

OREGON CURE

(Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants)

A newsletter for family and friends of Incarcerated Individuals

Winter/Spring 2007 Volume 28

Partnership for Safety and Justice Lobby Day set for March 8, 2007

Oregon CURE members Cindy Van Loo, Judy Farrell, Gretchen Hite, Kris Vala, and Bonnie Nusser recently completed a training sponsored by Partnership for Safety and Justice (fka Western Prison Project) to prepare them for their participation in Lobby Day at the State Capitol on Thursday, March 8, 2007. Areas that will be the primary focus of the group's message to the lawmakers in our 2007 Legislature are as follows:

- **Restore Real Justice for Youth** – Currently Oregon treats youth (ages 15, 16 and 17) as adults in the criminal justice system when they have been charged with a Measure 11 crime. Psychological and physiological research from the past 10 years shows that young people's cognitive abilities do not fully develop until their early twenties. Studies around the country also show that youth held in adult facilities recidivate more often, negatively impacting public safety. There is currently one bill being introduced into the Legislature (H.B. 2904), with another one expected to follow, that would allow judges discretion in determining the best way to hold young people accountable. As more youth are treated as adults within our criminal justice system, we see their future prospects for school, employment, and productive contributions to society squandered and we are hoping for a change to avoid this outcome.
- **Increase Resources for Community-Based Domestic Violence** - For the last 10 years, while we have seen such a dramatic increase in prison construction, we have also experienced drastic cuts to core human services. Includes in those services have been funds that directly support domestic and sexual violence survivors through hotlines, shelters, and advocacy services. The Attorney General had requested a \$5 Million increase to the Oregon Domestic Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVF) for the 2007-2009 biennium, which did not make the Governor's proposed budget. A Portland State Study shows that Oregon is a long way from adequately funding these life-saving services, but a \$5 Million increase to ODSVF would be a strong step in the right direction.

Additional areas of concern that will be brought before the 2007 Legislature are:

- Creating a Legislative Taskforce to Reduce Re-Entry Barriers
- Strengthening our Investment in Prison Programs that Reduce Recidivism
- Prevent New Mandatory Minimum Sentences
- Develop a Plan to Avoid New Prison Construction

All Oregon CURE members, as well as family and friends, are encouraged to attend Lobby Day on March 8, 2007 to support the above issues. For more information, contact Patty Katz or Denise Welch at Partnership for Safety and Justice at (503) 335-8449 to schedule a time to meet with the lawmaker in your voting district.

Publication Notice

This newsletter is a publication of Oregon CURE. Oregon CURE is a non-profit organization whose goal is to reduce crime through criminal justice reform.

The opinions and statements contained in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Steering Committee of Oregon CURE.

Contributions of articles, letters to the editor, notices, etc. are welcome, but may be edited or rejected for space considerations.

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A Message From the Chair - - -

By Cindy Van Loo

Another year has just begun, so it is time to reflect upon the past year and plan for the coming year in our work at Oregon CURE. I am really pleased to have such a dedicated and hardworking steering committee. The enthusiasm and vision of each member keeps us all inspired to do the work we do. "Yes", it is hard work, and "no" we don't always accomplish everything we hope to, but the work we are able to do nurtures our soul and because of each one of you, we keep trudging ahead doing what we do.

It has been almost two years since our son was released from prison. I only wish the time went as quickly while he was incarcerated as it has since his release. I am happy to report he is doing well. He is a full time student at Portland State University working part time during the school year and full time during the summers on a survey crew. I know that our son is among a few prisoners released who are lucky enough to have supportive family and the necessary resources available to him when he was released from prison which made his transition smooth and his success in the community flawless. Those who don't have these kinds of opportunities available to them, struggle upon their release seeking housing and employment, and many (approximately 30%) return to prison within three years of their release.

Oregon CURE is working hard on the issues of transition and release and in the coming months and years, we hope we can provide prisoners and their friends and families with more resources and orientations to help our incarcerated citizens transition successfully back into their communities.

You might notice we have a "new look" to our newsletter. We are experimenting with different formats in order to keep our costs to a minimum. We would appreciate your input.

Lastly, I wish you all the best in the coming year and am looking forward to another year full of opportunities we can be of help to our incarcerated citizens and their families and friends.

The Real I.D. Act

By Judy Farrell

The Real ID Act, passed by Congress, and effective in May 2008, will require every applicant for a state driver's license or identification card to prove either that they are a United States citizen, or that they are a resident alien with proper documentation establishing lawful presence in the United States. This will require each applicant to produce a certified and verifiable birth certificate and a social security card which will have to be verified with the Social Security Administration. Without these documents, effective May 2008, the state will not be able to issue a driver's license or state identification card. This requirement will apply to both new applicants and renewals. Earlier this year, the Social Security Administration announced that it will no longer enter into agreements with correctional facilities to help prisoners obtain replacement Social Security cards, due to this new legislation. For more information, you can visit: <http://www.reentrypolicy.org/reentry/DocumentViewer.aspx?DocumentD=1301>

VAC Address Change!

Please make a note of the address change for VAC Debit Inmate Accounts! The new address is:

VAC
P.O. Box 678517
Dallas, Texas 75267-8517

The phone number has not changed; it remains: 1-800-786-8521. If you need to speak with a customer service person; their hours are Monday through Friday 7am to 7pm.

Reentry Help (as published in the Spring 2006 International CURE newsletter)

Call 1-877-USA-JOBS to find the nearest employment agency. This agency should help with the Work Opportunities Tax Credit (WOTC) and the Federal Bonding Program (FBP).

For employers who hire people with felony convictions, there is a tax-write off of \$2,400 while the FBP provides up to \$25,000 in insurance in case of theft. For more information on FBP, call 1-800-233-2258 or see www.bonds4jobs.com

THANK YOU!!

By: Cindy Van Loo, Oregon CURE Chair

Thanks to all of you who sent in your membership renewals and/or donations as a result of our recent fund-raiser letter mailed in November. To date, we have received a total of \$4,070. Our goal is \$8,000. If you have not mailed in your membership renewal, it is not too late. If you have questions or didn't receive a fund-raising letter, please contact us at the number on the back of this newsletter. Because of the limited resources available to our incarcerated citizens, Oregon CURE decided not to send this letter to them; however, we want to thank them for their continued support. Our incarcerated citizens make up about one-third of our members. Oregon CURE continues to provide resources and information to prisoners and their families and friends across the United States "free of charge" because of your ongoing contributions.

Oregon CURE Publications and Brochures

If you would like to receive any of our informational literature, we'll gladly send out information to anyone who is currently in prison. For those who have access to our website: www.oregoncure.org all publications are listed and can be printed at your convenience.

Pamphlet Title

Advocating with the Incarcerated in Oregon
How to Explain Jails & Prisons to Children
CURE - Restoration, Not Simply Retribution
The Campaign for Equity - Restorative Justice
Getting Through Oregon's Parole Process
Free-er but Not Free
Keeping Love Alive While in Prison
Handbook for Families and Friends of
Visitor's Handbook
Suggestions for Release Planning

Brochure Title

Oregon CURE Chapter Brochure
Addressing the Issues in your Psychological Exam
Self Help / Recover Bibliography for Sex Offenders
Thoughts on Getting Out
Pensamientos Sobre Puesto en Libertad
Tips on Making Contact when there is a Problem
What you can do to Ensure the Best Possible Health Care
Release Planning Suggestions & Checklist
To the Family Member or Friend of an S.O.
To the Imprisoned Sex Offender
Sex Abuse Treatment Alliance (SATA)

HOME FOR GOOD IN OREGON

By: Judy Farrell

REGION III, Lane County

Chaplain Tom English has worked in the Lane County Jail for 7 years serving the local jail inmates. However, Chaplain Tom remains in contact with those transferred to state prisons, writing to them and offering services to their families. Sponsors, Inc. is the primary organization offering housing, clothing, ID, medical services and employment to men and women coming out of prison to Lane County. For those families and prisoners interested in participating in Sponsors, Inc., be sure to contact them at least six months prior to release, since there is a waiting list.

Chaplain Tom English 541-302-9477

Sponsors, Inc. 1766 Willamette St.
Eugene, Oregon 97401
541-485-8341

Chaplain William Fairchild works closely with Sponsors, Inc., and a former parole officer who assists him with finding employment for newly released persons. He has facilitated a sex offender program and is working to establish a special church service for sex offenders. Chaplain Fairchild assists with locating housing, and is involved in the New Life Center.

Chaplain William Fairchild 541-513-0450

Chaplain Bill Fisher retired in 2007, but continues his involvement with Home for Good in Oregon. He often works with Lane County Parole Officer Tom Roch and Sponsor's Tony Meyer in referring prisoners to jobs. Again, when prisoners are willing and interested, it is very important to apply for Sponsor's at least six months in advance of release. If an inmate is released to Lane County and is not in Sponsor's program, he or she can request that the assigned parole officer refer them to Tony Meyer for assistance in finding employment.

Chaplain Bill Fisher 541-554-8212

Chaplain Blomberg has been working as a chaplain in the Lane County Jail for many years. He stays in touch with jail prisoners who are transferred to Oregon prisons, and if prisoners ask for help, he assists with employment and housing. There is a transition house in Eugene for sex offenders. The White Bird information line (1-800-422-7558) and the Information/Crisis line (541-342-4357) offer a wide variety of medical, dental, counseling and homeless services. Chaplain Blomberg advises that any inmate interested in Home for Good in Oregon services contact their prison chaplain and request the application form at least four months in advance.

Chaplain Daniel Blomberg 541-682-2174

REGION V, Washington County

Chaplain Paul Schramm is Regional Chaplain in Washington County. Chaplain Schramm explains that for an inmate to receive services from Washington County Home for Good in Oregon, he or she must obtain a form from the prison chaplain and also, must be willing to participate in a faith community of choice upon release.. Upon receipt of the inmate's application, a contact will be made by a Washington County HGO chaplain. In this county, Chaplain Schramm explains that the parole officer is always the quarterback, and HGO provides the resources—employment, clean and sober housing, sex offender church services if desired—Washington County HGO has more resources available than some of the other counties in Oregon.

Chaplain Paul Schramm 503-478-4899

Chaplain Allen Michael works with family members during a person's initial incarceration in the Washington County Jail, and prepares the inmate to cope in a positive manner in state prison. Any inmate desiring services from Home for Good in Oregon must be involved with his or her prison chaplain, and apply through the chaplain at least three to four months in advance of release for HGO services. Through the Hayden Group, Jay Swenson has 83 rooms to rent at 21 locations in Washington County; 33 are for sex offenders and the remaining for mentally ill and others needing housing. The rent is \$400/month with a \$200 initial fee for paperwork. This housing must be ok'd by each parolee's parole officer..

Chaplain Allen Michael 503-372-5614

The Hayden Group, Attn: Jay Swenson, 505 SE Washington, Hillsboro, OR 97213
503-781-882

Chaplain Yulanden Ophelia Moore provides services to both men and women releasing from Oregon prisons. Besides being an active participant in the Home for Good in Oregon program in Washington County, Chaplain Ophelia is the founder of a non-profit organization called PROPS, Preparing Released Offenders Pursuing Success. She will work with all those released who request her services, not only those in Washington County. However, she is located in Washington County, and she and her husband can provide emergency short stay housing in their home. PROPS does not require that the released person be involved in a spiritual community. Chaplain Ophelia sends a letter to each inmate scheduled for release to Washington County, and visits them personally if they indicate a need for services. Through PROPS, she is hoping to establish life skills and parenting programs.

Chaplain Ophelia Moore 503-481-6777

The spring Oregon CURE newsletter will review Region IV covering Marion, Linn, Benton and Yamhill Counties. Any questions and comments may be directed to Judy Farrell at Oregon CURE, 1631 NE Broadway, Portland, OR 97232, 503-977-9979.

Suggested Reading

The Hiding Place, By Corrie Ten Boom. Deluxe Christian Classics (July 1, 2000) \$9.95

This is a book I have been meaning to read for years because I have heard Corrie Ten Boom quoted from many speakers throughout my life. Now I know why. This story takes place in Holland during WWII during the Nazi invasion. The Ten Boom family was horrified at how the Nazis were treating their Jewish neighbors and friends. Because of this, Corrie, at the age of fifty, together with other members of her family, including their father who was nearly eighty, became active in the Dutch underground to protect their Jewish friends. They constructed a secret room in their home to hide them. When their home was raided by the Gestapo, the Ten Boom home was filled to capacity with Jews in hiding. So well concealed was the hidden room that had been created by the erection of the false wall, that these poor, terrified Jews managed to escape detection. However, the Ten Boom family was sent away to concentration camps and it was there that their faith was put to the real test. They witnessed first hand man's inhumanity to man and this is the story of how some of them were able to survive the treatment they endured. If you read this book, you will never forget it!!

Cindy Van Loo

Chasing Justice, My Story of Freeing Myself After Two Decades on Death Row for a Crime I Didn't Commit, by Kerry Max Cook. Harpers Collins (on sale February 27, 2007) \$25.95

The author, wrongfully convicted of killing a young woman in Texas, was sentenced to death in 1978 and served two decades on death row in the Texas Prison System, a prison system so brutal that the federal court in 1980 ruled that serving time in it was "cruel and unusual punishment."

Jan Singleton

Support Groups

For Adult Family Members & Friends of the Incarcerated

Monthly Meetings

<u>Beaverton</u> <u>1st Wednesday</u>	<u>Central Oregon**</u> <u>3rd Thursday</u>	<u>Eugene</u> <u>1st Thursday</u>
7 – 8:30 p.m. Beaverton Comm. Center 12350 SW 5 th , Ste. 100 (FREE PARKING)	6-7:30 p.m. Redmond Library Board Room 827 SW Deschutes Redmond (FREE PARKING)	7 – 8:30 p.m. Private Residence 4745 Brookwood (FREE PARKING)

<u>Medford</u> <u>2nd Tuesday</u>	<u>Ontario</u> <u>4th Saturday</u>	<u>Salem</u> <u>1st Saturday</u>
6:30 – 8 p.m. Medford Library 205 So. Central (FREE PARKING)	6 – 8 p.m. The Family Place 390 NE 2 nd St. (FREE PARKING)	11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. CALL FOR LOCATION (503) 873-4363 (Aba Gayle)

* Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants, Oregon Chapter

** Serving Bend, Sisters, Redmond, Prineville, Madras, and LaPine

Help Needed

If you would be willing to donate a couple hours a month to lead a Portland support group, please contact Oregon CURE at (503) 977-9979. We will train you and get you started and in return, your reward will be great! This is your chance to support and help those who walk a lonely path and need the support of others.

“Voices from the Inside”

To Our Incarcerated Friends:

Please send us, for future publishing in our newsletter, a short essay on what life is like for you on the inside to give those on the outside a better understanding. Please give us a brief description of yourself. You may include pictures or artwork. All submissions will become the property of Oregon CURE and will not be returned to the sender, If selected for publishing in our newsletter, submissions may be edited. Please mail directly to: Oregon CURE, 1631 N.E. Broadway, Suite 460, Portland, OR 97232.

Changes to Intake Orientations

Monthly orientation meetings for families and friends of newly incarcerated individuals have changed. The 2007 dates of the meetings are as follows:

Portland (3rd Thursday of each month):

April 19, 2007
June 21, 2007
August 16, 2007
October 18, 2007
December 20, 2007

Salem (3rd Thursday of each month)

March 15, 2007
May 17, 2007
July 19, 2007
September 20, 2007
November 15, 2007

The Portland meetings are held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at:

Capitol Hill United Methodist Church
2401 SW Taylors Ferry Rd.
Portland, OR

The Salem meetings are held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at:

Jason Lee United Methodist Church
820 Jefferson St. N.E.
Salem, OR

Please call ahead to register in case there have been any changes.

OSP LIFERS' CLUB

On Thursday, February 8, 2007, Oregon CURE members Terry Stein and Cindy Van Loo attended the Lifer's Club at Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem. Oregon CURE is a sponsor of the Lifer's Club and have been invited to attend the monthly meetings at OSP.

According to one member of the Lifer's Club, they participate in many community service projects. Most recently, they made over 300 childrens' leather bracelets for the campers at the Gales Creek Diabetes Camp in Forest Grove. Eleven pieces of art were donated to the benefit auction held to raise money for the camp.

Beech Elementary School was able to send students on a field trip to the Oregon Zoo because of the donations the Lifer's collected to fund the field trip. The source of funding for the special projects come from the prisoners themselves as well as proceeds collected from special projects such as the pictures and jewelry sold in the visiting room at OSP.

We appreciate this outreach to the community!!

I DO WANT TO HELP OREGON CURE CONTINUE ITS WORK IN 2007

Here is my tax-deductible contribution.

- \$3/yr. Prisoner
- \$15/yr. Individual
- \$25/yr. Family
- \$50-100/yr. Sustaining
- \$100-250/yr. Sponsor
- \$250/yr. Benefactor
- \$50/yr. Organization
- \$ _____ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

[optional]

Name of Incarcerated Loved One: _____

SID # and Address: _____

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