



Oregon CURE

Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants
A Newsletter for Families and Friends of
Incarcerated Individuals

Summer 2009
Volume 34

International CURE 2009 Conference

Summer, 2009, began in Geneva, Switzerland, with representatives from 25 countries including France, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, the U.S., Zambia, Nepal, Uruguay, Canada, Kazakhstan, India and Australia, for the fourth International CURE Conference on Human Rights and Prison Reform.

Charlie Sullivan, Executive Director, International CURE, Washington D.C., inaugurated the Conference which was held at the United Nations, by introducing panel members and reading from the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. This Declaration is a global document for ALL human beings, including those incarcerated. It is both a legal and moral document and it defines basic universal rights such as everyone being treated with dignity and respect, the right to education, a family, food, and medical care.

Charlie also read the letter that he received from Dr. Andrew Cole of the International Center for Prison Studies at King's College in London. Dr. Cole wrote to congratulate Charlie on the conference, and to say that it would be inspiring and that we all need to be vigilant. Dr. Cole also stated that it was "erroneous to choose between human rights and security for protection. Human rights protect all of us and prisoners are not to be excluded from these basic rights."

Sessions met over three days and included issues on voting; Civil and Political Rights of the Child in having a Parent in Prison and in regard to being sentenced to prison; the Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and its Relationship to Women Incarcerated. Other panels were: a Discussion on the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty. There was also a panel on the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination in regard to People in Prison, and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. These minimum rules state that prisons should reduce the differences that exist between prison life and life outside of prison.

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NOTICE!

Oregon CURE Annual Meeting Picnic in the Park at Cook Park in Tigard

**Located south of Durham Road at the end of 92nd Avenue near Tigard High School:
Cook Park
17005 SW 92nd Avenue, Tigard
Look for the Balloons!**

Saturday, September 12, 2009

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Bring your own Lunch - Soft Drinks and Dessert Provided

We will appreciate your RSVP: 503-236-3721

International CURE 2009 Conference Continued from Page 1

The conference concluded with Reports on Human Rights, the Need for Prison Reform in the World with a comprehensive focus on Africa, and the plans for the U.N. Crime Commission Meeting in Brazil in April of 2010. The summary was given by the co-editors of International CURE from N.Y. and it included the following recommendations which are essential for all prisons world-wide, no matter the country or culture:

- the need to deal with overcrowding
- provide adequate health care
- the need to promote alternatives to incarceration
- the need for education, treatment and rehabilitation programs
- the need for reentry programs

The emphasis was on providing a process of transformation to work towards transitioning people back to the community.

It was clear from the different presentations throughout the conference that "The promises of justice, dignity, and human rights for all that the Declaration contains have yet to be fully met" as stated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, in the Handbook for Civil Society which was published in 2008 for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

One of the panelists, Anita Colon, the Pennsylvania State Coordinator - National Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, presented a report that she prepared with Robert Holbrook, a Juvenile lifer, on "Juveniles Serving Life Without Parole" and stated that the United States is the only country in the world known to have children (youths under the age of 18) sentenced to die in prison, which violates customary international law and is prohibited under Article 37 of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. The U.N. Human Rights Committee also declared that the U.S. was in violation of its treaty obligations in 2006 by continuing to try children as adults and impose Juvenile Life without Parole sentences.

Cathleen Price, a Senior Attorney with the Equal Justice Initiative from Alabama, informed us that there are 35 states that have the death penalty and 3,300 people on death row. Crimes are treated differently depending on who commits them and public defenders are under funded.

Another speaker, Bernard Boeton, from the Children Rights Department of the Terre des Hommes Foundation in Switzerland, focused on the rights to education, health, protection and security and said that they were fighting for restorative justice. Mr. Boeton said that an offense is a breach of social-human relations and the solution is to restore harmony. It should be the act, which is judged, not the person. There are major problems with pre-trial detention for juveniles, and Mr. Boeton said that this is an international scandal. The pre-trial time should be a means for investigation - the person is innocent until proven guilty - but instead the child is subjected to prison, which is a school for crime. The importance of improving the juvenile justice system is recognized worldwide and there will be a congress held in Lima, Peru, from November 4th until the 7th on Juvenile Restorative Justice. Bernard Boeton left us with hope when he said that "nothing is useless. When you put a snowflake on a branch nothing happens - when you put 50,000 snowflakes, the branch will break."

One evening we had the opportunity to meet with the ten member United Nations Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture. There were representatives from Mexico, Croatia, France, Poland, and the Czech Republic. They were very grateful to Betty and Rudy Cypser of CURE, New York, who are also co-editors of the International CURE Newsletter, for the excellent work that they have done in compiling the reports on the state of the prisons in Africa.

Another presentation was from the John Howard Society of Ontario, Canada. They seem very similar to our own Oregon based Partnership for Safety and Justice in their philosophy and policies. They state, "Longer prison sentences and poor prison conditions are not effective methods of rehabilitating people or preventing crime." They "argue against Canada's over reliance on incarceration and advocate for increased use of community-based sanctions and social development programs." They have found that research shows these programs work. Paula Osmok, of John Howard, said that prisons are isolated, secretive places and that there is a lack of public support. She said that we need to insure that the only punishment is being deprived of liberty. Ms. Osmok informed us that the Supreme Court in Canada found that the government did not have the authority or justification to deprive prisoners from voting.

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Oregon CURE Community Events for Adult Family Members and Friends of the Incarcerated:

Intake Orientations:

Portland 2009:

6:30pm – 8:30pm
Hillsdale United Church of Christ
6948 S.W. Capitol Hwy
Register: (503) 977-9979
Dates:
August 20, 2009
October 15, 2009
December 17, 2009

Salem 2009:

6:30pm – 8:30pm
Jason Lee United Methodist Church
820 Jefferson St NE
Register: (866) 357-CURE
Dates:
September 17, 2009
November 19, 2009

Quarterly Release Orientations:

Washington County

August 5, November 4
5:30 – 7:00pm
Beaverton Community Center
12350 SW 5th, Ste 100
Beaverton, OR
(503) 846-3739 Eli (Washington County)
(503) 350-0236 Gretchen (Oregon CURE)

Marion County

August 11, November 10
6:30 – 8:30pm
Marion County Work Release Center
3950 Aumsville Hwy SE
Salem, OR 97317
(503) 540-8029 Lacey (Marion County)
(503) 999-2921 Kerrie (Oregon CURE)

Monthly Support Groups:

Beaverton

1st Wednesday, 7-8:30pm
Beaverton Community Center
12350 SW 5th, Ste 100
(503) 350-0236 Gretchen

Central Oregon

3rd Wednesday, 6-7:30pm
Redmond Library Board Room
827 SW Deschutes
(541) 475-2164 Tina

Eugene

1st Thursday 7-8:30pm
Private Residence
4745 Brookwood
(541) 935-1182 Ken

Salem

1st Saturday 11am – 12:30 pm
The Christian Center of Salem
1850 45th Avenue NE
(503) 930-0330 Alicia

Medford

2nd Monday, 6:30-8pm
United Methodist Church
607 W. Main
(541) 944-3304 Sam
(541) 772-9680 Adelia

N. Portland (Site Change!)

3rd Wednesday, 6:30-8pm
Multnomah County Library
St. Johns Branch
7510 N. Charleston Avenue
Bus Lines: 4F, 16, 175, 40M, 75
(503) 350-0236 Gretchen

Salem Transitional Support

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm
First Baptist Church of Salem
385 Marion St NE Room 21
(503) 999-2921 Kerrie

John Day

2nd Tuesday 6:30 – 8
Presbyterian Church of Mt.
Vernon
171 # Main St
(541) 932-4446 Julie

From the Treasurer:

In these economically challenging times, Oregon CURE has had to make some tough decisions primarily about the mailing of our newsletter. We decided that we could only mail the newsletter to those who continually support us with their dues and donations.

Through the generosity of some of our donors we are able to continue mailing our newsletters and publications to any indigent inmates as requested.

We thank you greatly for your on-going support, which allows us to continue this important work.

To ensure you receive your copy of the Oregon CURE Newsletter, please remember to send us your change of address so we can update our database.

Department of Corrections: Cost of Care Reimbursement

Oregon CURE was recently advised of a Notice of Intent to Amend an Oregon Administrative Rule entitled "Cost of Care Reimbursement." Although few of us were aware of this rule prior to the current Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the rule has been in effect since 2003.

History of the Rule

In 2001, the Legislature passed a law (SB 183) that authorizes the Department of Corrections (DOC) to seek reimbursement from inmates and their personal estates for the cost of care incurred by DOC during incarceration. Issues discussed in committee were: cost of incarceration, the importance of assessing an inmate's "ability to pay," the importance of leaving the inmate financial resources for child support and court obligations, ability for inmate to contest the order and giving DOC discretion whether to investigate a person's ability to pay. SB 183 required DOC to establish rules to determine the person's ability to pay. DOC adopted the Cost of Care Reimbursement rule (OAR 291-203) in 2003.

Up for Discussion – Amount of Assets upon Release

The only portion of the rule that is currently up for discussion and possible amendment is the amount money DOC will leave the offender upon release. The current proposed rule amendments include: When determining an inmate's ability to pay the Department will consider the inmate's personal estate, their need for funds for personal support upon release and the availability of third-party benefits (Medicare, private insurance, etc.).

Based on need, the department may allow a deduction for the inmate's transitional support following his/her release. The money may be used for reasonable expenses for three months, including rent, utilities, food, public transportation, supervision fees and miscellaneous expenses.

Oregon CURE requested that the transitional support of three months be increased to 18 months.

Process for Determining Who Can Pay

DOC will investigate an inmate's ability to pay in those instances where the inmate or the inmate's representative has cash assets or liquid reserves in excess of \$55,000 or the current cost of care for two years, whichever is greater. (This is the "threshold.") There are provisions within the statute that DOC must consider when determining an inmate's ability to pay. For example, DOC may not assess charges to an inmate's personal residence if a spouse or child lives in the residence. Additionally, DOC must follow the provisions of the law before any reimbursement can be collected.

The sequence of events for issuance of an Ability to Pay Order would be:

1. DOC determines an inmate has cash reserves and liquid assets in excess of the threshold and issues an Ability to Pay Order.
2. The Ability to Pay Order is mailed to the inmate, along with a Notice of Right to Appeal.
3. The inmate may request a contested case hearing.
4. ORS 183.413 to 183.497 governs contested case hearings.

The governing statute, ORS 179.640(5), and DOC's administrative rules give DOC the authority to collect cost of care reimbursement from offenders up to 36-months from the date of release.

The Next Steps

DOC is in the process of reviewing feedback on this rule. They will determine if changes should be made to the rule. Of course, we will keep you updated on any changes.

For the complete ruling on Cost of Care Reimbursement, please go to the following address:

http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_200/OAR_291/291_203.html

If you have questions or concerns regarding your personal situation, you may want to contact an attorney to help you better understand the ruling.

Co-authored by Oregon CURE and DOC

Transitional Opportunities

We have received many letters in the past several months asking us for transitional services information. Based upon the immediate need for this type of information, I will be researching and informing everyone via our newsletter on any pertinent information that I find.

In April 2009, I was able to attend a two-day conference entitled *Best Practices for Better Communities* at Calvary Church in Northeast Portland. The conference was sponsored by *Children's Justice Alliance, Dave's Killer Bread, Mercy Corps Northwest, ROAR and SE Works*. Topics such as *Why We Need Changes In How We Handle Offenders: Improving Outcomes, Drug Addiction: A Brain Disease?, Maximize Efforts For Success-How and Why Employment Programs Work and Building Effective Programs to Fit Communities*; were presented by a distinguished panel of Ph.D's, doctor's, probation officers, and judges. Of special interest was the presentation by the ROAR organization. There are 45 organizations involved in ROAR, mostly in the Portland metropolitan area.

What is ROAR? ROAR (Re-entry Organizations and Resources) is an alliance of community-based organizations and agencies working to help formerly incarcerated individuals successfully make the transition back into society. ROAR was established in June, 2007 - in the effort to promote cohesion and cooperation between the many groups who are part of the re-entry process.

Pilot Project: ROAR Transition Center

ROAR is in the process of constructing a transition center where individuals leaving incarceration can find immediate support, resource planning, navigation, referrals and follow-up. The goal of the center is to reduce recidivism and to increase public safety by offering a comprehensive menu of support to former inmates in one location, under one roof. While many of the services offered are accessible on site, other critical resources will be made available through a referral process to outside partners.

How can I learn more or get involved?'

At the time of printing, the center's plans were well under way and as soon as contact information is available, we will notify you in our newsletter or please feel free to write or call Oregon CURE. If you have e-mail access you can learn more about ROAR at their Clearspace website: <http://roar.mercycorpsnw.org/login.jspa> or by calling Erica Strachan at Mercy Corps Northwest at (503) 236-1580, ext 209 if you are interested in attending one of their quarterly planning meetings in the Portland area.

By Laura Venida

Call For Volunteers

Oregon CURE is a volunteer-driven organization and we are looking for volunteers from all walks of life to fill positions in Outreach and Research. A few hours a month can make a difference. If you would like more information on our Volunteer Opportunities, please call CURE at (503) 977-9979.

Other Portland Area Transitional Resources:

Better People:

- Better People is an established employment and counseling program solely dedicated to helping former offenders find, keep and excel in well paying jobs with fair, decent employers.

Contact them at one of their locations for further information:

4310 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd.

-OR-

2100 SE Lake Road

Portland, Oregon 97211

Milwaukie, OR 97222

Tel: (503) 281-2663

Tel: (503) 653-1712

Fax: (503) 281-2667

Fax: (503) 786-8128

PHOENIX RISING Transitions:

- Phoenix Rising is a nonprofit organization in Portland, Oregon, that works in prisons and the community to help those who are incarcerated make a smooth and successful transition — or re-entry — into the community upon release. Their goal is to transform lives and reduce the likelihood that people will commit new crimes and return to prison. They do this through skill-building and relationship-building, both before and after release from prison.

Contact:

P.O. Box 723

Gresham, OR 97030

(503) 866-1554

Central City Concern:

- Central City Concern (CCC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency serving single adults and families in the Portland metro area who are impacted by homelessness, poverty and addictions. Founded in 1979, the agency has developed a comprehensive continuum of affordable housing options integrated with direct social services including healthcare, recovery and employment.

Contact:

232 NW 6th Ave

Portland, OR 97209

(503) 294-1681 Phone

(503) 294-4321 Fax

MILESTONES:

In early fall Gretchen Vala, Oregon CURE President and Bonnie Nusser, Oregon CURE Secretary met with Carolyn Schnoor, Cultural Awareness and Diversity Manager, Oregon Department of Corrections, regarding the cost of mailing the Family Orientation packets to those newly incarcerated and their families or friends each month. We are excited to report to you that the Department of Corrections has agreed to partner with Oregon CURE in providing these valuable educational, orientation packets and will begin covering postage costs for the Oregon CURE packets that are mailed out each month. Larry Bennett, Offender Intake Coordinator was instrumental in guiding us through the proper procedures necessary in order to make this reimbursement happen.

“The more good information they have, the better they are able to support their incarcerated loved-one in the pursuit of positive change” stated Larry Bennett.

Oregon CURE appreciates our working relationship with the DOC and we thank all involved in making this happen, especially Carolyn and Larry.

VAC Debit Accounts:

As we all know, staying in touch with our loved ones in prison is a priority. We need the assurance that they are getting through their daily challenges and surviving as best they can. Letters are one way to stay in contact; however, there is nothing that replaces the sound of their voice in between visits. For our loved ones who are in one of Oregon's outlying prisons: Snake River, Warner Creek and Shutter Creek, visiting is expensive due to the remote locations and the cost of collect phone calls is extreme.

We've had several requests for assistance from family members who have had difficulties finding their way through one of the pre-paid phone options recommended by the Oregon DOC. VAC (Value Added Communications) has two services for prepaid phone accounts for people in Oregon's prisons to use: V-Connect and V-Direct. Both options are automated billing and payment services that allows inmate families and friends to receive calls that were previously denied due to lack of billing arrangements (if your telephone company blocks collect calls), or blocking for non-payment of bills.

The differences between the two services are:

V-Direct: deposited funds can be utilized to call any phone number on the person's approved phone list. V-Direct can be accessed by going on the web to www.debicalls.com.

V-Connect: deposited funds can ONLY be utilized to call the assigned phone number to the account. Families and friends may set up an account by going to www.myvconnect.com.

The process that a person using a VAC prepaid account is:

1. The inmate dials a number utilizing the standard process
2. The call is connected to the called party and they will be notified of the need to set up an V-Connect (Advance Pay) Account or they can follow the voice prompts to check the balance on their V-Connect Account if they have one already set up.
3. The called party will choose the option to set up an account and if the account has been funded, the next time the inmate attempts a call to that number, s/he will be connected.
4. When the funds get low on the account the System will prompt the V-Connect Account user to add more funds to their account. For each V-Connect call the funds are deducted from their account plus applicable taxes.

Mail payments to:
VAC
P.O. Box 678517
Dallas, TX 75267-8517

The minimum allowable account deposit is \$25 and the maximum allowable deposit is \$100.00. An account may be funded no more than 2 times in one day. To find out more about these services, you can call the VAC at 800-913-6097.

Payments must be in the form of money orders or cashier checks, personal checks will not be accepted. If a payment is made by a money gram, the funds will be in the account by 9:00a.m. the following day. The VAC receiver code is #5031 for money grams, which cost around \$6.95 each. Payment can be made by credit card; however there is a \$7.95 fee for this service, which is deducted from the payment.

When placing money on an inmate's account, the sender must list their phone number, which will be their account number. For Oregon prisoners, the inmate's name and SID # must be listed on the money order or cashier's check. The sender's name and phone number must be on the money order or cashiers check.

International CURE 2009 Conference Continued from Page 4

In her words, voting is fundamental to a democratic society and emphasizes the value of the law. "Voters should choose the government, not the government choose the voters." She also stated that social inclusion encourages rehabilitation and the greater stake a person has in their society, the greater responsibility they can assume

My sister asked me to share something about the dear, brave people who were at the Conference and there were many - the young couple from France, working to abolish the death penalty (the U.S. is one of five countries in the world that executes its prisoners - along with China, Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia) - the former prisoner who now practices law and said that when we lose everything, all we have is our word - the director from Nigeria CURE, who said that his joy was complete, when his boss arrived - the woman from the United Kingdom who writes to prisoners on death row - the Irish nun from Brazil who has worked with prisoners for over 30 years, with human rights and health conditions - the priest from the Philippines who understands the importance of compassion, and his cousin who extended friendship - the grandmother from Maine, who came to support her friend and whose husband worked with prisoners - so many acts of compassion and kindness and I am grateful that I could be in Geneva to be a part of it all.

In closing, I would like to share a quote found by Bruno Van Der Maat, (a Professor teaching in Arequipa, Peru and also the President of Observatorio Prisionero), from an Egyptian judge practicing 4,000 years ago: "I have judged a case according to equity and I did it in such a way that both parties walked out with a peaceful heart."

Outside the U.N. is a sculpture of a giant chair, standing tall on three legs, with one leg broken off midway. I overheard someone commenting that it symbolized how we all must work together, and support each other. I believe that is true, but I also think it shows how the stronger must support the weaker and help them to stand as well. People in prison are some of societies most vulnerable. They have a right to stand tall and be recognized. We can all stand together.

May we all have peaceful hearts and hope for better days.
Kris Vala

TACE Event at Coffee Creek

TACE (Through A Child's Eyes) is a partnership developed between the Rotary Club of Wilsonville and Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The goal of the partnership is to provide new opportunities and activities for the children of incarcerated mothers, as well as educational support services to caregivers and to provide resources to improve parenting skills.

This summer's event held July 12th, for medium security women; and July 13th, for minimum security women; allowed families to spend a little more time together than the normal visiting session; and to take part in a variety of family activities. Over the two-day session, there were over 600 people in attendance, which included, women in prison, their children and caretakers, Oregon DOC staff, and volunteers made up from the Rotary Club and other community volunteers; and ALSO women in custody who volunteered to help out for the event.

As each family entered, they picked up a bag that the children decorated to hold all their gifts and toys. It was a carnival atmosphere with tents set up to protect us all from the elements, normally from sun; but this year there was a possibility of rain and thundershowers! Overall, there were 30 or more areas for children to play games and win prizes, and complete craft projects. There was face painting, hula-hooping and hair braiding and each child was able to choose a book to take home with them. The Wilsonville Rotary Club provided hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, pickles, watermelon, other fresh fruit, potato chips, cookies, sno-cones, popcorn, cotton candy and suckers!

Kudos to TACE and to all the volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible!

HB 3508 Passes House and Senate

Judiciary Chairs Representative Jeff Barker and Senator Floyd Prozanski as well as the Public Safety sub-committee co-chairs Senator Joanne Verger and Representative Chip Shields authored House Bill 3508. Their goal was to enact cost-saving reforms that would maintain public safety during the economic downturn Oregon and the country are facing.

The cost-saving measures in the omnibus bill are:

Phase-In of Measure 57: After much negotiation, the final bill continues the current implementation of Measure 57 until February 15, 2010. At that time the sentencing enhancements included in the bill for most (but not all) offenses covered in Measure 57 will be suspended until January 1, 2012. *Estimated savings for the 2009-2011 biennium \$49 million*

Increase of Earned Time for Non-Violent Prisoners from 20% to 30%: Oregon currently allows for certain prisoners to earn up to 20% off of their sentence based on appropriate behavior and participation in educational programs. This will be increased to 30% until this provision of the bill sunsets on July 1, 2013. *Estimated savings for the 2009-2011 biennium \$8 million*

Limits Probation Violation Jail Time to No More than 60 days: Allows a judge to impose no more than 60 days of jail time on someone who has violated probation unless the violation is for conviction of a new crime. *Estimated savings for the 2009-2011 biennium \$9 million*

Earned Time for Probationers: Allows up to a 50% reduction in a person's probation for compliance with terms of probation. *Estimated savings for the 2009-2011 biennium \$7 million*

As of July 1, 2009, courts have included the increase in earned time from 20% to 30% on all applicable sentences. The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) is in the process of identifying eligible inmates (sentenced prior to July 1) to be reconsidered by the sentencing court for this increase. The DOC will begin notifying inmates and the respective court starting August 31, 2009. It will be up to the courts to take action, either allowing the increase to 30% earned time – or not. If the court approves this action, the DOC will update the inmate's projected release date and advise the changes to institution staff and affected partners in the criminal justice community. The court has the ability to make this decision with or without a hearing. A hearing will most likely be held if either the DA's office or the crime survivor objects to the increase in earned time.

Inmate Trust Accounts – Please Note

(1) The Department of Corrections will accept and process authorized money items received by Central Trust only in the form prescribed by and in accordance with the provisions of these rules, OAR 291-158-0005 to 291-158-0075.

(a) Authorized money items must be made payable to the Department of Corrections, and must include the name and SID number of the inmate, and the name and current address of the sender, on the face of the remittance.

(b) Only one inmate trust account may be credited per remittance. Authorized money items should be mailed directly to the Department of Corrections, Central Trust, PO Box 14400, Salem, OR 97309-5077. Any remittance mailed to the Department must contain the sender's name and current residence address on the envelope.

(c) The Department's Central Trust Office will provide an inmate with a receipt for authorized money items received and credited to the inmate's trust account. Central Trust will retain a copy of the original remittance in accordance with the State Archivist retention schedule.

(d) The Department of Corrections may require that a photo ID be submitted along with any remittance. Photo ID maybe photocopied to be used for documentation purposes.

(2) Monies received in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or other remittance received in accordance with these rules may be credited to the inmate's account.

(3) Monies received in the form of federal or state government checks, insurance claim, or other checks or remittance in settlement of a legal action shall be processed in the same manner as a cashier check or money order.

(a) Checks requiring the inmate's endorsement will be sent to the appropriate functional unit to obtain the inmate's endorsement, and once obtained will be returned to Central Trust for processing.

(b) Checks made payable jointly to the inmate and a second party will be returned to the sender.

(4) No Cash or Personal Checks Permitted: Monies received in the form of cash and personal checks shall not be credited to an inmate's trust account.

Pizza Feed at South Fork Forest Camp

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read about the function we had here at the South Fork Forest Camp.

It all started from an idea of one of my fellow inmates. He had been to other institutions that had different types of functions for inmates that the inmates themselves had paid for. The proceeds from the functions go towards the purchase of the products needed for the function and the remainder is donated to a charity of our choice.

After asking fellow inmates if they would be interested in this type of function, he started taking the proper steps in moving this event in the right direction.

The idea was approved by the powers above and a notice was placed on our camp bulletin board. This notice said that if you would like to sign up for a "Pizza Feed" you would need to, by a specified date, along with filling out a CD28 to transfer funds from your trust account to the "Pizza Feed" account. The price was \$10 for one half of a large pizza. You had a choice of a pepperoni, Hawaiian or cheese pizza.

At the time I wasn't sure if it would be worth the \$10. Then I thought about how long it had been since I've had real pizza! It's been about forty months and I still have thirty months left until I'll be released. So, I then decided on making the purchase.

After sending off my CD28 it took about five weeks for the actual event to come. During that time I was asking myself if I made the right choice due to not being able to purchase envelopes and what notes from canteen.

On March 17th the day of the "Pizza Feed" was finally here. Sitting in the chow hall with about fifty other guys waiting to eat our pizza I still wasn't sold on the idea. Then a friend happened to give me a bite of the crust of one of his pieces of pizza. That crust tasted so good and brought back so many good memories that I then knew this was worth every penny.

This "Pizza Feed" was such a good function for us and it was also satisfying to know that we were able to donate around \$260 to the Tillamook Food Bank and the District Food Bank.

I hope the management here at South Fork Forest Camp was pleased with this event and that we'll be allowed to do more of these in the future.

Submitted by N.J., currently incarcerated at SFFC.

GRANT AWARD

CURE received notice on June 11, 2009 that we were awarded a generous grant from METRO as part of the North Portland Community Enhancement Program, to continue our valuable work in the North Portland area. This is significant for us not only because of the economy but also, Metro received 45 proposals by deadline. The total amount being requested was \$251,690; there was approximately \$50,000 available to award in the 2009 - 2010 grant cycle. Community leaders serving on METRO's grant committee deliberated hours before narrowing down the field. "Your proposal was among those offering immediate relief, hope and inspiration to long-time residents and newcomers who live in the grant target area" stated Councilor Rex Burkholder, Chair METRO Central Enhancement Committee. In the end, \$35,000 was awarded to 18 local improvement groups and CURE was one of them.

We would like to graciously thank our partners for writing letters of recommendation and for assisting us unconditionally in creating a greater and safer community:

- Multnomah County – Department of Community Justice – Susan Ziglinski, Faith Based Coordinator
- International CURE – Charles Sullivan, Executive Director
- Center For Family Success – Glenna Hayes, Director
- Partnership For Safety & Justice – David Rogers, Executive Director
- Better People – Clariner M. Boston, MPA MS AJ, Executive Director

A very special thank you goes to Impact Printing for working so closely with Oregon CURE. We appreciate their time, patience and expertise.

Oregon CURE Board of Directors

Publication Notice

This newsletter is a publication of Oregon CURE. Oregon CURE is a 501 (c) (3) organization whose goal is to reduce crime through criminal justice reform.

The opinions and statements contained in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Oregon CURE.

Contributions of articles, letters to the editor, notices, etc., are welcome, but may be edited or rejected for space considerations.

Articles may be copied in its entirety with credit going to the author or to the publication.

2008 – 2009 Board of Directors

Gretchen Vala – President
Kris Vala – Vice President
Bonnie Nusser – Secretary
Laura Venida – Treasurer

Bonnie Nusser – Newsletter Editor

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1-877-357-CURE (2873) (Outside Portland)

Website: www.oregoncure.org

Oregon CURE is a volunteer organization. Volunteers answer letters. We appreciate the letters you send and do read them. We make every effort to answer them all in a timely manner. Oregon CURE is not a service organization. Do not send us any legal documents. We do not offer legal services or provide legal advice.

Letter from the President

By Gretchen Vala

Dear Readers:

The February and May release orientations that Oregon CURE facilitates with Washington County enjoyed record breaking attendance. The August 5th orientation will have already taken place by the time you receive this newsletter; however, if you're interested in attending a future meeting, please save the date of November 4th, for the next Washington County orientation for 2009.

Earlier this year, we met with Lacey Carter, with Marion County Probation and Parole and we are really happy to share the good news that the first quarterly release orientation for family members and friends of people releasing to Marion County will be held on Tuesday August 11, with the next quarterly meeting scheduled for November 10, 2009.

An Oregon CURE volunteer has stepped up to facilitate a Salem area biweekly support group for families and friends of people who have been released or who are close to the gate. The purpose of this Transitional Support Group is to equip families and the community with tools that promote healing, support, communication and understanding to anyone affected by having a loved one incarcerated; or by being incarcerated themselves. This group will begin meeting on Tuesday, August 18, and will continue to meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

Please refer to the complete listing of Oregon CURE community events on page 10. If you've attended the North Portland support group, you will notice that there is a date and site change. The North Portland support group will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the St. Johns branch of the Multnomah Public Library.

Oregon CURE
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.oregoncure.org

A Special Thank You !!!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Oregon CURE, we would like to extend our gratitude to all of our donors for your generous support in 2008 & 2009. Your contributions continue to help us all advocate for an effective criminal justice system. We appreciate your continued interest.

I DO WANT TO HELP OREGON CURE CONTINUE ITS WORK IN 2009

Here is my tax-deductible contribution:

_____ \$3 Prisoner _____ \$50 or more Organizations
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I would like to volunteer my services!!! My skills are: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

(Optional)
Name of Incarcerated Loved One: _____

SID # and Address: _____