

# 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

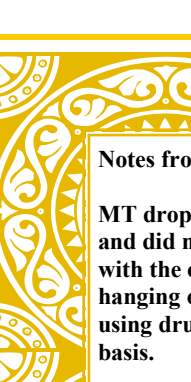


March 2015

## Program Spotlight from the Program Director, Mike Caron

John Musgrave is not a regular program volunteer. However, half a dozen times a year for many years now John has come into the facility as a guest poet. He speaks to Professor Brian Daldorph's writing class. John served in the Marines in 1967. He earned three Purple Hearts for wounds received in Vietnam. John has addressed cadets at West Point and Annapolis, colonels and generals at Ft. Leavenworth, and veterans groups all across the country. But he especially enjoys sharing his war poetry and memories with the inmates here. The men always find his words deeply moving. His book, *Notes to the Man Who Shot Me* is always checked out of our library. Not everyone can commit to volunteering every week, but folks like John Musgrave contribute greatly to the quality of programming that we are able to offer in the facility.

This month, Reentry wants to recognize two interns from the School of Social Welfare. Keena Schmidt has interned with the Reentry program this semester. Keena Schmidt is employed with the Kansas Department of Education, Migrant Education. She works as a re-interviewer, traveling and visiting migrant/refugee families in the state of Kansas and other states. Previously, she worked as a recruiter and advocate for migrant/refugee families and has been with the migrant program for over 15 years. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas (BA in Theatre and Film with an emphasis in Children's Theatre). Keena has helped Reentry by gathering data, conducting cog groups and organizing training.



Ryan is an advanced level MSW student completing his final year of the Social Work program through the University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare. Ryan spent his foundation level year practicum in Kansas City, Missouri with Swope Health Services day program providing course instructor on topics such as health and wellness and self-advocacy along with providing one-on-one direction or Person-Centered case management for individual clients. Ryan grew up in southwest Kansas and has lived in a few other places including overseas all while traveling and educating. Ryan will complete his practicum placement through Bert Nash at the DCCF on April 24 graduating soon after and off to his next adventure!

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

**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).

## Needs

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Notes from MT.....

MT dropped out of Junior High School and did not graduate from High School with the other students. She started hanging out with the wrong crowd and using drugs and alcohol on a regular basis.

When MT was booked into the facility in the Spring of 2014, she felt that she wasn't worthy of receiving help and she did not know how to ask for it. She felt that she would be judged and that frightened her. "Admitting you are weak when you tried to be strong has been the challenge for me. Asking for help is the hardest and most humbling part of the journey"

While in the facility, MT started cognitive behavioral therapy classes to replace her criminal thinking with more pro-social thoughts. While in the class, she started to learn how to be "mindful" of her thoughts and feelings

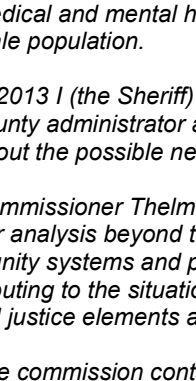
with the help of journaling and participating in group sessions.

According to MT, "Honesty with yourself is key. You must be patient with yourself because you will not get "fixed" overnight. Even if everyone else has turned their back on you, you must love yourself. I had to learn how to love and invest in healthy alternatives to my past criminal thinking. I do not want to run back to my old ways of thinking."

MT continues to say, "The Reentry Program and my case manager has helped me to rebuild my life so that my foundation is no longer cracked and crumbling but becoming more solid with every new brick of accomplishment and success. I am working fulltime and plan to attend college next year."

MT has recently successfully completed the Reentry Program, is no longer on court supervision and has paid all fines.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Excerpts from the Sheriff at the Town Hall Meeting on March 23rd:

"...In 2009, 2010 and 2011 we saw a gradual decline in Average Daily Population (ADP). Then in 2013 the ADP spiked upwards, increasing our special needs inmates – those with medical and mental health issues, and the female population.

In 2013 I (the Sheriff) started talking to the county administrator and county commissioners about the possible need for expanding the jail.

Commissioner Thelman suggested we broaden our analysis beyond the jail and consider community systems and practices that may be contributing to the situation, particularly other criminal justice elements and mental health services.

The commission contacted Treanor Architects, the designer of our current jail, and decided to

hire consultants, experts in the corrections field, to study our situation and make a needs assessment. The consultants are looking not only at the jail but at elements of the community that influence jail operations.

The Sheriff's Office has already received letters from the community. We are saving the suggestions and comments as they come in. We are answering the questions best as we can and responding to suggestions and ideas as well.

We appreciate and encourage the public's thoughtful suggestions and input on how we can best serve the community and fulfill our role in the criminal justice system.

At this point in the process we are identifying problems and needs. We have not formulated solutions yet, so there is no "end plan" – it is too early for that.

We are counting on these Town Hall Meetings to be the public's opportunity for direct input. Working closely with the community is the best way to identify existing problems, and needs. Together we can find solutions that will efficiently and effectively address the needs of both the jail and the community."

The next Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for May 18th at 6:00 pm.

## Save the Date

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

## Transition from Jail to Community Initiative



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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