



Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia

Office of Legislative, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs

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CSOSA AND FAITH INSTITUTIONS MARK THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF MENTORING PROGRAM FOR RETURNING OFFENDERS

Washington, DC – The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) and its partners in the District of Columbia's faith community are marking the first year anniversary of their Re-entry Mentoring Program. The program targets offenders returning from prison. An assembly of CSOSA staff, volunteer mentors, offenders and their families will come together to discuss program accomplishments and goals for the next year at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, January 30, 2003. The meeting will be held at St. Luke's Center, 4923 East Capitol Street, SE, Washington, DC. The public is welcome.

Additionally, the faith community throughout the city will address the issue of re-entry and the need for volunteer mentors during Re-entry Weekend services held from January 31st to February 2nd. The following is a partial listing of institutions that will hold Reentry Weekend activities: Pilgrim Baptist Church, Israel Baptist Church, New Commandment Baptist Church, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Upper Room Baptist Church, Johnson Memorial Baptist Church, Morning Star Baptist Church, Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church, St. John's United Methodist Church, Foundry United Methodist Church, Community United Methodist Church, Faith Tabernacle of Prayer, Praise Redemption Worship Center, Founding Church of Scientology, and the International House of Prayer for All People.

Approximately 2,000 offenders return to District of Columbia neighborhoods from prison each year. Many of these men and women come back to changed neighborhoods and weakened family support systems, leaving them isolated and in need of a helping hand. Mentors can provide the needed assistance. CSOSA's Re-entry Mentoring Program now has over 75 volunteers from the faith community ready to assist offenders in the re-entry process. Over 50 offenders have already been matched with trained mentors. The program seeks to address problems such as housing, employment, substance abuse and alienation. "Mentoring offenders is challenging work, but it can help a person change their life for the better. We appreciate the assistance of all of our mentors who generously give their time serving others," said Paul A. Quander, Jr., Director of CSOSA.

-30-