



**Judicial
Process
Commission**

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2011 Annual Report

April 2012

Judicial Process Commission -2011Annual Report

Chairperson's Message

Dear Friends: In 2011, JPC changed the lives of hundreds of men and women; and thus reduced crime and increased public safety in Rochester. For each person that JPC prevents from committing a new crime, taxpayers save \$55,000 per year, the cost of incarceration. We also prevent the pain that the crime causes the victim, that incarceration causes the perpetrator and the families of both.

Exceptional Results. JPC is a small organization that tackles a big, difficult, and unpopular job: helping people re-start their lives after being incarcerated. We obtain exceptional results on a shoestring budget; and, do it with great respect for each individual. We help clients find decent housing they can afford, reconnect with family, deal with addictions, obtain training or education, find a job, correct errors in their criminal Rap Sheet to remove job barriers, obtain official ID, and change their lives so much that courts award them certificates affirming they are "safe" to hire. In addition, we help them obtain services from a myriad of agencies.

Women's Reentry Project. 2011 was our 2nd year with the Women's Reentry Project funded by the US Department of Justice and carried out in collaboration with RIT's Department of Criminal Justice; less than 8% of national applicants were selected for a federal grant. This project provided intensive services (e.g., therapeutic groups, case management, safe housing) to women sentenced to the County Jail who are pregnant or have young children. Funding ends April 2012.

Housing. Through a new JPC Shelter Plus program affiliated with Rochester Housing Authority, 8 single-bedroom apartments have been filled by homeless/disabled men or women returning from incarceration. New alliances with several property management companies helped clients leave unlivable situations, and become stable in their new apartments.

Board Members. Our Board had a busy year. We initiated a major gifts program chaired by Suzanne Schnittman. 40 donors contributed \$22,805, helping to meet operating costs hit heavily by declining grant and government funding in the recession. This team also coordinated JPC's involvement in the United Way's new online one-day giving event, "Roc The Day," resulting in another \$3,560 and 35 donors. We recruited two new board members and Advisory Board members with much needed expertise in the areas of legal, social media and management skills.

Call to Action. In our current economy, many individuals, religious groups, foundations and government are cutting back their support to JPC. Ex-offenders need folks who will step up to the plate, contributing money and/or time. JPC makes a big difference. You can too by becoming a mentor, joining our public policy for change group, or writing a check. To contribute, please contact Sue Porter info@rocjpc.org for details. Thank you, *Fred Schaeffer*

Director's Message

JPC is grateful for 4 new significant partnerships. New York State OASAS is partnering with JPC to provide critical support services to our clients in recovery through the New York Supports Opportunities for Accessing Recovery Services, New York SOARS. Services provided by JPC include: preparation for employment such as rap sheet reviews and Certificates of Relief or Good Conduct and mentoring. Funding from OASAS is helping JPC continue services so that returning citizens will become employed tax paying citizens.

A partnership with counselors at MICA-NET, Unity Health Services, has linked several female clients with mental health services. Plus support from the Red Project, Monroe County Department of Human Services, has advocated for female clients in order to quickly open their Welfare cases. FACT, Strong Hospital, has provided group counseling to clients.

JPC staff have gathered preliminary figures evaluating the recidivism rate (re-incarceration in jail or prison) for the Women's Re-entry Project, WRP. The WRP provided intensive case management along with mentoring to mothers and their children exiting the Monroe County Correctional Facility. Out of 38 mothers, only 1 client is serving state time for a new felony conviction. Two clients violated New York State Parole and were re-incarcerated, 2 were re-incarcerated for County Probation violations, 6 were re-incarcerated for misdemeanors and 1 was re-incarcerated for a violation (not a crime). The recidivism rate was 32% - which is lower than the rate of 40% that many criminal justice studies cite.

JPC Vision

The Judicial Process Commission envisions a society with true justice and equality for all. We understand that in a just society, all institutions will be based on reconciliation and restoration, instead of retribution and violence.

Mission

The Judicial Process Commission is a grass roots non-profit organization that works to create a just, nonviolent community. We support the rights of all people affected by the criminal justice system and promote changes to that system that help them achieve their fullest potential. We do this by providing support services, educating the public and advocating for systemic change.

PROGRAMS

1) Ex-offenders Support Services (ESS) – Includes service coordination, wrap around services, legal services, rap sheet reviews, certificate of relief from disabilities/ of good conduct, and mentoring.

Service Coordination – Staff and volunteers provide one on one support, coordinated referrals, employment services and advocacy for individuals coming out of the criminal justice system.

Wrap Around Services – JPC provides Wrap Around Services to low income, ex-offenders returning to the greater Rochester community that include bus transportation, used clothing, bedding, work boots, identifications, and 1st month's rent (Women's Re-entry Project only).

Dear Ms. Porter: Thank you for taking time out of your day to conduct a presentation to the Paths to Recovery Program clients. The information you gave was excellent. I learned a lot about what your services have to offer and plan to continue referring our clients for services with your agency. There is a definite need among the population we serve in this community for your information and services. I look forward to working with you in the future. Coretta Green, Employment Specialist Urban League of Rochester

Legal Action Project - This is a first of its kind collaborative effort with Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. (LAWNY)-Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (MCLAC) to reduce and/or eliminate legal and illegal barriers that make it much more difficult for ex-offenders to rejoin the community and succeed in almost every important aspect of life. Major activities/ services include:

RAP Sheets – JPC, working in collaboration with MCLAC, requested 660 New York State Rap Sheet for individuals with criminal records from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and FBI.

Certificates of Rehabilitation: Certificate of Relief from Disabilities and Certificate of Good Conduct - JPC service coordinators, MCLAC attorney and clients worked together to prepare materials for 115 applications to apply to various courts for these certificates. These Certificates remove any automatic barriers to individuals' employment or licensure caused by a criminal conviction and serve as legal evidence of rehabilitation that assists individuals in gaining stable housing, employment, or licensure.

Job Discrimination Education and Referrals –This service ensures that New York State law and public policy designed to encourage employment of persons convicted of crimes is enforced. Staff researched RAP sheets, wrote letters to employers and referred cases to MCLAC for further advocacy and/or litigation. JPC and MCLAC staff gave presentations to service provider staff regarding employment discrimination against ex-offenders and advocacy efforts.

Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project (FCAMP) - FCAMP assists individuals coming out of the criminal justice system by providing them with a trained mentor that serves as a guide or coach to support their successful return to the community. Our mentor champions, Rev. Lawrence Hargrave and former Mayor William Johnson continue opening doors to recruit new mentors and serve as mentors of young ex-offenders as well. #new mentors were trained in 2011. Mentors and mentees work together to identify employment resources and housing, to problem solve and to identify other community resources. Several of the mentees obtained employment and some started attending MCC. This was a one year contract; however, several mentors continue to coach their mentees. We continued our bi-weekly *Team Mentoring Group* at *Monroe Correctional Facility* led by mentors John Mourning and John Wyche who facilitated discussions on: Communication Skills, Healthy Relationships and successful transitional plans, etc.

2) Public Policy Group –Members meet periodically to develop strategies, fact sheets and reports to reduce barriers to reentry and to advocate for more reentry resources for prisoners returning to Monroe County. This is a racially diverse group that includes parolees and mentors; people directly affected by the issues, as well as citizens active in faith communities and interested in social justice and reentry issues.

3) Jail-Prison Correspondence Project Two MCC interns responded to more than 100* pieces of mail in 2011 from local jail inmates, prisoners, and prisoners from facilities around the United States. These include complaints of abuse, discrimination, inadequate health care, reentry and legal needs. ***Note:** Discontinuing the US Postal mailing of our newsletter has caused a 80% drop in requests for help/information from prisoners since 2009 (543 requests). It costs over \$12,000 to publish and mail 6 issues annually (US Postal Service).

4) Justicia – Our electronic bi-monthly publication is distributed six times a year to 440 individuals/organizations. When funds are raised, we would like to reinstate postal mailings to our larger database of 4,609 people. Volunteer, Dan Iler edits the newsletter. It contains articles and reports on re-entry, the death penalty, prison conditions, restorative justice, current JPC issues and events as well as interviews/profiles of our staff and volunteers. This is a free publication and the only one of its kind in the region.

Tanya is a 34 year old African-American female with two children and an incarcerated husband. She is a Certified Nursing Asst, and was denied a license in 2008 even though she had a Certificate of Relief. She graduated from St. John Fisher with a Bachelors Degree in Nursing and applied for a Nursing License again in 2011. Thanks to advocacy by JPC and MCLAC, her license will be approved. She is working with JPC/MCLAC to get reinstated with the NYS Dept. of Health to go back to work. " I am forever grateful for JPC/MCLAC because now I can give back to my community and support my family.

JPC Client Service Statistics – 2010 & 2011

Category (Tracking all clients with limited staff is not possible.)	2010	2011
Unique Individuals Served: (In person (878) and jail mail (109))	1,802	987
# by Age 17-29 (223) 30-49 (426) 50+ (130) Unknown (48) = 878		
Female: 272 Male: 558 Unknown: 48		
Walk-Ins (Clients who registered at reception each day: not all are entered into db as some are given information and/or referred to other providers.)	2,641	2,439
# Rap sheets applied for	625	660
# Rap sheets: received/reviewed (In cooperation with MCLAC)	251	226
# Certificate of relief/Certificate of good conduct: applied for/approved	115/78	77/28
# Obtained a job** (for those we could track)	90	61
# In support group** (for those we could track)	178	142
# Parole/probation (underreported: self-disclosed) (County Prob: 72) (State: 85) (Federal: 11)	168	211
# Mentors trained (Some return to faith communities to start their own program.)	85	62
# Jail-prison correspondence received (Alas, numbers are decreasing due to distribution of newsletter via email vs. US Postal mail, a required cost saving measure.)	500	109

25 Community Partners - 2011

Action for a Better Community
 Bethany House
 Catholic Family Center: Restart, Freedom House & Prodigal Sons and Daughters
 Foodlink
 Jennifer House, Spiritus Christi
 Huther-Doyle
 Mica-Net, Unity Health
 Monroe County Correctional Facility, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program
 Monroe County Department of Human Services-Work Experience Program (WEP) & Shelter Plus Program
 Monroe County Legal Assistance Center, Reentry Project
 Monroe Community College

Monroe County Reentry Task Force
 Monroe County Probation & Community Corrections Dept.
 New York State Parole
 Rochester AmeriCorps
 Rochester Friends Meeting
 Rochester Correctional Facility (NYS Work Release Facility)
 Rochester Institute of Technology, Dept. of Criminal Justice
 Safer Monroe Area Reentry Team (SMART)
 Shelter Plus Program, Rochester Housing Authority
 Sojourner House, Pathstone
 United States Probation and Pre-trial Services
 Unity Health Services-Daisy Marquis Jones Women’s Residence
 Working Women’s Wardrobe, Volunteers of America

2011 Key Organization Funders/ In-kind Support

Key Organization Funders

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-
Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) (contractual)
Catholic Family Center
Church of the Assumption
Fairport United Methodist Church
First Unitarian Church
Marie C & Joseph C Wilson Foundation
Monroe County Bar Foundation
Mt. Rise United Church of Christ
Mulligan Trust
New York Supports Opportunities for Accessing
Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Recovery Services (NY SOARS) (contractual)
Rochester Area Community Foundation
Rochester Society of Friends
Spiritus Christi
St. Louis & St. Catherine's, Roman Catholic Parishes
United Church of Christ, Genesee Valley Association
US Department of Justice, Second Chance Act

In-kind Support

Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (In-kind legal staff)

As a young man I was going through tough times financially and emotionally, which caused me to make some bad choices and left me with a police record. I was young, confused and under a lot of pressure. Maintaining steady employment over the years has been an issue. I want so very much to be a role model, as an African American man, for my wife and children as well as my community.

I have recently found a career as a Licensed Practical Nurse. I couldn't have accomplished this without the help of JPC. I first heard about JPC services from Sue Porter when she spoke at a Health Fair at my school. I worked very hard to graduate from the LPN program, but I still needed the help of JPC in order to obtain the licensure for my employment, because of my record. JPC's Kamilah Richardson helped me apply for a Certificate of Relief which was mandatory in order for me to even be able to take the exam for my LPN license. Once I received the Certificate of Relief, she submitted it to the Division of Licensing Services so that I was able to take my boards for the LPN licensure.

I am now currently working in Rochester, NY as a nurse, and I would like to thank JPC for helping me to make my career dream a reality. A lot of people need a second chance and JPC helped give me that.

Damian, JPC client

Current Board & Advisory Board Members

Gregory Bouie
Willow Group, LTD, Batavia
Marketing and Client Service

John C. Busby, Esq.
Staff Attorney, MCLAC

Helen Cheves
Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of
Communication, SUNY
Brookport
II Steps Ahead, President

Jane Coons, Treasurer,
Finance Chair

Linda Harnell Davis

NYS Licensed Massage
Therapist/, Owner, Me Time
Massage & Wellness

Dan Iler, Editor, *Justicia*

Duncan McElroye, Action for
a Better Community &
Synnex/Concentrix
Corporation

Isabel Morrison, Secretary
Public Policy Group, Chair
Personnel Committee, Retired
Social Justice Coord.

Deacon John Mourning,
Mentor, Personnel Committee

Charles Rance, Retired US
Army, Postal Worker

Fred Schaeffer, Chairperson
Public Policy Group, Mentor
Retired Senior Analyst, Eastman
Kodak

Suzanne Schnittman, PhD.
Vice Chairperson
Public Policy Group, Chair,
Governance Committee

Advisory Board

Luke Harned, Esq.
County of Monroe
Public Defenders Ofc

John M. Klofas, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Public
Safety Initiatives
Professor, Dept. of Criminal
Justice, Rochester Institute of
Technology

Emmanuel Oparah
Assistant Program Director,
Action for a Better Community

Robert Russell, Jr.
Executive Director, Cancer
Action

Current Staff, April, 2012

JPC staff are both paid and volunteer and come to us through a variety of avenues. In 2011, JPC benefited from the work of in-kind/volunteer staff from five organizations including, AmeriCorps; Monroe County Dept. Human Services Work Employment Program, Monroe Community College and Monroe County Legal Assistance Center.

Staff

Susan K. Porter
Executive Director
Kamilah Richardson
Sr. Service Coordinator
Valerie White-Whittick
Mentor Coordinator
John Mourning
FCAMP Outreach, Team
Mentor
Mavis Eagan
Client Navigator/Evaluator

Cynthia Consaul, Case
Manager, LCSW
Jeanette Gartland
Creighton, Case Manager,
LMSW, CASAC
Volunteer Staff

Sr. Veronica Casey
Financial Assistant
Ed Johnson
Financial Assistant

Rochester AmeriCorps

Darnell Smith
Jamie Dougherty

Service Coordinators
Consultant

MacClurg Vivian
Freelance Grantwriting

*Monroe Community
College*

Sharon Loving, Mentor
Coordinator Assistant

Norgie Wilder, Mentor
Coord. Assistant

Kathy Houser, Ti'Occa B.
Hagins Prison Advocacy &
Correspondence

*Monroe County Legal
Assistance Center*

John Busby, Esquire
*M C Workforce
Employment Pro.WEP*

Assistant
Theresa Farley, LAP
Assistant

Losandra Johnson, LAP
Assistant

Current Mentors, April 2012

Joellen Kuhl
Deborah Davis
Diane Dinkins-Lourette
Josephine Lansiquoit
Veronica Sanders
Deeann Magliocco
Tony Liccone
John Mourning
May Clarke
Richard Lourette
Jeanette Creighton
Cynthia Consual
John Wyche
Sonia Rodriguez
William Johnson Mayor
Dorothy Chung
Don Webster
Naomi Lopez

Aaron Jackson
Douglas Mahon
Lisette Dernier
Suzanne Schnittman
Lawrence Hargrave
Dorothy Drazhal
Mary Knapp
Bill Camp
Greg Creighton
Robert Ashford
Randy Scott
Sunny McCoy
Jay Nettles
Jane Duda
Ronny Wilson
Sharon Barber
Ronald Mathis
Eric Hillman

Paul Clocksin
Michael Kennedy
Ron Schumaker
Carl Malady
Tahlisa Mason
Robert Picco
Cecelia Gallant
Kathy Houser
Melissa Horton
Callie Rabe
Tina Ramsey
Michelle Boyd
Jason Brown
Corrine McKinney
Andrew Evans
Donna Maier
Tarlisa Vuhart
David Markham

Jennifer Hovey
David Bartalo
Valerie Tisdale
Olivia Dubois
David Kotok
Joseph Louis
Karen Lewis
Kenneth Muhammad
Persephone Modeste
Vonshaye Crosby
Ramona Huntley
Edmond Huntley
Cheri Switzer
Linda Davis
Michael Dix
Maria Caspini
Norgie Wilder
Nikita William Esq.