

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

There is so much to be done, and so much that we can do—rather than we COULD do—if more members were to get actively involved. We would love to see CURE accomplish even more, but we need actively involved members to work on planning, organizing, and on keeping track of what's happening and what needs to happen next.

Telephone numbers: Portland: [503-977-9979](tel:503-977-9979) / Outside Portland: [1-866-357-CURE \(2873\)](tel:1-866-357-CURE). For information about Support Group Meetings, Orientations to ODOC and to Release (Multnomah County), leave a message and someone WILL call you back. We are not able to accept collect calls.

1631 NE Broadway #460, Portland, OR 97232 or [tbs2k2@comcast.net](mailto:tbs2k2@comcast.net), or [www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org).

### MEMBERSHIP in Oregon CURE provides:

- ☆ a purpose and pathway for achieving safer communities;
- ☆ a voice to advocate for improvements in the criminal justice system;
- ☆ information and resources to support local and national efforts to create safety, prosocial skills and attitudes, and hope for incarcerated citizens;
- ☆ opportunities to gain knowledge and skills to help others.

<i>Prisoner</i> .....	<i>\$3.00/year</i>	<i>Sponsor</i> .....	<i>\$100 – \$250/year</i>
<i>Individual</i> .....	<i>\$15.00/year</i>	<i>Benefactor</i> .....	<i>\$250 and more</i>
<i>Family</i> .....	<i>\$25.00/year</i>	<i>Organization</i> .....	<i>\$50.00 and more</i>
<i>Sustaining</i> .....	<i>\$50.00 – \$100.00/year</i>		

*Donations and memberships are tax-deductible.*

**Oregon CURE**  
**1631 NE Broadway #460**  
**Portland, OR 97232**

“The object of the law is to reform criminals and prevent crime, and not to punish maliciously or from a spirit of revenge.”

# OREGON C.U.R.E.

## CITIZENS UNITED FOR REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

SPRING 2006

VOLUME 26

### CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

(Taken from excerpts at [www.childrenjusticealliance.org](http://www.childrenjusticealliance.org))

The Children of Incarcerated Parents Project workgroup was convened in 2000 to better understand the issues and develop recommendations aimed at meeting children's needs when a parent becomes involved in the criminal justice system.

Because data clearly indicates that the same children whose parents are involved in the criminal justice system are also frequently recipients of state aid, having all the stakeholders participate in planning is essential. The Children's Project workgroup is comprised of representatives from more than 20 organizations, including Oregon CURE.

The workgroup has developed recommendations across the criminal justice spectrum – arrest, jail, sentencing, prison, and reentry – which will help support children during every step of the process.

Critical components that will contribute to the success of the project include raising awareness across the criminal justice system about the challenges these children face and ensuring appropriate staff training.

Data from a prisoner survey conducted in 2002 indicate that approximately 20,000 children in Oregon have a parent who is in prison. Although the majority of prisoners plan on having custody and/or living with their children upon release, very few have ongoing visits or communication with their children. Regular, positive interaction between incarcerated parents and their children helps to smooth the transition path. Additionally, parental success in the community is a factor in reducing recidivism.

Currently, many prisons in Oregon offer parents a 12-week course on parenting designed to address the challenges parents face in parenting from prison as well as successfully transitioning back into the family. The parenting program was piloted at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and Oregon State Correctional Institution and has since been expanded to many other prisons around the State. One male prisoner described the program as “the most meaningful class I have taken.”

For more information on the Children of Incarcerated Parents Project, go to [www.childrenjusticealliance.org](http://www.childrenjusticealliance.org).

### BILL OF RIGHTS of CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

(By the San Francisco Partnership for Incarcerated Parents)

- I have the right to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest.
- I have the right to be heard when decisions are made about me.
- I have the right to be considered when decisions are made about my parent.
- I have the right to be well cared for in my parent's absence.
- I have the right to speak with, see and touch my parent.
- I have the right to support as I struggle with my parent's incarceration.
- I have the right to not be judged, blamed or labeled because of my parent's incarceration.
- I have the right to a lifelong relationship with my parents.

San Francisco Partnership for Incarcerated Parents (SFPIP), formed in 2000, is a coalition of social service providers, representatives of government bodies, advocates, and others who work with or are concerned about children of incarcerated parents and their families. They work to improve the lives of children of incarcerated parents and to increase awareness of these children, their needs, and their strengths.

SFPIP believes that a children's perspective was the logical framework from which all future work should evolve and felt that children's rights and needs sometimes conflict with what people in authority, or even incarcerated parents, believe is safe or appropriate. The preparation of this Bill of Rights was an effort to start from the children's perspective and work on what is possible from there. It is derived from the experience of Gretchen Newby, Executive Director of Friends Outside, who drafted the original Bill of Rights, in working with prisoners and their families, and from interviews conducted by journalist Nell Bernstein with more than 30 young people who have experienced parental incarceration.

# Oregon CURE Group Headed for Washington, D.C.

By: Cindy Van Loo

Members of Oregon CURE are headed for Washington, D.C. to attend the International (formerly "National") CURE Convention to be held June 24-27. This group will include Mike and Cindy Van Loo, Gretchen Hite, Kris Vala, and Sandi Meyer. Members will meet with congressmen and senators from Oregon to discuss issues such as the Reentry Bill (HR 1704 -- called the "Second Chance Act"), the Family Telephone Connection Protection Act (HR 4466) [which would prescribe rules regulating prisoner telephone service rates], rehabilitative employment in prison, treatment of sex-offender legislation, federal parole, stopping the devastating weakening of habeas corpus, and other topics. According to International CURE Co-Director Charlie Sullivan, "the Reentry Bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation that we will be advocating for during the convention."



Mike Van Loo, Cindy Van Loo, Gretchen Hite, Kris Vala (not pictured: Sandi Meyer)

Those attending the convention will be bringing back the latest information on the criminal justice issues currently before Congress. Stay tuned to subsequent newsletters for details of the convention and the current status of these issues.

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## THANK YOU TO OREGON STATE PENITENTIARY LIFER'S CLUB

By: Gretchen Hite and Kris Vala

Oregon CURE would like to acknowledge the work that the OSP Lifers' Club does for the community. Besides setting a positive example to the public who come to visit their loved ones and taking photographs to have a special memory together, the Club is currently sponsoring a kindergarten class from Beach Elementary School in Portland to take a field trip to the Oregon Zoo. With the profits the Club has made from selling their handcrafted and popular jewelry and photographs, the Club is paying for the zoo entrance fees and Tri-Met bus passes for a class of 24 children. The Club is also in contact with the PTA from Beach Elementary School in hopes of developing future possibilities for contributions. Thank you for your great work and positive efforts.

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## SPONSORS, INC.



Paul Solomon, Director of Men's Services for Sponsor's Inc., as he spoke at the May Eugene Support Group Meeting.

Sponsors, Inc. was founded in 1973 by Sister Janice Jackson in cooperation with a group of Catholic nuns and community activists in Eugene, Oregon. The original program, which lasted until 1986, involved sending community volunteers into OSCI (Oregon State Correctional Institution) where they would meet prisoners who were being released to Lane County within 18 months. The community volunteers would "sponsor" the prisoner on release, assisting them in finding shelter, employment, and helping in social readjustment. After Sister Janice Jackson retired, the program experienced some financial difficulties until it received a Meyer Memorial Trust grant and a new director was hired in 1988. In 1988, Sponsors began to provide housing. In 1995, Sponsors was recognized by the Oregon Department of Corrections as its Outstanding Private Contractor of the Year.

Sponsors, Inc. is based on the premise that people can and do change, and that a strategic intervention at the appropriate moment can serve as a catalyst in that change. Over the past 15 years, 60-70 percent of the ex-offenders residing at Sponsors completed the program successfully. A successful completion of the program is defined as one in which the offender is employed full time or in school full time or some combination of the two, has abstained from the use of alcohol and illegal drugs, is in compliance with all release requirements, and is able to obtain and sustain permanent housing.

To be eligible for Sponsors, an ex-offender must be on parole, post-prison supervision, or supervised probation in Lane County, Oregon. The only crime exclusions are arsonists for men and arsonists and sex offenders for women. All clients are required to pay \$4.50/day for food (which can be paid with food stamps). There is no rent for the first 30 days and rent is \$1 a day from day 31-day 60 and \$6.00/day thereafter.

For further information, contact Ron Chase, Executive Director, at 1756 Willamette St., Eugene, OR 97401. Phone: (541) 485-8341. Fax: (541) 683-6196. Email: [wwwroncom@clipper.net](mailto:wwwroncom@clipper.net).

## Change of Address

Please contact us if you have a change of address and would like to continue receiving our newsletters. You may either write us at 1631 N.E. Broadway, #460, Portland, OR 97232, or call us at (503) 977-9979 (Portland area) or 1-866-357-CURE (2873) (outside Portland).

### ☆ STEERING COMMITTEE ☆

Cindy Van Loo .....Chair  
Sandi Meyer .....Vice Chair  
Terry Stein .....Recording Secretary  
Jan Singleton ....Corresponding Secretary  
Judy Farrell .....Telecommunications  
Coordinator

#### Members At Large

Dana Anderson, Mike Van Loo, Aba Gayle,  
Tammy Anderson, Mike Giertych,  
Gretchen Hite, Kris Vala

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## CENTER FOR FAMILY SUCCESS

By: Cindy Van Loo

The Center for Family Success, located at 8010 N. Charleston Ave., Portland, celebrated its one-year anniversary in February. The Children's Justice Alliance and the Center worked diligently over the past year to form partnerships and create programs for children of those involved in the criminal justice system and their families. Director Glenna Hayes indicates it has been a year of "learning, growth, and accomplishments."

The Mission of the Center is to "improve the well-being of children whose parents are involved in the criminal justice system." The Center serves the children, their families, and caregivers through parent education, advocacy, and development of community partnerships. Opportunities are created for these families to link to resources, experience coached family time, enhance life skills, and develop positive social networks to build family success.

Services provided include parenting education, GED prep, life and workplace skills, additional support group information, anger management, clothing closet, emergency food boxes, Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, Parent/Child Literacy Connection, mental health service referrals, employment/pre-employment, computer lab training, children's mentoring, internet access, Children's Relief Nursery, and Pathfinder Academy.

The Center is housed in the old YWCA building. Before the Center opened on February 17, 2005, a majority of the repairs to the building were done by an inmate crew from Columbia River Correctional Institute (CRCI). In addition, a group of artists from CRCI helped design and paint the mural on the large open wall of the building facing the street. The saying on the mural "And how are the children" serves as a reminder why the Center exists -- because when the children are well, the thought is that life is good also.

For further information on the Center, go to [www.childrensjusticealliance.org](http://www.childrensjusticealliance.org) or contact the Center at (503) 286-0600.

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## CRCI – Children's Event

By: Bonnie Nusser

Columbia River Correctional Institution held its first Children's Event on April 26 for prisoners involved in the Parenting Program at that facility. In order to participate in the event, each prisoner was required to have completed the Parenting Program or be registered for a future class. The Parenting Program is designed to teach parenting skills to fathers while incarcerated and is strictly voluntary, with the fathers using their free time to attend classes. As part of the Program, each father is "assigned" a child at the beginning of the program, which becomes his sole responsibility for the duration of the Program. He is required to find "child care" when he is unable to attend to the child personally. It was fun to see each father carrying his "child" in a front-pack during the activity.

Each father who completed the Program earned the privilege to invite his child(ren) to the event. Many fathers had not seen their children in a long time so it was not unusual to see some of the children's hesitation at the beginning of the event, but it was gone by the time the event ended. Pizza and ice cream were served to all participants and activities were scheduled as well. There didn't seem to be any restrictions other than to have a good time! The laughter was reminiscent of family gatherings elsewhere.

In addition to great food, there were volunteers from Dove Lewis Animal Hospital who brought Therapy Dogs. Puppeteers from Capitol Hill United Methodist Church performed a puppet show. Areas were set up for family photos in addition to many arts and crafts projects and books. Prisoners whose families were unable to attend were able to participate in the event by happily assisting with activities. CURE volunteers Deb Wallman and Bonnie Nusser worked with prisoners at the food table.

Superintendent Gower and his staff worked along with volunteers and prisoners during the event to assure its success. Superintendent Gower expressed an interest in holding a Children's Event quarterly. Many prisoners expressed their gratitude over and over at the end of the evening, but were reminded that their participation and hard work were equally as important in making the event a success.

## Home for Good Update

(Part 1 in a Series) By: Judy Farrell

Home for Good in Oregon (HGO), a corrections, community, and faith-based reentry partnership, is a statewide network of community and faith-based individuals and organizations committed to “building strong communities for the successful reintegration of offenders.” Oregon CURE, recognizing the need for essential services for our Oregon citizens as they complete their sentences and reenter the community, will be providing an article in this and following newsletters to inform our readers of the region-by-region contact persons and the services provided. HGO is a dynamic, evolving program that depends on the dedication and commitment of staff and volunteers around the state who understand the challenges encountered by our loved ones upon reentry.

This first article will describe the services and contact persons in Regions I and II. In each county a few of the cities and towns will be mentioned, although the entire area of each county is served by HGO staff and volunteers.

**Region I:** Gene Haag, Regional Chaplain. Telephone: 541-773-1985; 541-951-3200 Cell

*Jackson County* (Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Gold Hill, Jacksonville, Talent, White City)  
John Vellinga, Coordinator. Telephone: 541-324-6368

*Josephine County* (Grants Pass, Cave Junction, Selma, Wolf Creek)  
Michelle Bolas, Chaplain. Telephone: 541-476-6035  
Karen Caskey, Coordinator. Telephone: 541-218-4838

*Lake County* (Lakeview, Adel, Christmas Valley, Paisley, Plush)  
Dan St. Clair, Chaplain. Telephone: 541-947-2381; 541-417-0142 Cell

*Klamath* (Klamath Falls, Bly, Chemult, Chiloquin, Malin, Gilchrist)  
Allen Craigmiles, Coordinator. Telephone: 1-800-562-7752

*Curry* (Gold Beach, Agnes, Brookings, Langlois, Port Orford)  
Currently no staff or volunteers

### Region II

*Douglas County* (Roseburg, Azalea, Drain, Glide, Reedsport, Riddle, Sutherlin)  
*Coos County* (Coquille, Myrtle Point, North Bend, Bandon, Coos Bay)  
Chris von Lobedan, Chaplain. Telephone: 541-756-6666, Ext. 264  
Ron Conway, Coordinator. Telephone: 541-297-0975

The county chaplains and coordinators receive from the Department of Corrections the names of prisoners who are scheduled for release to their county six months prior to reentry. A letter is sent then to each of these prisoners requesting a response if services are needed, and the HGO volunteer contacts the prisoner either by telephone, letter, or visit. Since HGO is a work in progress, the available services and resources vary from county to county.

However, the chaplains, coordinators, and volunteers are creative and resourceful folks dedicated to this important work. In Regions I and II, some of the services provided to the newly released are housing, pickup at the prison or bus transportation, clothing, food, coordination with parole officers, assistance with obtaining identification cards and medical care, and support groups that also include family members, employment, and spiritual guidance. Chaplains and coordinators welcome calls both from individuals interested in volunteering and from friends and families of prisoners preparing for reentry.

## Volunteers Needed

Mary Ann Farkas, Ph.D., and Gale Miller, Ph.D., professors in the Department of Social and Cultural Sciences at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, are researching and writing about the personal and practical problems faced by family members of persons imprisoned for sex offenses. If you would like to participate in this study, call Oregon CURE soon. Interviews will be conducted in June. The identity of all respondents will be held strictly confidential. Telephone (503) 977-9979 or outside Portland (866) 357-CURE for more information.

## CURE SUPPORT GROUPS – MEETING MONTHLY

Portland  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.  
Fairview Columbia Library  
1520 NE Village St.

Free Parking  
503-666-8432  
(LaRae)

Salem  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday  
11:00 am–12:30 pm  
Call for Location

503-873-4363  
(Aba Gayle)

Beaverton  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday  
7:00 pm–8:30 pm  
Beaverton Community  
Center  
12350 SW 5th, Suite 100  
Free Parking  
503-350-0236  
(Gretchen)

Eugene  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday  
7 pm–8:30 pm  
Deb’s Restaurant  
1675 Franklin Blvd.  
Free Parking  
541-935-1182  
(Ken)



## Eugene Support Group Grows

By Jan Singleton

In the last year and a half, Oregon CURE’s support group in Eugene has grown from one or two persons attending each month to 19 persons who now regularly attend the meetings! In fact, it has recently moved to a larger meeting room at Deb’s Restaurant, 1675 Franklin Boulevard (across from the U of O campus) to accommodate the larger group. The meetings are held the first Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Ken Olson, the group’s leader, states they plan to invite someone from the community to speak on criminal justice reform issues at each meeting. Their first speaker was Paul Solomon, Director of Men’s Services for Sponsor’s, Inc. (See separate article in this issue.) If you know of anyone in Lane County who has a loved one in prison, Ken would welcome them to the group. Not only will they receive encouragement in a confidential setting, but they will also receive the latest information concerning what is happening in the criminal justice reform community!

## CASH Oregon

Did you know that millions of dollars in federal tax credits meant to help low-income Oregonians go unclaimed every year? You may be able to get help with understanding tax credits through CASH Oregon. CASH Oregon is a community partnership designed to help eligible low-income Oregonians claim federal and state tax credits. CASH Oregon works to help low-income individuals and families by: Helping People Claim Earned Income Tax Credits - Financial Literacy

To learn more about CASH Oregon, please go to [www.cashoregon.org](http://www.cashoregon.org) or write to CASH Oregon at P.O. Box 10708, Portland, OR 97296.

*Do you know someone who has a newly incarcerated loved one?*

Monthly intake orientations continue in Portland and Salem. Check our website at [www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org) for times and locations or call (503) 977-9979 (Portland area) or 1-866-357-CURE (2873) (outside Portland).

## WEBSITES WORTH CHECKING OUT:

“Incarceration and Crime: A Complex Relationship” by the Sentencing Project -- challenges the widely held misperception that significant reduction in crime rates have primarily been the result of more incarceration. For a copy of the study see [www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org)

Websites that address sex offender issues:

DOJ study: [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/rsorp94.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/rsorp94.htm)

Canadian study: [www.sgc.gc.ca/res/cor/sum/cprs200407\\_1-en.asp](http://www.sgc.gc.ca/res/cor/sum/cprs200407_1-en.asp)

Michigan Parole Study: [www.geocities.com/eadvocate/issues/michstats.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/eadvocate/issues/michstats.pdf)

CO DOC report to CO General Assembly (“Preliminary Recidivism Research - SOTMP Legislature Fact Sheet”)

[www.doc.state.co.us/Sex%20Offenders/Research.htm](http://www.doc.state.co.us/Sex%20Offenders/Research.htm)



– Our Thanks –

Oregon CURE hereby expresses our sincere gratitude to Metro Print of Portland for its donation of printing services: With their help we are able to do more with our resources.



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