Reentry Task Force

Storycorps Visits Athens Reentry

Dan Enger and Joe McGowan at Ohio Means Jobs Athens

The Athens Reentry Program were very fortunate that Dan Enger from Global Dialogues came to the Athens area from his Georgia office to collect inspirational stories from our Reentry participants for StoryCorps. The participants were so grateful to share their stories and hopefully be a positive influence to a person who could benefit from their wisdom. Dan also visited the Rural Women's Recovery Program and Federal Hocking Schools while in the area.

StoryCorps' mission is to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world."We do this to remind one another of our shared humanity, to strengthen and build the connections between people, to teach the value of listening, and to weave into the fabric of our culture the understanding that everyone's story matters. At the same time, we are creating an invaluable archive for future generations."

Thanks so much to Dan Enger for his compassion and the participants for sharing their touching and heartfelt stories.

Visit the following link to listen to the stories:

https://archive.storycorps.org/user/global-dialogues/

New Ohio University Field Placement

My name is Michaela Dorsey. I am a Senior at Ohio University. I am majoring in Child and Family Studies with the concentration of child, adult, and family. In addition, I am a member of the Ohio University Varsity Softball team. After graduating, I plan to attend graduate school and obtain my masters in either Social Work or counseling. I am interested in eventually operating my own non-profit organization, working with at risk children and families in need of assistance. I am interested in reentry because both of my parents worked for the prison system. My father Steve Dorsey, started as a case manager at Chillicothe. He was Director of Social Services as well as Inspector of Institutional Services at Ohio Penitentiary. He was the Deputy Warden at Pickaway, London, and Madison Correctional Institute. Steve set up and supervised Centralized transportation at the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Center Office. My mother, Rona Dorsey, spent half of her career at the Pickaway Correctional Institution as the Unit Management Administrator before being promoted to the Regional Director's Office of Prisons. Rona was instrumental in developing the Prison Nursery Program, the Birthing Support Policies and Procedures for Pregnant Inmates, the Therapeutic Communities in Recovery Services and providing functional supervision of Unit Management and Recreation Services staff for approximately 16 prisons in the Southern half of the state of Ohio. She finished her career in the office of Reentry networking with the Communities in Southwest Ohio and designated Prisons. Rona continued her work with families and children of the incarcerated. Her work is what sparked my interest in reentry. I also wanted to get involved with the reentry program to give me a different perspective on perpetrators. Working with the reentry program thus far has shown me the struggles that formally incarcerated individuals face. I am excited and extremely thankful to have the opportunity to complete my practicum with the Ohio Means Jobs; Athens County Reentry Program.

"The Sociology-Criminology Club at Ohio University has been on campus for years but this spring semester the club has increased their activity with the newly elected first year students. The new exec board includes President, Abigail Gifford & Vice President, Hunter Klaus. The club seeks to provide opportunities for students to develop their understanding of the justice field, develop their professionalism, and to build connections. The club is primarily comprised of Sociology-Criminology majors but is welcoming to anyone interested. During the weekly meetings, speakers from a wide array of backgrounds in the related field share their experiences with the students. The club highly valued gaining insight from Shawn Stover working in Reentry and looks forward to what is next. Shawn states that he was highly impressed with the interests of the class and the wonderful array of questions regarding the hardships that our returning citizens encounter. It is a great honor to be able to educate people in the field and give them some guidance regarding resources and obstacles that people face. Contact ag120616@ohio.edu with any questions or opportunities!"

REENTRY RANTS & RAVES

I have had several people lately in the Reentry Program who were recently released from the STAR Community Justice Program in Franklin Furnace Ohio. This program offers intensive cognitive behavioral therapy mixed with social, educational and vocational programming. I have worked with many individuals who have completed the STAR program over the years and been impressed with the focus and positive attitude that our returning citizens have upon release.

A recent person that stands above the rest was released in early February and I had worked with this individual briefly in 2015. The change in his attitude and commitment to sobriety was truly amazing. He maintained his core identity and beliefs but gained a respect for himself and his community that was extremely evident. Upon our first meeting, he says" I was a no good for shit father and avoided taking responsibility for any of my actions" "I am no longer that person and plan to do better". He proudly showed me all his accomplishment and certifications. This person has mostly worked in the construction field and completed his HVAC and Residential Electric Certification at STAR. He walked onto a local construction site shortly after meeting with me told them about his felony and showed them his certifications. They hired him on the spot and in 2 weeks made him a foreman. Thanks STAR- He gave you much praise. Shawn Stover -Reentry Coordinator

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

The next task force meeting will be on **March 26th, 2018** at **9:30AM** at the Athens County Job and Family Services County Home Office (13183 St Rt. 13 Millfield, Ohio 45761) in the conference room. See you there!

This newsletter was initially established January 2017 by Erin Phillips previous AmeriCorps Vista through Appalachian Center For Economic Networks (ACEnet) and is currently edited and maintained by Athens Reentry Taskforce Chairperson Shawn Stover released on March 15, 2018.