

**Ohio**

Department of  
Youth Services

# Ohio Department of Youth Services 2014 Volunteer Services Report

Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report - House Bill 113

John R. Kasich  
Governor

Harvey J. Reed  
Director





October 1, 2014

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

I am proud to present to you this 2014 Volunteer Services Report for the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS).

The report summarizes highlights from Fiscal Year 2014, a pivotal year for us in which we focused on our core mission to improve Ohio's future by habilitating youth and empowering families and communities. As we approach a fresh start in Fiscal Year 2015, I look forward to continuing our work to provide quality, data-driven rehabilitation and treatment to youth in Ohio to keep Ohio's communities safe.

Since the passage of Senate Bill 113 in 2008, DYS has continued to support the 16 recommendations of the Correctional Faith-Based Initiatives Task Force. The Task Force was charged with studying seamless faith-based solutions to problems in the correctional systems and existing faith-based programs in prisons in Ohio and other states. This report is intended to provide you with an overview of the important work underway at DYS as it relates to our continued partnership with faith-based and community organizations.

I am pleased to announce that volunteers provided close to 26,300 hours of service within DYS facilities and alongside youth on parole from July 2013 through June 2014. This contribution, which is truly priceless, is valued at more than \$593,065.

As always, we need committed mentors and volunteers. All youth committed to DYS will eventually return to their communities. DYS encourages community partners to engage youth, both within DYS facilities and while they are on parole, in a variety of meaningful activities in an effort to teach the life skills youth need to be successful, crime-free adults. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to call our volunteer hotline at (614) 466-9318.

I would like to thank you for your support. Your dedication and positive comments help fuel our passion to make a difference in the lives of youth.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harvey J. Reed".

Harvey J. Reed  
Director

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# Recommendations Summary

## Recommendation #1

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should be encouraged, wherever practical, to utilize faith-based and community programs that address documented criminogenic needs. The agencies, in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, should make available to the faith community examples of evidence-based programming.

## Recommendation #2

Directors of the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should work with wardens and superintendents to develop programs that will facilitate a cultural change in institutions to encourage collaboration with faith-based and community partners.

## Recommendation #3

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should develop a marketing plan to assist in recruiting volunteers from the community and faithbased institutions. The plan should also discuss educating volunteers about the justice system.

## Recommendation #4

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should develop a standard training program for staff, volunteers, and the community to facilitate working in institutions together. The program should include information on Ethics of working with offenders, Confidentiality issues, Ensuring safety and security of volunteers, Working with volunteers and Rules and regulations for volunteers.

## Recommendation #5

Revise Ohio law to remove unnecessary and unreasonable collateral sanctions which inhibit offenders' successful reentry.

## Recommendation #6

Improvement should be made in the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services with regard to communication about programs and services between staff and volunteers; staff and the community; and other parts of the criminal justice system and the community.

## Recommendation #7

Revise statutes to increase judicial use of community options for non-violent offenders so prison space can be reserved for violent offenders.

## Recommendation #8

Encourage faith-based and community programs to supplement existing community and diversionary programs for offenders and provide services that are not currently available.

## Recommendation #9

State agencies need to take a more active role in linking with the faith-based community to develop programs to meet the gaps in services to adult and juvenile offenders.

### Recommendation #10

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction, Youth Services, and Job and Family Services should, in partnership, expand efforts to work with the employment centers and faith community to increase practical employment opportunities for offenders in the community. A job placement program should be implemented, focusing on the following. Providing information on job fairs to ex-offenders, Education of businesses/employers on the benefits of hiring ex-offenders, Incentives for employers to hire ex-offenders (i.e., tax breaks), Increased involvement of faith-based and community group.

### Recommendation #11

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should work with the faith community and faith volunteers to develop and expand programs within the institutions such as. Life skills, Financial management and budgeting, Personal hygiene, Family programs, including Family and community-based orientation, Family mediation, Family education and orientation programs, Transportation and video conferencing for visitation, Parenting.

### Recommendation #12

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should expand partnerships with national organizations including faith-based and community organizations to provide programming in state institutions.

### Recommendation #13

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should involve the faith community, when appropriate, in the development of release plans for the offender that flow from the institution to community reentry.

### Recommendation #14

Develop methods to increase and encourage the involvement of the faith community in various reentry efforts, and to encourage collaboration among faith groups.

### Recommendation #15

To address housing issues, the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should inform offenders of various options before leaving prison or immediately upon release. This could be accomplished through seminars, with free legal or consultation services, along with the increased involvement of the faith community.

### Recommendation #16

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services will partner with grassroots and community organizations in an educational effort towards the general public aimed at decreasing the negative stigma of ex-offenders and making the public aware of the needs involved in the process of reentry.

## Recommendation Number 1

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should be encouraged, wherever practical, to utilize faith-based and community programs that address documented criminogenic needs. The agencies, in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, should make available to the faith community examples of evidence-based programming.

Criminogenic needs are attributes of youth that are directly linked to criminal behavior. They are closely related to recidivism and many of these can be changed for the better. Research has identified the following as dynamic criminogenic needs:

- Anti-social personality
- Anti-social attitudes and values
- Family dysfunction
- Poor self-control and problem solving skills
- Substance abuse
- Lack of education and/or employment skills

DYS utilizes faith-based and community organizations to facilitate youth programs to meet these criminogenic needs. These programs are available to youth throughout the agency. DYS community and faith-based partners are essential to the implementation of youth programs. A sample listing of DYS partners includes: True North Ministry, Epiphany Ministry, College of Wooster, Kent State University, Boy Scouts of America, The Ridge Project, Kairos Ministry, Valor Christian College, The Ohio State University Buckeye REACH program, Bill Glass Ministry, Community for New Direction, Men of Standard, Missionaries of Sacred Heart, Project MORE (Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence), Son Reign Ministry, Ohio Reentry Coalitions and many other individuals and community organizations. (A more detailed list of community partners is included in the appendix.)



Faith-based and community partners provide programming to youth to such as mentoring, substance abuse, job readiness, community service, tutoring and other meaningful activities critical to the development of pro-social skills and decision making.

## Recommendation Number 2

Directors of the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should work with wardens and superintendents to develop programs that will facilitate a cultural change in institutions to encourage collaboration with faith-base and community partners.

DYS utilizes faith-based and community volunteers to provide meaningful activities that impact the culture of DYS facilities. Regular entry of volunteers into DYS facilities has become the norm rather than the exception, and aids in normalization of the correctional environment.

During FY 2014, volunteers contributed more than 26,300 hours of volunteer services to youth valued at more than \$562,800 hours of service ([http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)). Programs providing cultural change within DYS facilities include the following:

**Epiphany Ministry** is one of the programs that provides meaningful activity and aids in facility cultural change. Epiphany ministry provides youth with a weekend of meaning activities and socialization. Youth who complete an Epiphany weekend are invited back for regular Epiphany reunion activities. Epiphany volunteers are active in all DYS facilities.

**The Buckeye REACH** (Relationships and Education in Action through Community and Hope) is an educational mentoring program for youth at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility. Students from The Ohio State University engage DYS youth in critical thinking through movie reviews, book clubs, debates, games and meaningful discussions. These students are regarded as peer mentors to DYS youth and come from various educational disciplines such as pre-law, engineering, criminal justice, social work and many others.

Youth have shared that the interaction with Buckeye Reach provides them with an opportunity “to matter” and belong to a positive group. One observer shared, “Buckeye Reach transforms the facility into a college classroom. In October 2013, the Buckeye REACH program was recognized by ServOhio as the 2013 Outstanding Volunteer Group for its programming with youth at DYS.



**Kairos Prison Ministry** serves as a faith-based mentoring program for youth at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility. Volunteers provide a weekend of activities with youth. Upon completion of the three-day weekend, youth are afforded a mentor. Kairos mentors meet with youth weekly and aid in decision making, pro-social skills and serve as a resource to youth.

**Adopt-A-Unit** is a program available throughout DYS. Various faith-based and community organizations may adopt a facility housing unit for youth. These volunteers will engage youth in meaningful games, activities and/or discussions. Programming with Adopt-a-unit may be both faith-based and/or secular. Volunteers may also provide special programming during holidays, encouraging youth with gifts and special recognitions.

In addition to facility volunteer programs, community partners and superintendents have engaged youth in community service projects. During FY 2014, youth completed 11,235 hours of community service. The following are some of these community service projects completed by DYS youth:

- Growing and harvesting produce in facility gardens, supporting various community shelters and food banks.
- Supporting Crayons to Computers programs, developing and collating educational packets for the organization.
- Adopting a portion of highway Interstate-271 for litter control.
- Providing grounds keeping and landscaping at the True North Ministry farm in Northeast Ohio.
- Providing letters to Active Duty military servicemen and servicewomen through "A Million Thanks."
- Building housing frames for Habitat for Humanity.
- Making blankets for children admitted to Akron Hospital and various nursing homes.
- Building shelving for food pantries.
- Unloading and packing inventory at the Shoes and Clothes for Kids Warehouse.
- Making Mother's Day and Father's Day cards for the residents of local nursing homes, along with making Easter gifts.



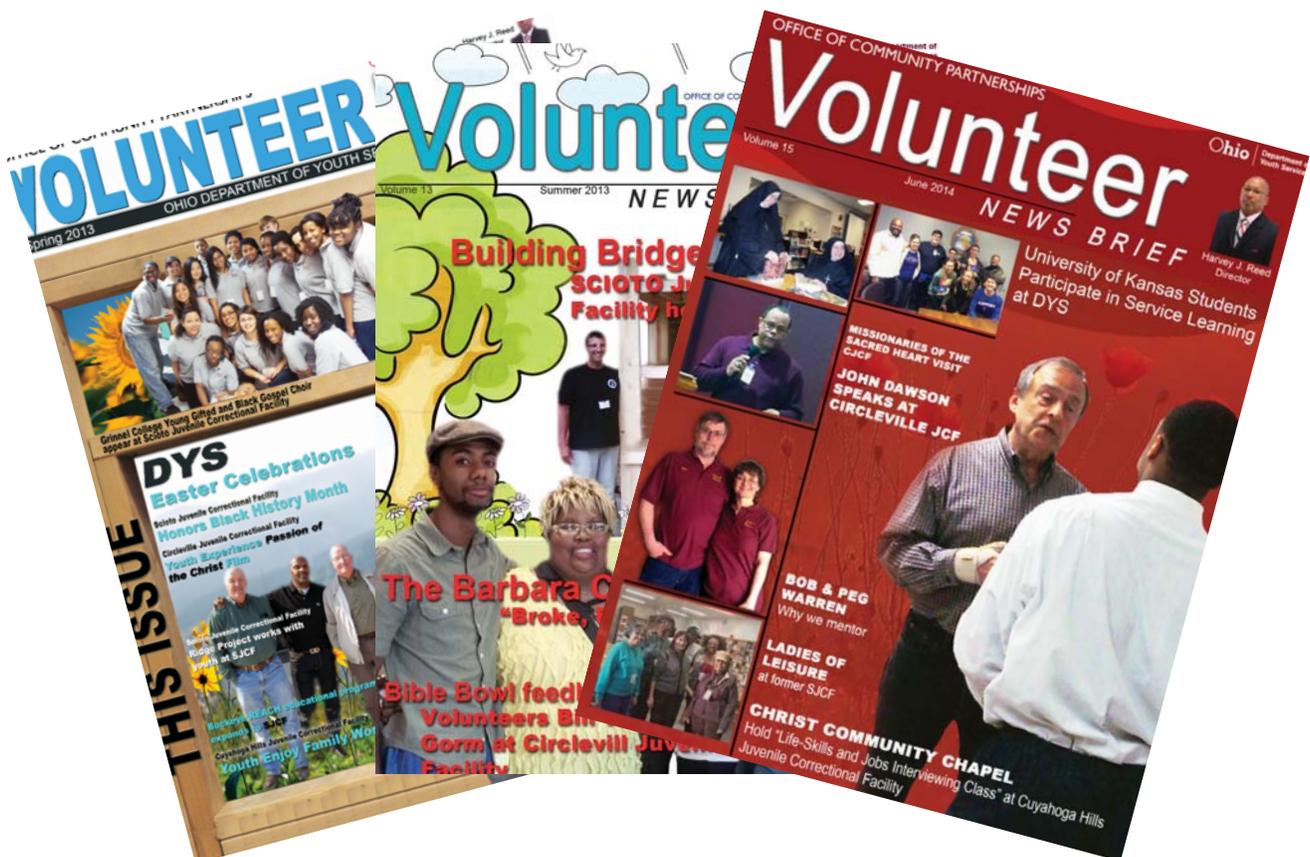
## Recommendation Number 3

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should develop a marketing plan to assist in recruiting volunteers from the community and faithbased institutions. The plan should also discuss educating volunteers about the justice system.

DYS utilizes several marketing strategies for the recruitment of faith-based and community volunteers. The DYS website ([www.dys.ohio.gov](http://www.dys.ohio.gov)), Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ohiodeptyouthservices](http://www.facebook.com/ohiodeptyouthservices)) and Twitter page (@ODYS) all serve as marketing tools for the education and recruitment of volunteers. The website contains general information about volunteering with the agency, frequently asked questions, a recruitment video, an email link to contact the agency and a volunteer hotline phone number.

Additionally, the agency publishes several Volunteer News Briefs highlighting volunteer programs, volunteer editorials, events and opportunities within the agency. These publications are shared among faith-based and community partners, stakeholders and the community in general.

Moreover, each juvenile correctional facility has a chaplain who serves as the volunteer coordinator. In this role, the volunteer coordinator attends conferences and community events to support the volunteer programming and educate the community about the juvenile justice system. Finally, each juvenile correctional facility celebrates volunteers each year with a volunteer recognition Event. Community partners are encouraged not only to attend, but to bring a guest.



## Recommendation Number 4

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should develop a standard training program for staff, volunteers, and the community to facilitate working in institutions together. The program should include information on:

- Ethics of working with offenders
- Confidentiality issues
- Ensuring safety and security of volunteers
- Working with volunteers
- Rules and regulations for volunteers

DYS continues to review and update the Volunteer Orientation and Training policy, 107.03. Volunteer orientation and training, at a minimum, address issues of ethics, youth confidentiality, safety and security, policy requirements and do's and don'ts for volunteers. Additionally, the volunteer and training policy has been updated to include the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003. All DYS volunteers have had the mandated PREA training.

Volunteer training sessions are conducted by the volunteer coordinator at each facility and/or region. All potential volunteers must participate in the mandated training before becoming a routine volunteer with the agency. Each community volunteer receives an interactive volunteer training workbook. This workbook is individualized and contains critical information regarding mandatory training, facility phone numbers and contacts, training scenarios, general information regarding adolescent development, starting conversations and much more.



## Recommendation Number 5

Revise Ohio law to remove unnecessary and unreasonable collateral sanctions which inhibit offenders' successful reentry.

In 2013, Ohio joined several states across the nation to pass legislation reducing collateral sanctions that impact a youth's ability to successfully reenter the community. A collateral sanction is defined as a legal penalty that is imposed on a person automatically upon that person's conviction for a felony, misdemeanor or other offense, even if it is not included in the sentence. The commitment to remove these barriers resulted in bipartisan legislation offered in the Ohio General Assembly Am. Sub. SB 337, sponsored by Senator Bill Seitz and Senator Shirley Smith. SB 337 was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Governor Kasich signed the bill into law on June 26, 2012.

SB 337 enacted several reforms to remove barriers that juveniles face after serving their commitment time with DYS. The bill removes certain juvenile offenses from the list of those ineligible to be sealed by the court. The bill also prohibits a court from charging a fee for the filing of an application to seal a juvenile record. SB 337 reinforces Ohio's long precedent that a criminal records check shall not consist of a juvenile record unless the youth was adjudicated on a murder or a sex offense that carried a duty to register as a sex offender.

DYS continues to work with the Office of the Ohio Public Defender (OPD) on a recommendation to enhance the Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions (CIVICC) database that stores information on collateral sanctions associated with criminal convictions to also include specific sanctions that impact juvenile offenders. The database is a useful tool for judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and offenders to realize the post-sentence consequences of the crime. The CIVICC database is housed with the OPD and viewable by the public. A date for the expansion of the database, to include juvenile collateral sanctions, has not been established at this time.

Lastly, it is well documented that access to treatment and services are key indicators for a youth's successful reentry back into their home community. Unfortunately, a significant number of juveniles enter the DYS system without the proper identification to assist in accessing these services when they return home. With this in mind, DYS worked on an interagency agreement with the Ohio Department of Public Safety to accept a Youthful Offender Release Identification Cards (YO-RIC) as proof of the youth's identity to receive a state-issued Ohio identification card (ID) from the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. Once a youth has an Ohio ID card, the individual can qualify for access to treatment and housing as well as have proof of identity for employment opportunities. Through enactment of the HB 487, the interagency agreement was memorialized in Ohio statute. As of June 2014, a total of 1,125 Youthful Offender Release Identification Cards (YO-RIC) were produced for youth in our custody.

The General Assembly passed SB 143 in FY 14 to address some of the unintended

consequences of SB 337. SB 143 addressed many issues relative to the sealing of a criminal record with the overall goal being to help ease an ex-felon's reentry into society.

## Recommendation Number 6

Improvement should be made in the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services with regard to communication about programs and services between staff and volunteers; staff and the community; and other parts of the criminal justice system and the community.

The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC) continues to serve as an avenue for the communication of juvenile programs and services. This has been especially helpful with the development of the juvenile branch of the OERC, which aids in bringing more awareness to the needs of juveniles. The Agency Director, Harvey Reed, and the agency Reentry Administrator are standing members of the OERC. Additionally, DYS representatives from all parole regions are active members with various local reentry coalitions throughout the state.



Moreover, the Justice Reinvestment Officers serve as liaisons between the courts and DYS. They provide the courts with valuable information regarding youth's participation and other valuable data using the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS).

The chaplain within each DYS facility serves as the volunteer coordinator. In this role, he/she chairs the youth engagement team. This team aids in the coordination of volunteer services within the facility. Additionally, this team coordinates the annual volunteer recognition event at each juvenile correctional facility and all community partners are invited. Community partners are celebrated and have the opportunity to share stories and network with other volunteer partners.

Additionally, the agency publishes the Volunteer News Brief, which is a publication specific to volunteer programs and services. This publication is shared with faith-based and community partners, stakeholders and staff. The Volunteer News Brief is also posted on the DYS website and available for download.

## Recommendation Number 7

Revise statutes to increase judicial use of community options for non-violent offenders so prison space can be reserved for violent offenders.

For the last decade, Ohio has consistently been recognized as a model for the country in successfully providing opportunities to treat juvenile offenders in appropriate community alternatives to institutional confinement. Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 5139.41-43 authorizes the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) to provide grant and subsidy funding to local juvenile courts to provide opportunities for diversion from DHS confinement. Through Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors (RECLAIM Ohio) and other community initiatives, DHS touches the lives of thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond the youth in DHS facilities and those on parole, DHS funds more than 600 community programs throughout the state, offering nearly 80,000 youth opportunities for positive change in their local communities. Since 1994, Ohio has invested in community alternatives for appropriate youth by supporting RECLAIM Ohio. RECLAIM Ohio is a funding initiative which encourages juvenile courts to develop or contract for a range of community-based options to meet the needs of juvenile offenders or youth at-risk of offending. By diverting youth from DHS facilities, courts have the opportunity to increase the funds available locally through the grant. RECLAIM can be used for a vast array of treatment, intervention, diversion and prevention programs. RECLAIM has supported specific programs such as mental health treatment, intensive probation, electronic monitoring and residential treatment.

Ohio's biennial budget (H.B. 59) preserved the RECLAIM Ohio budget at \$30.6 million and the Youth Services Block Grant for \$16.7 million. These two initiatives have been vital in offering services to the appropriate youth outside of DHS facilities. These programs are among the chief reasons why the DHS facility population stands at under 500 youth and less than 400 youth under parole



supervision. The biennial budget increased by \$500,000 annually the funding for the Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Initiative (BHJJ). The \$8.8 million reserved for Targeted RECLAIM and BHJJ support evidence based alternatives in participating counties, including programming for youth in the juvenile justice system suffering with behavioral health and mental health issues.

Lastly, Ohio adopted much

needed criminal sentencing reform legislation in H.B. 86, which expanded judicial discretion for judicial release of youth serving a DYS sentence throughout their entire commitment time. The bill also established the Ohio Interagency Task Force on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, which required the members to develop recommendations to be submitted to the Governor and legislative leaders to increase community options for youth suffering from mental health issues who have committed delinquent offenses.

The Task Force key recommendations included implementing a Community Linkage program for youth. Community Linkage Workers, provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, connect youth to community supports and assist with referrals to other support networks to foster successful community reentry. They work closely with facility and parole staff to address the reentry needs of the youth served by the Community Linkage initiative.

Another important initiative underway is implementing a statewide, standardized trauma screening process for juvenile detention. A workgroup convened by the Ohio Office of Health Transformation will evaluate the feasibility of implementing a trauma screening tool for high-risk youth. The workgroup is charged with recommending the tool, training, protocols and implications for treatment. DYS received a grant from Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine to assist with this effort in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders. The tool will be piloted at juvenile detention centers. The screening tool will be an important first step in helping link youth in need of advanced mental health treatment with care when a youth leaves detention and reenters the community.



## Recommendation Number 8

Encourage faith-based and community programs to supplement existing community and diversionary programs for offenders and provide services that are not currently available.

RECLAIM (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors) Ohio is a funding initiative which encourages juvenile courts to develop or purchase a range of community-based options to meet the needs of each juvenile offender or youth at risk of offending. By diverting youth from Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) institutions, courts have the opportunity to increase the funds and programs available locally through RECLAIM.

Moreover, representatives from each parole region attend monthly going home to stay meetings which are offered through the local reentry coalitions. This event brings together resource provider that cover a broad spectrum of services to youth, including faith-based and community resources. Some of the other community partners and programs are listed below:

True North Ministry mentoring provides mentoring opportunities to youth in both the Summit and Cuyahoga county areas. This mentoring relationship starts in the DYS facility and then continues into the community.

LOOP (Loved Ones of Prisoners) is a community faith-based program that works to provide families of incarcerated individuals with support and guidance through faith.

“I dream academy”, located in Hamilton County, provides mentoring services for youth at risk, and efforts are made to assist youth in transitioning home and into the community.



The Cleveland Region has partnered with the St. Paul Church drop-in center. This is a site for youth-structured and supervised recreational activities. Dad’s Matter is a program providing counseling, information, and support to expectant fathers. Also available to youth is the Living Hope United Methodist Church, which offers structured recreation, bible study, and limited mentoring services to youths at

no cost. The Cleveland Region also works with the Pathways Family Outreach Programs offering free after school activities including free hot meals, bible study, mentoring, and leadership development.

Dayton Regional Office staff continue to collaborate with Sunlight Village to identify those services and programs that enhances the success of youth in the community. Sunlight Village is a non-profit organization which provides mentoring services in the Dayton and Hamilton County areas. The Dayton Region is partners with the Montgomery/Hamilton County Fatherhood Initiative. The focus is to identify juvenile fathers and to assist them to become more active parents with their children. Dayton Region also collaborates with Matthew 25 ministries for strengthening character and completing community service. The Wesley Community Center in Dayton, Ohio is also community resource. Their mission is to meet the spiritual and basic needs of families of all ages offering assistance in education and training, employment and human assistance (food, clothing, and shelter) in transitioning families toward self-sufficiency.



## Recommendation Number 9

State agencies need to take a more active role in linking with the faith-based community to develop programs to meet the gaps in services to adult and juvenile offenders.

The juvenile branch of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC) was recently developed to provide a concentration on juvenile reentry resources. This has been a significant step in providing needed awareness of the needs of juveniles reentering the community. Through the OERC, local reentry coalitions, consisting of various faith-based and community partners, are available to provide more needed resources to youth.

Representatives from each parole region are involved in local Family and Children First Councils (FCFC). The FCFC meetings are a collaboration of all service providers for family and children within various counties. DYS has a representative at each of these monthly meetings. The regional representative will continue to take an active role in meetings such as these to seek faith-based programs for these services.

## Recommendation Number 10

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction, Youth Services, and Job and Family Services should, in partnership, expand efforts to work with the employment centers and faith community to increase practical employment opportunities for offenders in the community. A job placement program should be implemented, focusing on the following:

- Providing information on job fairs to ex-offenders
- Education of businesses/employers on the benefits of hiring ex-offenders
- Incentives for employers to hire ex-offenders (i.e., tax breaks)
- Increased involvement of faith-based and community group

In an effort to provide more training and job opportunity for youth, a partnership between DYS, Job and Family Services and local workforce development partners has been established for the purpose of creating O.N.E. Stop shop at the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility. Plans are currently underway to open the O.N.E. Stop in mid-October 2014.

The Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility has mandatory programming for those youth who have graduated from high school. The morning part of the program focuses on life skills, college prep and character. The afternoon session is the Meta-Morphosis program, which has two parts. Part one of the program involves employee readiness. An average of 10 graduates per meeting attend the classes at the facility. When it is time for a youth to be released, he is given a roommate, a furnished apartment, and a job. The goal is to live independently after parole and beyond the program. The program is also set up to help the youth establish a checking account. With a \$500 down payment, the youth can get a vehicle. The youth also gets his driver's license and has the chance to get his commercial driver's license. At the end of the program, if the youth wishes to move back to his original residence, he will be able to transfer his job to another location closer to his home. This program exists to encourage each youth to move on to a place of personal responsibility for finances, jobs and making positive decisions contributing to society. During Fiscal Year 2014, five youth were actively living out this program and have been put in apartments, working their jobs and following the program guidelines.

In addition to the Meta-Morphosis program, community partners also offer a job readiness program for youth. This program assists youth in preparing for employment and budgeting. The job readiness volunteer partners are also available to assist youth with employment post release.

The Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility high school graduates have been attending job readiness classes on networking as a means of business enterprise. Mr. Carson, a business man, facilitates the program, emphasizing the importance of setting goals and dreaming BIG.

Cleveland parole region staff and the DYS transition coordinator are working with the staff of Employment Connections to assist juvenile parole officers in their

efforts to have DYS clients participate in job training and employment opportunities. Additional resources are detailed for youth through the United Way's First Call for Help at 211.



In Lucas County, Toledo GROWs, together with Community Integration for Training and Employment (CITE), connects youth with positive mentors while they learn valuable job skills and help the community. The program's admissions are based on court referral as well as an interview process. Those in the job readiness program must also have a stable place to live, practice a drug-free lifestyle and proceed with an education plan.

The Dayton Region staff use Lawn Life Inc. as an employment resource and other career building avenues for youth.

Two grant-funded job readiness/training programs are available in Lucas County: "Youth Build" and "The Face Forward Program." Both of these programs are administered by Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa, Seneca Community Action Commission (WSOS). These programs target youth and young adults who have been involved with the juvenile court. The emphasis of these programs is to increase skill development, educational development, and employment skills/opportunities. WSOS is a member of the Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio (RCNWO) as well as the Youth Reentry Task Force in Lucas County.



The Akron Region works with True North Ministry for youth job training and skill building. It is located in Stark County and offers housing and work for young adults transitioning out of the justice or child welfare systems. "The Farm" is a faith-based training location for True North Ministries in which youth

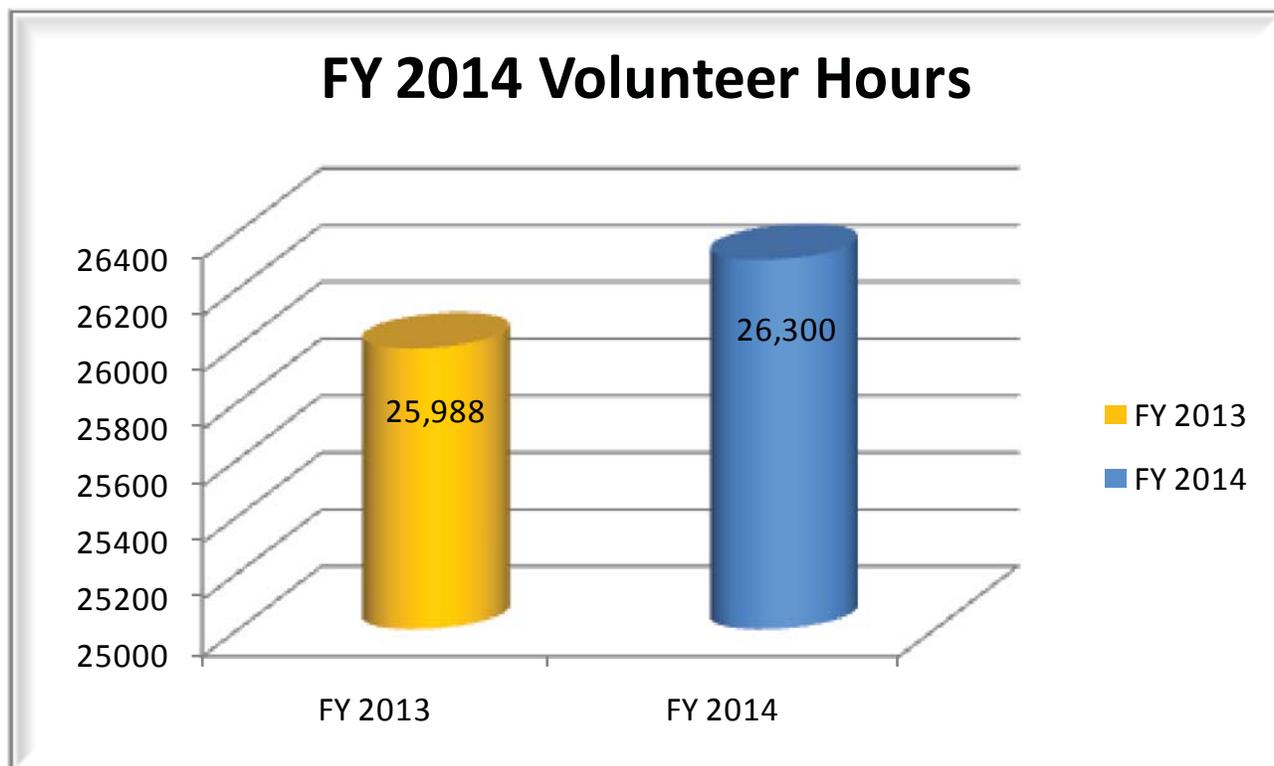
are provided job training and leave with work experience, life-skills and financial readiness. An extension of this is the Men's Challenge Program in Stark County where non-residents are able to participate in the program. Another faith-based program offering the same type of services is called T.R.Y. (Truly Reaching You). It is located in Summit County.

## Recommendation Number 11

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should work with the faith community and faith volunteers to develop and expand programs within the institutions such as:

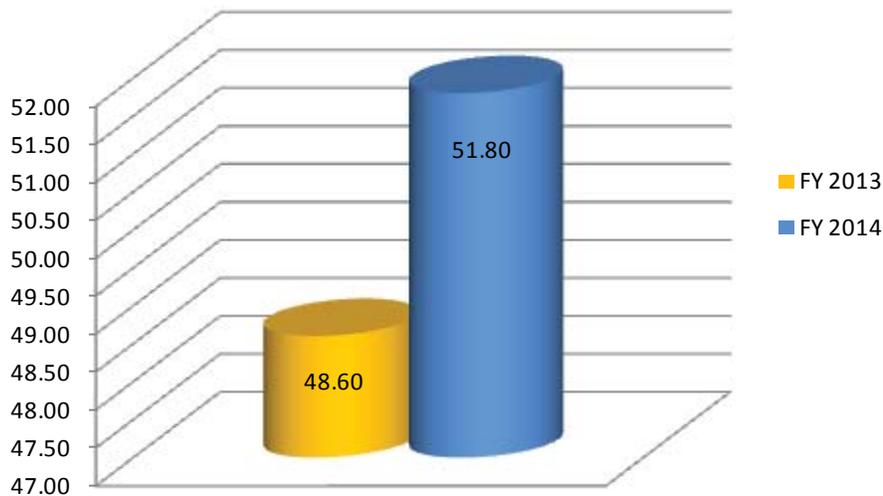
- Life skills
- Financial management and budgeting
- Personal hygiene
- Family programs, including:
  - Family and community-based orientation
  - Family mediation
  - Family education and orientation programs
  - Transportation and video conferencing for visitation
  - Parenting

During FY 2014, volunteers provided 26,300 hours of services to youth. This was an increase of over 300 hours compared to FY 2013. According to the Department of Labor (Independent Sector) the 2014 national volunteer rate is \$22.55. At this rate, DYS is fortunate to have volunteers who have contributed more than \$593,000 in volunteer services.



DYS is grateful to have committed volunteers within all DYS facilities who provide meaningful volunteer programs and to expand facility programs. While these programs may vary from facility to facility, they are all effective and meaningful to youth.

## Average Volunteer Hours per Youth



The average daily population of youth for FY 2013 was 535. The average daily population for FY 2014 was 508. Based on this data, there was an increase of volunteer hours per youth from FY 2013 to FY 2014.

Highlighted below are some of the many Facility Volunteer Programs:

### **Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility**

In partnership with New England Homes and the Vineyard Church Columbus, the VBPro (Vocational Bridge Professional) program was developed. This is a volunteer construction program designed to introduce and teach youth at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility various construction trades.

The primary trade of the program is carpentry. Youth completed several construction projects such as constructing shelving for food pantries,

shelving for facility rooms, corn hole games and more. Future plans for the program include building park benches, picnic tables, dog houses and more.



### **Celebrate Recovery**

is a faith based twelve step program that encourages the participants to examine their life choices and the consequences that have resulted. It is not limited to drug and alcohol problems but addresses a broader spectrum of “hurts, habits and hang-ups” that are all too pervasive and destructive in many people’s lives. Approaching the youth in a loving, firm and non-judgmental manner, Celebrate Recovery also brings compelling testimonies, some live and some video recorded, of individuals who have faced obstacles and now lead successful lives. The youth ask questions about how they will deal with life experiences, especially after they are released. One of the most powerful measurements of success comes from those few who choose to share their vulnerability in the group. This is a major step for youth who place such a high value on not appearing weak in front of their peers. The teachings and life skill activities are designed to engage youth in interaction with each other in ways that will increase their good judgment skills once they are

released. Other initiatives find appropriate persons and/or groups to connect them with when they are released.

### **Adopt a Unit**

is a program in which ministries from the faith community adopt units within the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF). These ministries support and equip volunteers from their communities to provide diversionary, mentoring, and pastoral care programs to the youth on the adopted unit. Under the direction of unit managers and coordination of the Chaplain, activities are planned that serve the interests of both the youth and the volunteers providing the services. These activities can include both faith-based and non-faith based content, depending upon the needs of the youth.

Specific program definitions...

1. **Diversionary: (Divert Idleness)** Activities such as board games, movies, craft and community service that fill time and encourage positive social interaction.
2. **Mentoring:** Includes engaging youth in their day-to-day lives with an opportunity to talk with an impartial volunteer who will assist them with coping and critical thinking skills.
3. **Pastoral Care:** This aspect of adopt a unit assists the chaplain in providing religious instruction/guidance to the youth through religious studies and spiritual mentoring.

The overall goal is to provide ancillary support to the facility's efforts to reduce idle time and encourage positive youth interaction. Several units have been adopted: St. Paul Lutheran, Church of Christ in Christian Union, Freedom Peace Ministry, Victory Hill church of God, and Man of Purpose Ministry.

### **Project MORE**

(Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence) is an evidence based reading tutoring program designed to improve the reading level of youth. Volunteers who serve as tutors are referred to as "Reading Mentors." Independent research findings



consistently report students with specific learning disabilities make month to month reading level gains when they receive one-on-one tutoring four times/week for 30 minutes. Project MORE started in January 2014, and volunteers support the program Monday through Thursday to assist youth in reading.

### **The Ridge Project**

Serve the youth by offering a rites of passage program. This program is an integral part of our overall goal of strengthening families, empowering the youth to be a force for good - equipping them with the skills to overcome any obstacle so that they can be the leaders of the next generation.

### **Ohio Christian University (OCU) Basketball Fellowship**

The OCU basketball team visits the youth at CJCF for basketball drills, good sportsmanship skills and social interaction.



### **Jackson Area Ministries**

The Jackson Area Ministries (JAM) in Circleville assists our youth in the Greenhouse project. The organization provided seeds, potting soil and containers. The youth worked on the project of 600 basil seeds, 200 cabbage seeds, 150 pepper seeds and 500 onion seeds. The plants went to JAM for food pantries and community gardens etc. in various counties.

### **Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility**

True North Ministry is a faith-based organization which provides job readiness skills to youth at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility (IRJCF). They offer a program entitled “Man Up.” The program focuses the youth’s attention on accepting the challenge of living a life of integrity, and recognizing and accepting responsibility.

The organization known as Manhood brought a focus on family and what it means to be a good father. The goal was also to help youth work out conflict by learning to use good communication and conversation skills. Another volunteer program offered to youth at Indian River is called Getting on Track. This program emphasized the importance of time management, budgeting and setting goals.

The Meta-Morphosis program includes basic training and understanding in dinner etiquette and dressing appropriately for job interviews. Youth at Indian River have participated in several classes and meetings that have concentrated on character, time management, fatherhood, communication and manhood.

### **Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility**

Volunteers provide a life skills program. Dollar Bank provides a course in financial management and budgeting. The FIT (Families In Tough) program covers proper family dynamics. Volunteers also provide a parenting program which is extremely helpful to youth. Christ Community Chapel provides a six-week comprehensive job readiness program. During this time youth are taught to identify their skills, to appropriately and to show confidence in responding to questions. This program is facilitated by business and human resource professionals and concludes with a mock interview by community business professionals.

## Recommendation Number 12

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should expand partnerships with national organizations including faith-based and community organizations to provide programming in state institutions.

The Boy Scouts of America has been an organization involved with youth at IRJCF. They have created a program to fit the needs of youth. Survival, teambuilding, life skills and not to mention the Pine Wood Derby race, are all geared toward giving a youth confidence and assurance in his own abilities.

The Gideon's at IRJCF provide unlimited Bibles as well as a contact for youth when they are released. The Gideon's will help any youth interested to connect with a church in his area. To continue this ongoing partnership, an Indian River representative attends their quarterly meetings, discussing the details of the programs and how the volunteers can be a resource for youth.

Wooster College provides a class that takes place at Indian River. Community college students take the class and receive credit toward their degree. IRJCF allows for DYS approved graduated youth to enroll into the class. These DYS youth have the same assignments as the Wooster student. However, DYS youth do not receive college credit, but it does allow for them to experience the college classes and is a great confidence builder. The benefit of working alongside DYS youth provides an invaluable educational experience for community students and strengthens the facility community partnerships.

### **The Buckeye REACH**

*(Relationships and Education in Action through Community and Hope program)*

Students at The Ohio State University engage DYS youth in structured educational programming. Youth participate in book reading and/or movie reviews followed by a small group discussion and critical thinking sessions. Another component of the program include letter writing. OSU students serve as peer to peer mentors for DYS youth. It is amazing to watch the CJCF library transform into a college classroom facilitated by Dr. Patricia Cunningham, OSU Director of Social Change. The Buckeye REACH program was recognized by ServeOhio (<http://www.serveohio.org/>) with the 2013 best volunteer group award.

### **Bible Bowl**

is a national dynamic faith-based program for youth in grades six through twelve which combines fun and completion. This quick recall program started in 1964 where students compete over their knowledge of scripture. A selected book or books of the Bible is determined as the text that season. A team competes against another team over a selected segment of the text in a 14-minute game. Teams within CJCF have competed against several teams in the community. The program has been facilitated by a volunteer from the community and the facility team has won several local competitions.

## **Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility**

Bill Glass “Weekend of Champions” is a partner with all DYS facilities including CHJCF. The Epiphany ministries continue to provide programming to youth at CHJCF.

### **Recommendation Number 13**

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should involve the faith community, when appropriate, in the development of release plans for the offender that flow from the institution to community reentry.

DYS was awarded a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to provide mentoring services to 245 youth leaving DYS facilities and returning to Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery and Summit counties. Mentoring begins three to six months prior to a youth’s release and continues in the community for at least six months or until parole discharge. Mentoring occurs in a variety of formats including one-to-one, group and peer. Mentors meet with their mentees at least once per month for the three to six months pre-release and three to four times per month for a minimum of six months post-release. These community mentors meet with youth, discuss and provide guidance regarding plans for returning to their community and provided mentoring services to youth after release. They also work with the youth’s juvenile probation officer throughout the process.

Kairos Torch is a faith based organization which provides voluntary programs for youth spiritual exploration. The program emphasizes unconditional love and acceptance of all people. Youth who complete a three day weekend of skits, activities, forgiveness, food and celebration engage in a mentorship relationship with the volunteers on a weekly basis for six months. They provide spiritual and emotional support to promote constructive life choices. These mentor relationships involve discussion surrounding youth plans for reentering the community and preparation.

Community providers are included in all youth unified case plans, which are completed prior to any youth being released. Regional Parole Officers are required to include community providers in the development the Unified Case Plan.

In Lima the monthly reentry meetings was given the name R.E.L.Y. which stands for Reentry of Local Youth and is the genesis of the current and fully operational youth task force for the West Central Ohio Reentry Coalition. The R.E.L.Y. (Reentry of Local Youth) committee, approximately 30 members with service providers, community stakeholders, faith based representation, ex-offender representation, etc) includes faith-based providers willing to work with formerly incarcerated youth. With this collaboration, youth that are in jeopardy of being committed to DYS, a Community Corrections Facility or a treatment program are discussed by this group every month.

## Recommendation Number 14

Develop methods to increase and encourage the involvement of the faith community in various reentry efforts, and to encourage collaboration among faith groups.

The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition serves as a convener to encourage discussion and collaboration among faith groups and community organizations. As DYS agency representatives are active members of local coalitions they are available to provide collaboration within the community. DYS also utilizes the Making Use of Services Can Lead to Empowerment (M.U.S.C.L.E.) resource guide for youth, youth families staff and community partners.

Summit County in the Akron Region has the JOBS program through the Workforce Investment Act. This is a collaboration of the court and YMCA coordinating efforts in employment resources and mentoring services. The Summit County juvenile parole officer attends monthly meetings to maintain collaboration with agencies.

There are also times within the juvenile correctional facilities when faith groups will collaborate on behalf of youth programs. For example, several faith groups within CJCF have worked together to support youth reading and tutoring through Project MORE. Faith groups have also worked together to provide assistance creating clothing boxes to youth upon release.



## **Recommendation Number 15**

To address housing issues, the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should inform offenders of various options before leaving prison or immediately upon release. This could be accomplished through seminars, with free legal or consultation services, along with the increased involvement of the faith community.

### **Cleveland Region**

The majority of the DYS youth from the Cleveland Regional Office return to live with their family members upon their reentry into the community. Of those that have no family members willing to accept the youth into the home, Hillside Family Finding has been utilized in the past year to assist DYS staff in finding extended family members who may be willing to provide supportive services for youths, including housing.

### **Akron Region**

The agency uses case plans developed through working relationships with the youth and their families long before release. Within the Department any issues related to housing or placement are staffed and resolved prior to release and included in the case plan. The youth and the family remain fully abreast of any decisions made relating to placement. The youth are given many tools via the reentry coalitions within the parole region regarding various housing opportunities as well as the ability to consult with agencies such as ABLE and Legal Aid (for example, the Toledo Regional parole office has a partnership with Legal Aid of Northwest of Ohio). The reentry coalitions have community providers and supporters, to include local faith-based organizations ready to assist returning youth. These youth are also provided with the M.U.S.C.L.E Resource Sheet which includes information on social services, human services, local, county, state, and federal agencies, substance abuse programs, mental health counseling, educational opportunities, faith-based agencies, food, clothing, job training and placement. The Bureau of Parole also completes a Transition Toolkit on each youth prior to their discharge from parole. Among many of the areas addressed in this document is "Housing." This tool assures that housing concerns are addressed; proper housing resources are identified and housing goals are set for that particular individual.

### **Dayton Region**

DYS youth do not leave the facility without securing a placement plan. Youth are given many tools via the reentry coalitions in the region, regarding various housing opportunities as well as the ability to consult with agencies such as ABLE and Legal Aid of Northwest Ohio at the monthly meetings. Youth are also able to consult with representatives from: The Source (work aid), the Ohio Benefit Bank, Child Support, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, mental health, substance abuse, faith-based organizations, the Mayors coalition and many more.

### **Toledo Region**

Monthly "Going Home To Stay" meetings are offered the first Wednesday of each month through the Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio. The events bring together Resource Provider's that cover a broad spectrum of services including:

Government Agency's, Community Agency's, Economic Opportunities Planning Association, AIDS /ARC, Veteran Affairs, Job and Family Services, Child Support, University of Toledo, Ohio State Extension, YMCA childcare referral agency, The Source, Social Security, Rehabilitation Services Commission, Treatment Alternative to Street Crime (TASC ), Haven Homes, Care Net, Ohio Benefit Bank, ABLE, Legal Aid Of Western Ohio, Ohio Bureau Of Motor Vehicles, Fair Housing, Neighborhood Properties, Cherry Street Mission, Parents Helping Parents, Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB), ABRI, Weed N Seed, Citizen Circles and Faith Communities that provide specific and targeted services to the Ex-Offender Population. The Allen County Reentry Coalition also provides a similar service called "Open Gate".

### Columbus Region

It is the Department of Youth Services policy that case plans be developed and working relationships are made with the youth and their families long before release. At DYS, any issues related to housing or placement are staffed and resolved prior to release. The youth and the family remain fully abreast of any decisions made relating to placement. It is also the policy of the Department to staff youth who may be released at the age of 21 without parole supervision prior to release. The purpose of this staffing procedure is to provide the youth with information on available services such as housing. These youth are provided with the M.U.S.C.L.E Resource Sheet which includes information on social services, human services, local, county, state, and federal agencies, substance abuse programs, mental health counseling, educational opportunities, faith-based agencies, food, clothing, job training and placement. As stated earlier, the Bureau of Parole also completes a Transition Toolkit on each youth prior to their discharge from parole. Among many of the areas addressed in this document is "Housing." This tool assures that housing concerns are addressed; proper housing resources are identified and housing goals are set for that particular individual.

Nature of the Request (Circle Your Answers):

Prayer Request	Pastoral Counseling	Grief Counseling
Family Problems	Bible Study/Questions	Reading Material
Spiritual Guidance	Minister of Record Visit	<u>Other</u> project more

Comments: Project More Help me understand new words that i never knew it help me to read more carefully.

Nature of the Request (Circle Your Answers):

Prayer Request	Pastoral Counseling	Grief Counseling
Family Problems	Bible Study/Questions	Reading Material
Spiritual Guidance	Minister of Record Visit	<u>Other</u> project more

Comments: its helping me read better on by staying at friends and homes

Nature of the Request (Circle Your Answers):

Spiritual Guidance	Pastoral Counseling	Grief Counseling
Bible Study/Questions	Minister of Record Visit	Reading Material
<u>Other</u> Project More		

Comments: Project More is a great reading program. It helps me read better and helps me pronounce words a lot better. It's a good program for those who cannot read and have a reading problem. The volunteers are good people that loved to help others get there reading skills better.

## Recommendation Number 16

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services will partner with grassroots and community organizations in an educational effort towards the general public aimed at decreasing the negative stigma of ex-offenders and making the public aware of the needs involved in the process of reentry.



This recommendation is the mission of the Ohio Ex-offender Reentry Coalition, to which both state departments are statutory members. The OERC collaborates with government entities, faith and community-based organizations, and other grassroots initiatives to assist and educate these stakeholders in resources availability, to include tools and information to enhance programs and services development for ex-offenders.

The Juvenile Branch (JB) of the OERC serves the reentry needs of all adjudicated youth. In March 2014, state and local government and various local community representatives of the JB developed a strategic action plan to guide its mission over the next twelve months. One of the strategic planning goals addresses positive marketing, communication and relationship building through “traditional and social networking media sources targeting potential community partners, employer, social services, faith-based providers, families, and any other interested persons for the purpose of increasing awareness of and participation in juvenile branch of the statewide reentry coalition.”

Local efforts of reducing negative stigma include the Cuyahoga Office of Reentry’s development of the Strategic Action Plan of 2012-13; continuous efforts of all DYS regional parole offices to encourage involvement of the faith-based community; and The “Open Gate” and “Going Home to Stay” initiatives in Allen and Lucas County, which have received media attention through local newspapers and new channels to educate the public.

## **DYS Faith-Based and Community Partners**

A.M.E. Church  
Allen Chapel Prison Ministry  
Benevolent Love Ministry  
Bethel Temple Church  
Bible Bowl  
Bill Glass Ministries  
Boy Scouts of America  
Brother-To-Brother  
Catholic Charities  
Catholic Cross Bearers  
Catholic Outreach  
Celebrate Recovery  
Changed Lives Ministries  
Chapel Rest  
Christ Community Chapel  
Church of the Resurrection  
College of Wooster  
Community for New Direction  
Community Life Church  
David Reynold's Book Club  
Dorroh Ministry  
Epiphany Ministries  
Faith Challenge  
Faith Family Church  
Faith Ministries Church  
Gideon's International  
Glory to God Ministry  
Grace Church  
Kairos Torch  
Kent State University at Stark  
Malachi Ministry  
Massillon Police Department  
Men of Standard  
Mighty Men of Valor  
Missionaries of Sacred Heart  
Mt. Pleasant Prison Ministry  
Ohio Christian University  
Basketball Team  
Power of Deliverance  
Project MORE - Reading  
Tutoring Program  
Providence Baptist Church  
Ridge Project  
River Tree Church  
Road Riders for Jesus  
Rock of Ages  
Son Reign Ministries  
Spirit Filled Ministries  
Sunlight Village/SOAR  
The Ohio State University -  
Buckeye R.E.A.C.H.  
The Word Church  
Todd Smith (Horticulture)  
Trinity Broadcasting Network  
True North Ministry  
U- Radio  
Valor Christian College  
Vocational Builder Professional  
(V.B.P.) - John Holt  
Walnut Creek Church  
What About Me Ministry  
Willoughby Prison Ministry



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