



## Lots of Activities

Great times to be had at the Lollypop Tour on September 28! We toured the shelter and the farm. We even had a Doctor Doolittle who could talk to the animals! It was funny seeing our Tour Guide, Mary Anne, and Terrell trying to get our Case Manager, Katina, to pet a bunny!



A picnic for our program was held on October 17 at beautiful Greece Canal Park off of Elm grove Road for clients, friends and family. What a great time! Singing, dancing, solemn



*Frank and Daughter, enjoying the picnic*

moments with good things to say about our program, pumpkin painting, great food and games! Many thanks to the cooks—especially Frank B. Temperatures were high and wind was down. A perfect time on a perfect day!

**Charles Randall, Kenneth Johnson, and Dallas Anderson** received awards for completing their first successful year of reentry. CONGRATULATIONS!



*Activities Committee, working hard*

December saw lots of activities, thanks to the hard work of our Action Committee. Our community service project this year was making berry wreaths to decorate at Monroe Community Hospital, and giving the gift of our personal time by visiting one of the hospital units to share some small gifts with patients and sing some Christmas carols. David H. was a natural-born Master of Ceremonies, and judging by the patients' reactions, our visit was a welcome one.



*David H. entertaining "the troops"*

We also enjoyed a memorable holiday meal, music, cards and Bingo at the Friends Center. The serious cooks came out, and even our Prodigal crew couldn't finish it all! Many thanks to everyone who contributed to a memorable occasion.



*PSD Staff, plus one great volunteer, Jessica*

### Reentry Resources on the Web

Safer Monroe Area Reentry Team's website at

[Www.smartny.org](http://www.smartny.org)

Western NY Job website

[http://www.wnyjobs.com/job\\_postings.asp](http://www.wnyjobs.com/job_postings.asp)

## In My Own Words...Calvin Bryant

*Success means different things to different people. Some people view success as becoming rich and living in a great neighborhood, or running Kodak. Others view success as getting an apartment, having a car or putting food on the table every night. Others still view success as coming out and not recidivating.*

*We at Prodigal Sons & Daughters view success as becoming better than you were last month. Keeping that positive eye to the future. Each newsletter, we will be including stories of reentry. Here is one of the stories from our client, in his own words...*

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1976 was the beginning of my criminal activities. I lived with my Mother, stepfather who adopted seven sisters, one brother and me. My immediate family was very close, spiritual (church seven days a week, even during the summer), and we grew up in a household that respected the dad being the head of the household and whatever he said - went. At the age of 14, my stepfather kicked me out of the house and even though my mom was very loving and supportive she respected her husband's decision.

*I absolutely love how the staff treats you. They are very professional, full of resources and very caring. Even though they are warm and kind, they also keep it real."*

real tight. Being so young, going from house to house we had to do whatever it took to survive so we did a lot of shoplifting. As years went by I picked up even more bad habits.

My most recent bid I spent 14 years in prison because I chose not to rat out my cousin. Back then it was a street code so I thought I was doing the right thing by not saying anything. If I could only go back in time I would do a lot of things differently. Prison time was very educational for me. I learned how to observe and listen to people, how to be patient, considerate and most of all how to love myself. Things that I would like to work on now that I learned while in prison is how to love people. The guards and some of the inmates made it so difficult for me

that I didn't want to have anything to do with people when I was released. I had so much built-up anger and hatred when I was released. This was true until I was introduced to Catholic Family Center's Re-entry program.

I was out a month or so before I found out about them. Personally I think this is the greatest program I have ever been involved in. This program has potential to grow even more than it is for those who are coming home soon. I absolutely love how the staff treats you. They are very professional, full of resources and very caring. Even though they are warm and kind they also keep it real.



Their warmth, their kindness and their generosity have motivated me to do bigger and better things. The staff did everything possible to get the paper work needed for DHS, gave me gift card and bus passes with no hesitation, clothing referrals and most of all they have me the opportunity to meet Father Andrew...this was a wonderful experience that I will never forget.

Sometimes a person needs a person from the outside to point out your special talents, gifts or potential. I never realized that I have a gift of encouragement, listening skills and problem-solving skills until my case Manger Katina Redden pointed this out to me. It is my goal to go back to school for counseling and never returning to prison. I would also like to help the re-entry program with starting a support group, especially for the young guys coming out of prison. Without the re-entry I would have been frustrated, still angry and ready to commit more crime to get money. This program has increased my self-esteem and taught me other ways to earn money in a positive light. Through my experiences I have learned a lot and I am ready to give back thanks to the Re-entry program.

*Calvin Bryant*

## Upcoming Events...

### *Valentine's on Ice*

*Join us for Sledding at Highland Park on February 16, 2008*

*The Van Leaves 30 N. Clinton at 11:00a.m.*

*Refreshments Provided*

*If you have a sled, bring it; If not, we'll have some*

*Family, Friends & Children Welcome!*

*Contact Katina at*

*232-1840 x 224*

*if you want to come*

*Or email at*

[KRedden@cfcrochester.org](mailto:KRedden@cfcrochester.org)



### *Monthly Post-Incarceration Focus Group*

*An opportunity to bring your issues and concerns to the table for lively, thought-provoking discussion*

*February 1st, 2008  
(first Friday of each month)*

*5:00-6:00 p.m.*

*Catholic Family Center  
30 N. Clinton Avenue*

*Refreshments Provided*

*February's Topic Is:*

### *Relationships*

*Men/Women, Family, Employers, Friends*

*Call Katina at 232-1840 x224*

## Resources ...

**Rochester Works** wants to work with men and women in re-entry and are providing us with V.I.P. service. They can help with *everything from preparing your resume to job placement to paid training* to get you a better job. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY. Call your case manager to get a referral.

**Matthew's Closet** is available to our clients for *clothing*. If you are interested please contact your Case Manager Tom or Katina and they will make a referral for you.

If you need *clothes in a hurry*, you can go down to **The Open Door Mission**, 156 N. Plymouth Avenue on Mondays at 5:00PM. You get a number at the door. After your number is called you get a set of new clothing. **YOU DO NOT NEED AN APPOINTMENT FOR THIS.**

**Friends Helping Friends** provides **bicycles**, free of charge. You will need a referral from us. Contact your case manager.



### *Advice for the Real World...*

*Edward Graham, Licensed Therapy Dog*



*Dear Edward: I did 3 years and my girlfriend wrote to me, accepted my calls and visited me. She was the reason I got through my bid. I've been out for four months and now she's got an attitude every day. She doesn't understand how hard it is to find a job with my rap sheet and she's starting to say things like maybe I should just get my own place. She was so understanding while I was inside—I don't get it.*

*—Confused and Tired*

Dear Confused: Your girlfriend feels she made an investment in time, money and love by supporting you during your bid. Now, it's time for the investment to pay off. She probably thinks that you've had enough time to get settled back in the community, and thinks you aren't really trying to get some work going.

Now listen closely, because I'm going to tell you the secret of what women really want... **Women want a man with a plan.**

Women appreciate a man who looks over the situation and comes up with some possible solutions and a course of ACTION. This tells her he really cares about her and about the relationship. Nothing turns off a woman faster than a man who sits around waiting for things to happen to him.

So, think about what you want to have happen.

Get outside help! If a job is your biggest problem, there are resources to help you get a job, or get a better job if you're already working. Contact your reentry case manager. Talk honestly with your girlfriend, and tell her (1) how important the relationship is to you (if it is —don't lie about this), (2) that you appreciate her support while you were in the joint, and (3) you want to be that supportive to her, and tell her a little about your plan to succeed. Then FOLLOW THROUGH on your plan. Even if you can't produce instant results (like a big job with big money), when she sees you making a real effort and progress toward your goal, she will be more inclined to hang in there.

If this doesn't improve the situation, you have to start thinking about if this woman is really the right one for you.

Regards, **Edward**

*Dear Edward: A couple of weeks ago I met a guy at my rehab group. "Gary" did a five year bid, but he's been out for six months now and he's doing great, and we're living together. Here's the problem: His old girlfriend is stalking him. She sits in her car outside my apartment, waiting for him to come out so she can start demanding money. She insists that he come to her house, she says to see the kids, but really it's because she still wants to be with him. He*

*says he never agreed to have kids with her, but she went ahead anyway. I'm getting tired of her butting in. What can we do to get this woman to leave us alone?*

*—Getting Impatient in Rochester*

Dear Impatient: You are right, the children's mother should not physically stalk your new paramour; she should take legal action and file for child support. A famous movie character (I won't say who...) said: "A man who doesn't take care of his children can never be a real man." Unless he was *forced* (unlikely), he made those children of his own free will and he is responsible for them, mind, body and soul. The fact that they are inconvenient now is irrelevant.

You said you met Gary a few weeks ago, and he's already living with you. YOU need to slow down and look at Mr. Wonderful with an objective eye. One thing you can be sure of is: **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.** Don't rely on what he **says**, rely on what he **does**, and know that however he's treating other people is likely how he will treat you, sooner or later.

Regards, **Edward**

*Drop off your advice questions to Edward in his box in the Prodigal Sons & Daughters office*



**PRODIGAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS**

30 N. Clinton Avenue

Rochester, NY 14604

585-232-1840 x268

Email: [Agraham@cfcrrochester.org](mailto:Agraham@cfcrrochester.org)

Mailing label Here

**Successful Re-Entry starts here.**



## Walk-in Hours Now Available!

To better serve our clients, we now have walk-in hours. If you have an immediate need to talk with a case manager, please feel free to stop by.

The hours are:

**Monday and Thursday**

9:30—noon

2:00—4:30

If you are having an emergency, you can stop in any time and someone will try to see you. Of course, it's always best to call and make an appointment, so your case manager can be sure you will get the time and attention you deserve.

*Prodigal Sons & Daughters is the direct services program of the Monroe County Reentry Task Force, a project of the Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Monroe County Executive's Office and Catholic Family Center.*

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