocates of criminal justice and social justice in the Greater Rochester area and beyond. The awards are made possible by a gift given to JPC by the Mackeys. The focus is in the Rochester region, but is open to those elsewhere in New York.

Mackey Leadership Award. The Mackey Leadership Award, including a framed citation and a monetary award, was given to **Eileen Hurley**, "for ground-breaking activity in restorative justice." For well over a decade Eileen has founded and led such restorative endeavors as the Women of Conviction Project (designing ways to reduce incarceration and recidivism among women), the Wesley's' Mothers Meeting (for mothers of incarcerated children), and the Spiritus Christi Mental Health Center (for un/under-insured adults/ children based on the premise that violence is a community health problem). Most recently, she developed the Responding to Violence Initiative through which she serves as an outreach worker providing psychosocial support, partnerships, and counseling to 16-18 year-old men and their families during incarceration and post-release, in collaboration with other agencies and networks. **Mackey Training Award.** The Mackey Training Award was presented to the Re-Entry Project of the Monroe County Legal Assistance Center an affiliate of Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. The Project is directed by Jason Hoge; the Center, by Lou Prieto. The Project is well known countywide for its extensive training programs, acquainting a variety of criminal justice personnel and volunteers with the needs and rights of the thousands men and women who complete their sentences and seek successful re-entry in New York State each year.

Dedication of JPC's Reception Area. At the ceremony on May 29, 2008, JPC dedicated its office reception area to the memory of Virginia and John Mackey.

Justicia

Our bi-monthly publication goes to 4,609 people. Writer Jack Bradigan Spula edits the newsletter. It contains articles and reports on re-entry, the death penalty, prison conditions, restorative justice, etc. This is a volunteer publication and the only one of its kind in the region.

"I am proud to support the Judicial Process Commission and the invaluable work they do for the community. Due to their tireless efforts, ex-offenders are provided the help that they need to successfully re-enter society. I, and the entire staff of the Public Defender's Office, recognize that the members and employees of JPC are an important part of this community, and that the role that they play - though underappreciated - cannot be overstated."
Timothy Donaher, Monroe County Public Defender, March 2008

Community Partners - 2007 & 2008

Best Program
 Catholic Family Center: Restart, Freedom House & Prodigal Sons and Daughters
 Cephas Rochester
 Monroe County Correctional Facility Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program
 Monroe County Department of Human Services-Work Experience Program (WEP)
 Monroe County Legal Assistance Center, Reentry Project
 Monroe Community College
 Monroe County Reentry Project
 Monroe County Probation & Community Corrections Dept.

New Yorkers for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
 New York State Parole
 NY Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry/Employment
 Rochester AmeriCorps
 Rochester Friends Meeting
 Rochester Correctional Facility
 Safer Monroe Area Reentry Team (SMART)
 United States Probation and Pre-trial Services
 Vocational Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities - VESID
 Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, Inc

2007&2008 Key Funders/In-kind Support

Key Funders	Key Funders
Citizens Bank	Presbytery of Genesee Valley
Catholic Family Center	Estate of Clare Regan
Church of the Assumption	Rochester Area Community Foundation
First Unitarian Church	Rochester Society of Friends

Downtown United Presbyterian Church	Spiritus Christi
William and Lois Davis	Fred and Floy Willmott Foundation
Phogg Foundation	US Department of Justice/RIT Department of Criminal Justice
John and Ginny Mackey Estate	
Monroe Foundation	In-Kind
Monroe County	Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (In-kind legal staff)
Mt. Rise United Church of Christ	

Current Board Members

Yolanda Asamoah-Wade, Esq.
Personnel Committee

Mary Boite, Vice-Chairperson
Reconciliation Network, Fundraising
Committee, Chair

Jack Bradigan Spula,
Editor *Justicia*

Jane Coons, Treasurer

Shermond Johnson, Mentor

John Klofas, PhD

Isabel Morrison,
Public Policy Group

Gail Mott, Secretary,
Reconciliation Network; Fundraising

John Mourning, Mentor

Harry Murray, PhD

Fred Schaeffer, Chairperson,
Public Policy Group, Mentor,

Suzanne Schnittman, PhD.
Reconciliation Network; Fundraising

Clare Regan, Editor Emeritus

Mary Sullivan, Sister of Mercy
Finance Committee Chair
Mackey Award Committee

Louise Wu Richards, M.Div.,
Promotion and Publicity, Mackey
Award Committee

Current Staff

JPC staff are both paid and volunteer and come to us through a variety of avenues.

Salaried Staff

Susan K. Porter, JPC
Coordinator

Kamilah Richardson, Sr.
Case Manager

Valerie White-Whittick,
Mentor Coordinator

Rochester AmeriCorps

Lisa Moose, Case Manager,
Prison/Jail Correspondence

***Rochester
Rehabilitation Work
Program***

Sarahia Gadson,
Administrative Assistant,
Prison/Jail Correspondence

Charles Miller, Building
Maintenance

Levi Spikes, Building
Maintenance

***Monroe Co. Dept of
Human Services, Work
Employment Program***

Henry Halmont, Building
Maintenance

Thomasina Jones,
Administrative Assistant

Consultant

MacClurg Vivian, Freelance
Grantwriting Consultant

Volunteer Staff

Mavis Eagan, Client
Navigator/Evaluator

Sr. Veronica Casey, Sr. of
Mercy, Financial Assistant

Ed Johnson, Financial
Assistant

John Mourning, FCAMP
Outreach

Betty Wynn, Administrative
Assistant