



Council of Churches

# Jail Ministry News

Jail Ministry



*From: Rev. Dr. Cris H. Mogenson, Coordinating Chaplain*

With great pleasure we are introducing the **1<sup>st</sup> Jail Ministry Newsletter**, which highlights the work you make possible through your support of the **Jail Ministry Program of the Broome County Council of Churches**. Much of our work takes place behind the walls of a jail. We would like to keep you informed about what ministries are provided to our neighbors who are still very much a part of our community, marketplace, congregations, homes and schools.

The Broome County Council of Churches Jail Ministry Program has remained unwaveringly committed to actively addressing these areas: spirituality, life skills, mental health, addiction and basic human needs. Our efforts seek to restore wholeness and spiritual wellbeing to the incarcerated, returning citizens, and their families.

We offer pastoral care and support to those affected by the criminal justice system, including correctional staff. Our interfaith team of chaplains, social workers, and trained volunteers provide religious services, recovery support, life skills training, visitation, and discharge services. Approximately 4,000 inmates who pass through the doors of the Broome County Sheriff's Correctional Facility benefit from our services.

Partnerships facilitate a seamless transition from incarceration to release. Our faith based reentry program offers returning citizens a spiritual touchstone, a positive social network, a new feeling of belonging, an increased sense of responsibility, and a life filled with purpose.



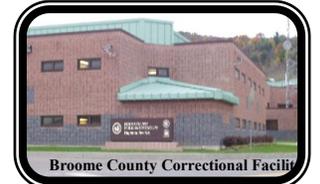
## HELPING PEOPLE GROW STRONG IN THE BROKEN PLACES

Concern for the varying needs of offenders, their families, and their victims has given rise to the following vision:

**Jail Ministry shall be a believable and effective witness pointing to God's unconditional love as a source of emotional and spiritual renewal for all people affected by the criminal justice system.**



This purpose is best carried out by ministering to spiritual and practical needs, and by providing worship services, pastoral care, and advocacy.



## DRAWN TOGETHER: CONNECTING FAMILIES



We are thrilled to announce our new **Cooperative Arts Program**. Inmates communicate with their children by partially completing art work and mailing it to their children for completion. This allows a parent/child connection that may otherwise not exist. Art therapy groups will provide additional support for the children and will be held at the Nimmonsburg Church.



## FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM: HELPING CHILDREN



One of our most rewarding projects is the **Family Literacy Program**. Inmates are recorded reading a book that their children receive. This program helps families to reconnect while also improving literacy. This provides vital parent/child communication during the Holidays.



**We can always use donations of blank CDs, manila envelopes, used or new paperback children's books and willing volunteers.**

## CHRISTMAS PROJECT: HOPE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

**I**t might seem early, but by summer our Christmas Projects are already underway. Each year we collect Christmas cards for inmates to send holiday greetings to their loved ones. This helps to make the Christmas season a little bit more tolerable for inmates and their families. We also distribute gifts to inmates on Christmas Day.

**Y**ou can contribute to this project in the following ways:



- ⇒ *Decorate gift bags ([available for pickup at the Broome County Council of Churches, 3 Otsenigo Street](#))*
- ⇒ *Donate gift items such as playing cards, candy canes, puzzle books, etc.*
- ⇒ *Give money towards our program to help cover the cost of our Christmas Project.*



**T**hank you so much for supporting this ministry. It is such a blessing for people to know they are thought about and cared for during the holiday season.

## DISCHARGE PLANNING NEEDS: SUPPORTING SUCCESS

**R**eturning citizens are often released with little more than what is on their backs and a few resources for the essential needs of life. We provide hygiene items, sweat suits, hats, gloves, and bus passes to assist in this transition. We also provide the following:

- ◆ **PRE-RELEASE PLANNING** - release is a critical and intense time. Pre-release planning is an essential first step in a successful transition.
- ◆ **AN EXIT INTERVIEW** - is conducted by the Chaplaincy staff two weeks prior to release. Immediate concerns such as food, housing, clothing, and employment are addressed. Information and referrals to other services and resources are also offered.
- ◆ **JAIL MINISTRY POST-RELEASE SERVICES** - support is available to all returning citizens in Broome County.



## CONGREGATIONALLY BASED REENTRY PROGRAM: IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

**T**he Jail Ministry Program's goal is to stop the cycle of incarceration.

We do this by:

- *Offering spiritual care and friendship*
- *Connecting returning citizens with local congregations*
- *Offering a new life of belonging, responsibility, and purpose*



## EMPLOYMENT FIRST: EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

*Meet Us At The Holiday Inn*

2 Hawley St., Binghamton, NY—Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*Enrich Your Workforce*

**L**earn more about hiring individuals with challenging backgrounds like substance use, homelessness, incarceration, and more. PLUS...meet the agencies that will support you!



- ◆ Financial Benefits
- ◆ Referral Agency Resource
- ◆ Best Practices

### Topics Include:

- ◆ Understanding Unique Barriers
- ◆ Employer and Agency Panels
- ◆ Tax incentives

Contact Jeff Pryor at ([JPryor@co.broome.ny.us](mailto:JPryor@co.broome.ny.us)) or Rev. Dr. Greg Johnson at ([Rev.GregJohnson@hotmail](mailto:Rev.GregJohnson@hotmail)) or 607-239-4147