

# This Week at Second Chance ...



"A public safety program of the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission"

[www.kc-crime.org](http://www.kc-crime.org)

Second Chance 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."

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## **2009 in Review**

The Second Chance Program focuses on metro-wide reentry efforts through Research and special projects, Advocacy through the Reentry Coalition, and Fundraising to support local organizations providing direct services to the offender population.

In an effort to keep you more informed on what's happening in the Second Chance community, we will send out this e-newsletter periodically with the latest and greatest news and information!

Thanks for your support of the Second Chance Program!

**Coming Soon**

Board Meeting –

It was just over a year ago, October 2008, when the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission received funding support from the JE Dunn Foundation for the Second Chance Program. The Crime Commission's beginnings involved some of Kansas City's most recognizable leaders, sixty years ago, and it only makes sense that the Second Chance Program would include leadership from the business, civic, law enforcement and social service community. Readily one leader after another accepted Vice President Barry Mayer's request to become involved with Second Chance. They would help staff make the program what it has evolved into today.

First, the Second Chance program coordinated a 100 organization member coalition, The Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition this year. The fact that so many have gotten involved with the coalition is enough evidence for us that our community needs and desires collaboration around issues related to reentry. The coalition has already accomplished the following:

- ✓ Identified and prioritized barriers to reentry that we can address
- ✓ Developed a mission and values statements
- ✓ Organized into five committees
- ✓ Set measurable goals for each committee
- ✓ Coordinated Training Exchanges: Coalition Members earned 1,000 hours of FREE training through this partnership
- ✓ Offered networking opportunities
- ✓ Shared community and resource information
- ✓ Created avenues for collective advocacy and collaboration
- ✓ Co-Hosted a successful Reentry Resource Fair with Black Health Care Coalition

A second focus has been to provide research that would guide the work of the Crime Commission's Second Chance Program and provide a body of evidence for all Coalition members to justify the pursuit of funding. Many offenders, service providers, and corrections professionals have taken the time to share their thoughts on "what's missing" for successful reentry in our metropolitan area. This has been no small task as our area is working with multiple local,

January 19th at 3PM  
@ Liberty Memorial  
for members and  
invitees.

Kansas City  
Metropolitan Reentry  
Coalition, Tuesday,  
January 26th, 3-4PM  
(networking before  
and after meeting)  
Pioneer Campus of  
MCC, 2700 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St,  
K.C. Mo., Auditorium

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state and federal systems. The Gaps Analysis will conclude in the coming weeks and you will all be invited to a press conference when it is shared with the public. We thank our partners at University of Missouri-Kansas City and Healthcare Foundation of Kansas City for their expertise and funding to ensure the completion of this research project.

Our work has gotten considerable attention on the local, state and national level. We have been guests on local radio and have had multiple TV and newspaper appearances in 2009. We have been featured speakers at conferences in 2009, most recently at the Missouri Reentry Conference. In 2010, we will speak about our work at the Building a Sustainable Earth Community Conference and Unity in the Community, both in January in Kansas City, KS. We will also be featured presenters at the Defendant Offender Workforce Development (DOWD) Conference in Dallas, TX, in April. This attention comes from the work we do with all of you and we thank you for the role you have played in helping us keep reentry in the spotlight.

We have spent a fair amount of 2009 learning about various systems and effective programs locally and throughout the nation. We got to visit programs in Baltimore and Philadelphia. We attended the DOWD conference in Pittsburg and were featured as partners in a presentation by Jim Chastain (KS) and Susie Edwards (MO). Inevitably, the unique mix of board and staff members and the partnerships we have created spark the attention of others.

In 2009, we would begin playing an important and needed role in advocacy. KC Southern hosted a legislative luncheon with the Crime Commission in October where we educated area Missouri Senators and Representatives about reentry issues. Also, the Reentry Coalition and the Crime Commission supported Senator Yvonne Wilson's Food Stamp Bill, which would allow people with drug convictions to be eligible to apply for Food Stamps in Missouri. Though the Bill was voted unanimously out of committee, it never made it to the floor for a vote; Senator Wilson and Representative Curles have already filed like Bills for 2010 and we can't wait to create the momentum to ensure it passes. The Reentry Coalition is also working on a city ordinance issue to expand employment opportunities for offenders. Finally, the Crime Commission has retained Scott Swain to help us with our efforts in Jefferson City in the coming months.

None of this work would be possible without our partners and each of you! We thank our committed Second Chance Advisory Board Members, every organizational member of the KC Metro Reentry Coalition, the Crime Commission Board of Directors, former offenders and their family members who influence our direction, and the Kansas City Metropolitan Community for believing in the work we do. I would like to give special acknowledgement to Coalition Committee Chairs, Sister Rose McLarney, Susan Ray, Ron Peckham, Peter Kindle, John Casner and Michael Williams. Many of our committee members have contributed beyond my expectations and the aforementioned have really gone the extra mile for the people we serve.

We still need your help and support, too. As long as offenders are returning to our community without proper opportunities to reach their fullest potential, we have work to do to reach our potential as a community. **We**

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**pray for a safe and prosperous 2010 for those we serve and our  
entire metro community.**

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the archived copies: [www.kc-crime.org](http://www.kc-crime.org)**