



# This Week at the Second Chance Foundation...

Mission: "To provide a crime prevention strategy for Metropolitan Kansas City through research, advocacy and the funding of programs that improves opportunities for ex-offenders to lead productive lives."

**January 16, 2009**

In an effort to keep you more informed on what's happening at the Second Chance Foundation, we will send out this e-newsletter periodically with the latest and greatest news and information! The news items will be identified as Research, Advocacy, Public Relations, Special Project or Fundraising related.

Thanks for your support of the Second Chance Foundation!

## **Coming Soon**

- Board Meeting – January 20, 3pm, Kauffman
- Board Meeting – February 17, 3pm, Kauffman

## **What's New?**

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Second Chance Director, **Barry Mayer**, appeared on KCUR FM's "Up To Date" radio program with host and KC Star Reporter, **Steve Kraske**, US Congressmen, **Danny Davis** and Kansas State Representative, Ms. **Pat Colloton** to discuss the Second Chance Act and reentry efforts. If you are interested in listening to the program go to the following link:

<http://www.kcur.org/uptodate.html#Thursday>

## **What's Coming Up?**

### **Let's Talk OWDS Training**

The Department of Corrections in both Kansas and Missouri have partnered with the National Institute of Corrections to present Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training throughout both states. This is a comprehensive intense curriculum designed to increase a facilitator's ability to assist offenders in making informed decisions relative to career development, job retention, and career advancement.

The 180 hour OWDS training curriculum was developed by the National Institute of Corrections and endorsed by the National Career Development Association (NCDA). The OWDS training curriculum is comprised of 11 competencies and spans a three month period.

Potential Employer's Breakfast, hosted by Judge Gaitan and Mr. Dunn, Sr., March 5th, 8-10am, 2345 Grand, Lathrop & Gage, to increase the number of area employer's who could realize benefits through offender employment.

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Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Partnership Training is fundamental to a comprehensive reentry initiative that helps communities meet the workforce development needs of its offenders. This program includes three essential elements. First, it promotes collaboration between criminal justice agencies and a broad array of governmental agencies and community organizations. Second, it develops multidisciplinary teams of trainees with a set of competency-based skills that meet the requirements of Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF), an internationally recognized certification. Third, it requires trainee teams to build their jurisdiction's capacity to replicate the training in their respective communities.

In July 2008, the Missouri and Kansas Department of Corrections were the first in the nation to form a bi-state partnership to offer OWDS training to practitioners. **Susie Edwards**, Program Manager for Offender Workforce Development and her counterpart in Kansas, **Jim Chastain**, collaborated to present this training in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Many offenders who live in an area such as Kansas City where a state line exists can often benefit from the services and resources of both states. Therefore, it made sense to collaborate and train staff from both states, thereby erasing the state line. It serves two purposes. It allowed us to train staff and combine our resources. Secondly, practitioners who work in different states were able to learn about additional resources in their area and build new partnerships and collaborations. The training was very successful and we are in discussion to present more bi-state trainings.

In these challenging economic times it is imperative we look for new and innovative ways to work together to accomplish a common goal. By combining resources and partnering with others we can accomplish goals we could perhaps not accomplish on our own; which is the cornerstone of the reentry philosophy in Missouri.

It only makes sense for the Second Chance Foundation to support the training of as many people as possible as part of a metro-wide reentry strategy. In July, Second Chance Program Coordinator, **Lora McDonald**, graduated as Valedictorian of her OWDS class. She is now prepared to assist DOC train others in the area. Ms. Edwards and Mr. Chastain are scheduled to provide a presentation on OWDS at the February 17<sup>th</sup> Second Chance Board Meeting.

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