



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."

April 20, 2009

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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 – April 21, 3pm, Kauffman (Board members & invitees)

May and June Board Meetings will be held at the Liberty

[DOWD Conference Was a Successful Trip for Second Chance Foundation This Month](#)



DOWD Conference

April 5-8, 2009 -- Pittsburgh, PA

Defendant / Offender Workforce Development Conference



With 650,000 people being released from prison annually, this conference has become a premier crime reduction and

Memorial Conference Room.

- Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition, Wednesday, April 29th, 3-4PM (open networking 2-3PM) Pioneer Campus of MCC, 2700 E. 18th St, K.C. Mo., Auditorium

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employment event in the country. The Department of Justice reports that one of every 15 people in this country will serve a prison term during their lifetime. Of those released, 67.5% will be rearrested within three years. Having a meaningful job with a livable wage has proven to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. By networking with others throughout the nation, all attendees have the opportunity to learn better practices and implement them in their home communities.



National Conference Partners

- Federal Bureau of Prisons
- National Career Development Association
- National Institute of Corrections
- Offices of Probation and Pre-Trial Services/Administrative Office of the US Courts
- US Department of Labor

Local Conference Partner

- US Probation and Pretrial Office - Western District of Pennsylvania

[Second Chance Foundation Unique in the Nation](#)

By Lora McDonald, Program Coordinator

It was a privilege to get to represent our metropolitan community at the 2009 Defendant Offender Workforce Development Conference in Pittsburgh, PA from April 5th-9th. It is always inspiring to see the work happening on a national level around corrections issues, specifically related to employment, and to hear from national leaders on prisoner reentry at federal, state and local levels. Keynote Dr. Faye Taxman, Professor, Administration of Justice Program, George Mason University, articulated details about what practices are effective, showing promise, and demonstrating little evidence of success in areas of prisoner

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reentry. Keynote Mel Blount, Steelers Hall of Fame superstar, emphasized the significance of values, family, God, work and community in his personal success and discussed how he uses those values to give back, in a preventative way, with the Mel Blount Youth Home(s).

What resonated with me throughout my time in Pittsburgh is that we are on the right track in our Kansas City metropolitan area. The first presentation I attended was about collaboration and featured Kansas/ Missouri Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training (OWDS) with presenters Jim Chastain (KS); Susie Edwards (MO) and Quincy Fountain (US Parole, St. Louis, MO). I was a participant in this, the first bi-state OWDS training in our nation and the Crime Commission's Second Chance program staff and board (Barry, Chi King and I) were featured in the video at this conference. Our work was being celebrated at a national conference and we thank the presenters for giving attention to our efforts. We hope to help sponsor future OWDS bi-state trainings, beginning this year.

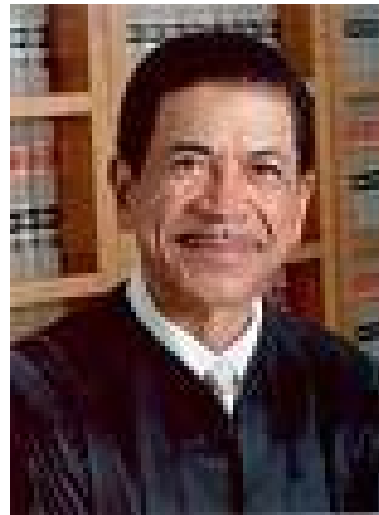
As I networked and attended other sessions, people were startled to learn about our work. Facilitating a community-wide reentry strategy, advocating for systematic and policy change, and raising funds for program development, particularly in two states and across local, state and federal levels is groundbreaking. Quite often people asked, "Who pays for that?" and they were more shocked that J.E. Dunn Foundation, with J.E. Dunn Construction being one of our nation's largest builders of prisons, was the primary funder of our efforts. I got to tell them about Mr. Dunn, Mr. DiCapo, and all of our important business and civic leaders, including the leadership of the Crime Commission. It is no small thing that these efforts are being lead by the business/ civic community, and retired local leaders in law enforcement, Chief Rick Easley and Major Barry Mayer.

When I told people of our Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition, with over 60 member organizations to date, working together to develop a community wide agenda, reform policy, and increase opportunities for ex-offenders, they wanted to know how we all could work together. My explanation is, though organizations work with offenders differently and compete for limited funding, we work from our common ground, believing in the potential of the people and wanting safer communities. Kansas Community Corrections (WYCO), Kansas Department of

Peter Dunn
Elena Franco
Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr.
Kenneth Gibson
Bill Grojean
Ellen Hanson
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Robert Lee Hill
Ernie Johnson
Cathy Jolly
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Julie Porter
Cliff Sargeon
Marilyn Scafe
Willard Snyder
Kent Sunderland
Bailus Tate
Marlene Weatherford

Corrections, Missouri Department of Corrections, U.S. Parole (Eastern KS and Western MO), Federal Bureau of Prisons (KS), and Connections to Success are among our Coalition Member organizations represented at the conference. Next year, we are already included in the planning to provide a presentation about the work of the Second Chance Foundation Program at the DOWD 2010 Conference in Dallas.

Meet the Second Chance Board:



Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr.
Member of the Board

The Honorable Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr. graduated from Pittsburg State University (B.S., 1970), and the University of Missouri at Kansas City (J.D., 1974) where he was a member of the Law Review. He serves as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri (1991 - present) and is currently Chief Judge. He also serves as a member of the Eighth Circuit Judicial Council. By appointment of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, he served as a member of the Federal-State Jurisdiction Committee of the Judicial Conference from 1997 to 2003. He has also served as a transferee judge by appointment of the Multidistrict Litigation Panel.

Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Chief Judge Gaitan served as an appellate judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals-Western District (1986-91), and as a state trial judge for the

Sixteenth Judicial Circuit in Kansas City, Missouri (1980-86). Before his appointment to the state trial bench, Chief Judge Gaitan was counsel for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Chief Judge Gaitan serves as an advisory board member to the Kansas City Crime Commission's Second Chance Foundation. His interest in the Foundation stems from his interest in helping offenders successfully reintegrate into their communities. He also currently serves as a Trustee of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Chief Judge Gaitan has been a member of numerous not-for-profit boards including 25 years of service as a St. Luke's Hospital board member. He is a member of local, state and national bar associations, and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

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