

# INSIDE OUT FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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## What is the Missouri Reentry Process (MRP)?

In the state of Missouri over 30,000 people are in prison. Of those who are in prison, 97 percent will come home some day...about 20,000 this year alone. Offenders often find it very difficult to succeed after they are released from prison as they are faced with a number of challenges, many times the same obstacles that led to incarceration in the first place. It is important to begin to identify and resolve those issues during incarceration so the individual has the best possible chance to lead a productive and law-abiding life upon release. Everyone is at risk if these individuals turn back to crime.

In 2002, the Missouri Reentry Process (MRP) began in Missouri. Since then, the Department of Corrections has joined forces with 10 other state agencies to include the Department of Revenue, Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Veterans Administration and others to work together in identifying barriers to successful offender reentry and

enhancing public safety in Missouri's communities. Another important part of MRP is the local efforts. No one knows how to help more than those who live in the community. There are at least 44 local MRP teams in Missouri communities which meet regularly to help their city provide better opportunities for those released from prison. Concerned citizens, government officials, treatment providers, faith-based groups, and those who have been incarcerated share ideas and provide support to prisoners returning home to their community.

The Missouri Reentry Process is not a program; it is a philosophy to share resources and in the end, help those released from prison succeed. Please visit the Department of Corrections' website to get connected to your local MRP team. Simply go to [www.doc.mo.gov](http://www.doc.mo.gov) then click the Missouri Reentry Process link, and then proceed to the Community Teams "Contact List." •

## Intervention Fees: Where Does the Money Go?

In July of 2005, Missouri Statute 217.690 was passed, granting the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole the authority to collect a fee from individuals who are under supervision within the community for 90 days or more. In keeping with that rule, the Board has established an intervention fee of \$30.00 per month for those individuals.

The fees collected are used to provide community corrections and intervention services to include substance abuse, mental health assessment and treatment programming, electronic monitoring, residential and employment placement services, as well as other uses designated by the Board to assist an offender in successful completion of condi-

tions of release. Beginning in 2008, the Missouri Reentry Process began awarding a portion of the fees collected to provide financial assistance to eligible programs in the community that provided resources and assistance to individuals under supervision. Every region in the state received funding to support

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## Missouri's Prison Population ... Did You Know?

According to data for fiscal year 2009, the Missouri Department of Corrections ....

- supervised a total of 103,432 offenders on any average day;
- averaged 30,476 incarcerated offenders, (17,558 on parole, 52,742 on probation, and 2,656 in other states);
- received 16,910 males and 2,524 females;
- released 16,639 males and 2,514 females;
- had 28,015 males and 2,461 females incarcerated; and
- had a population with 38.1% violent offenders, 24.2% non-violent offenders, 18.4% drug offenses, 15.4% sexual offenders and 3.8% for DWI. •

## ***Intervention Fees continued from front page***

transportation, housing, basic needs and employment support services. Strict guidelines apply for application and receipt of these funds.

It should be noted that the in-

tervention fee may be waived for those individuals who are found to be indigent in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines. Individuals are not required to pay in-

tervention fees for the first 90 days of release to supervision. Any offender who has questions about the intervention fee should contact their assigned Probation and Parole officer for assistance. •

## **JCCC Pilots New Point of Sale System**

In mid-August, the Jefferson City Correctional Center began serving as a pilot site for use of the new “point of sale” offender canteen purchasing system. This system, available in two wings of Housing Unit 5, allows offenders in those areas to make their canteen purchase selections from a kiosk located in their housing unit wing. During the week, offenders can select, add or delete items from the list, and at the same time, monitor their account balance. On spend day, canteen staff print the lists, bag the items selected for each offender, labels the package and deducts the total cost from the offenders account. The week’s purchases are then picked up by the offender and he can begin his new canteen list selections for the next week!

This process is much more efficient, allows offenders to take time to make their weekly purchase selections, avoids long waits in line, and lets offenders immediately know if an item is not available so they can select another item. It also gives staff an opportunity to evaluate stock to determine which items are needed for that week.

Staff advises that a few software glitches have been experienced, but were quickly resolved. There are plans to continue expanding this process at JCCC over the next few months and if it remains successful, it will be extended to other facilities as well. •

## **Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Program**

Nationally there are 2.4 million children whose parents are in jail or prison. In Missouri alone, there is an estimated 60,000 children with an incarcerated parent. Sadly, according to statistical data, children who are affected by incarceration are more likely to use illegal drugs and alcohol, skip school, develop a lack of trust for adults and their peers and ultimately, to enter the prison system themselves. Fortunately, with good parenting and family and community support, there are ways to help children of incarcerated parents avoid becoming a part of those daunting statistics!

Amachi is a West African word that means “Who knows what God has brought us through this child?” In 2000, Reverend Wilson Goode established the Amachi program in Philadelphia and due to the success

there, that program has been expanded throughout the United States. Today, the overall goal of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Missouri program is to build a statewide network of quality one-to-one mentoring services for children of incarcerated parents and to make a positive change in their lives, forever. In partnership with local Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies, the department tries to ensure that children, no matter where they live, have the opportunity to be matched with a caring and consistent mentor to help them with the ups and downs of daily life.

Children between the ages of 4 to 17, who have an incarcerated parent or guardian, are eligible for participation in the program. A referral can be made by the offender or their family, however, consent

from the child’s current care-giver must be made before the child is matched with a mentor. Offenders may obtain an application from staff to initiate the process, or family members may contact the Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Missouri program directly. Approval from the child’s care giver is obtained before any final matches are made.

If you are interested in seeing if your child(ren) can be considered for participation in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Amachi Missouri program, please feel free to contact them directly at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, Attn: Amachi MO Child Referral, 501 N. Grand Blvd., Ste 100, St. Louis, MO 63103, Phone: (314) 361-5900 or contact them online at [www.bbbsemo.org](http://www.bbbsemo.org). •