

# REENTRY NEWSLETTER

## Mission Statement

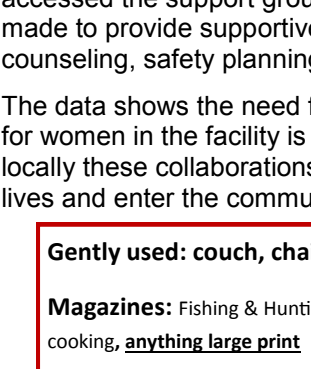
To enhance public safety by bringing together the private & public resources of Douglas County to help ex-offenders successfully re-enter their neighborhoods as accountable, self-sufficient & law-abiding citizens



February 2015

## Program Spotlight from the Program Director, Mike Caron

The collaboration between the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and The Willow Domestic Violence Center has been instrumental in helping women transition back into the community. The Willow staff facilitate groups for one hour and then one-on-one case management sessions for women within the facility. With the addition of the Human Trafficking Specialist, Elizabeth Finn, the women in the facility are able to access specialized services at a time when they are highly motivated for change.



On January 21, 2014, Liz Steuwe, Program Coordinator at Willow Domestic Violence Center, started the first program in the facility that addresses domestic violence for women in the facility. According to the demographic information that was provided by the Willow staff, there were 45 support group sessions from January through December 2014 with 312 client contacts. The Willow has helped six women transition from the facility to their shelter services and an additional ten women were referred to other agency services. There were 68 women (unduplicated) who accessed the support group or individual meetings at the facility. 162 contacts were made to provide supportive counseling services via individual sessions (peer counseling, safety planning, information and referrals).

The data shows the need for this collaboration considering the average daily population for women in the facility is 31. With the rise of incarcerated females nationally and locally these collaborations are more important than ever to help women rebuild their lives and enter the community as law-abiding citizens.

**Gently used: couch, chairs, bicycles**

## Needs

**Magazines:** Fishing & Hunting, Cars & Trucks, Racing, trains, dogs, war history, construction, restaurants, cooking, anything large print

**We do not need the following magazines:** old National Geographic, old Sports Illustrated, old Time Magazines, Gardening, home decoration or women's magazines (already donated).

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Notes from TC.....

Since turning 18, TC has been in and out of the Douglas County Jail 23 times. This past spring while serving two consecutive six month sentences for battery and domestic battery, TC was ready for a change. Working closely with the Reentry program and mental health staff, TC started to work on a plan to stay out of jail.

TC knew that addressing his mental health needs and staying free from drugs and alcohol were the keys to living the life he wanted. Furthermore, these were the areas of risk identified through his LSI-R, the assessment tool the Reentry program utilizes to develop release plans tailored to each client's need. Already working hard in the inmate worker program and going to the diploma completion program in jail, TC started to attend the cognitive behavioral change classes offered at the jail.

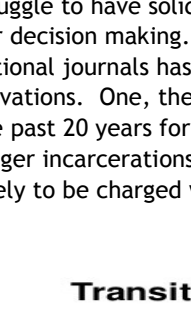
Next, TC was granted work release, but he needed to learn skills to cope with life in a healthy way on the outside. So Reentry coordinated with mental health staff to get him con-

nected with Bert Nash in the community. For the first few weeks on work release, TC went to the Intensive Out-patient Program at Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in the morning and went job searching in the afternoon. With this support TC found a job and started to lay the foundation for a more successful transition back into society.

In November, TC was released from the jail on probation. Since then he has graduated from the Bert Nash IOP program, remained employed full-time, leased his first apartment and continues to work towards completing his high school education. In addition, he continues to attend the Substance Abuse Program in the community offered by the Reentry program.

Eventually he would like to continue his education and have a career helping others who have been through the same struggles as he. Bert Nash and Reentry, **"have taught me that life is a journey, not a destination and I really want to help open the door for others too,"** he said.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Douglas County Corrections Facility (DCCF) has seen a 30% increase in the female population during the last year. In 2011, the Average Daily Population (ADP) was 11; in 2013 the ADP was 20 and in 2014 the ADP was 31 for the female population even though female bookings decreased by 67 between the last two years. I often get asked the question, "why has the female population increased?" My only answer is that the trend is national and jails and prison all across the county are dealing with the same issue. I have posed the same question to national experts and they too struggle to have solid answers that can drive our decision making. My personal review of national journals has led to a few general observations. One, the harsher sentencing over the past 20 years for drug crimes has led to longer incarcerations. Since women are more likely to be charged with drug related offenses

than any other type, they are feeling the impact of these changes. Second, rise in prescription drug use which often leads to heroin and methamphetamine addiction. The third is the fact that women offenders are often associated with a significant other who is committing crimes. After 11 years working in jails, I have witnessed too many women who have the best intentions when they leave the jail lobby only to be met at the door by the male they were previously associated with. They walk right back into a lifestyle of victimization.

This is the reason we believe programs like The Willow, First Step and Fresh Start are so important for the women released to our community.

Lawrence Journal World article, [control click](#).

## The Transition from Jail to Community Initiative

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Save the Date**  
**Retirement Reception for Mike Caron**  
**& Volunteer Recognition**  
**May 21st 4-7 pm**  
**Douglas County Fairgrounds**



