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Volunteers of America®

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May 13, 2013

Testimony by Kay Toran – Volunteers of America Oregon

To the Human Services Committee on Public Safety Oregon State Legislature

To: Chair Carolyn Tomei

From: Kay Toran, President/CEO, Volunteers of America Oregon

Attached are program summaries of alternative programs provided by Volunteers of America Oregon. The evidence-based approach has produced stellar outcomes in terms of reduced recidivism, effective addiction treatment, employment and family reunification.

Please feel free to call me at 503-595-2000 if you should need additional information.

Sincerely,

Kay D. Toran  
President/CEO  
Volunteers of America, Oregon

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Volunteers of America Oregon is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered within the state of Oregon that provides human services to populations in need.

*There are no limits to caring®*





Volunteers of America  
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## COMMUNITY PARTNERS REINVESTMENT PROGRAM

*CPR helps young men get back on track after incarceration and helps families break the cycle of gang association*



### Menu of Services

- Jail, Prison & Community
- Pre & Post-Release
- Gang Intervention & Alternatives Support
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Substance Abuse Education & Treatment
- Mental Health & Medication Management
- Healthy Lifestyle, Transitional Planning & Pro-Social Connections
- Culturally-Competent Mentoring
- Intergenerational Family Support
- Tailored Curricula
- Evidence-Based

### Who We Are

#### Who We Serve

CPR is a model reentry program designed to help high risk young men, ages 18-25, transition back to the community and out of a criminal lifestyle. They typically:

- Pose the greatest threat to public safety
- Demonstrate the highest recidivism rate and risk
- Are the least successful in traditional programs

#### What We Offer

State Prison Transition Services for 6 months pre-release  
Local Jail Transition Services for 3-6 months pre-release  
Community-Based Services for 1 year post prison or jail  
Gang Intervention Services for identified gang members and their families

#### How We Partner

Volunteers of America Oregon  
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice  
Oregon Department of Corrections  
Multnomah County Sheriff's Office  
City of Portland Office of Youth Violence Prevention  
Gang Involved Family Team | Portland Police Bureau  
Metropolitan Family Service | Reentry Transition Center

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# COMMUNITY PARTNERS REINVESTMENT PROGRAM

*CPR helps young men get back on track after incarceration and helps families break the cycle of gang association*



## CPR WORKS

Portland State University's 5-year evaluation of CPR (2005-2010) demonstrated:

- ♦ 75.2% of CPR's high risk offenders were NOT reconvicted of a felony through June 2010
- ♦ Severity of addiction, mental health symptoms and risk to reoffend all showed a statistically significant reduction at 6 month follow-up (ASI, BASIS 32, LS/CMI)
- ♦ 61.8% of participants were employed or attending school at 6 months post-baseline

## CPR SAVES MONEY

### Prison Population. 3 Years Post-Release (PSU, 2010)

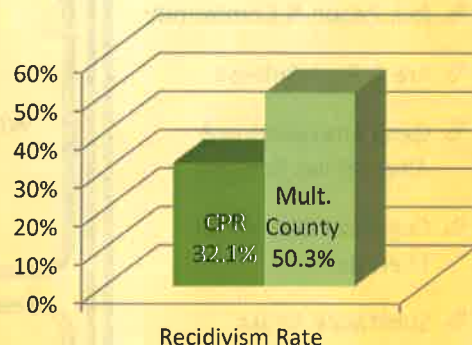
- ♦ The decrease in recidivism for the study cohort of 58 men alone resulted in an estimated cost savings of more than \$1.35 million

*(Based on median cost of \$6,100 per participant compared to the average cost of \$200,000 per individual for reincarceration)*

### Jail Population. Year 1 of Pilot Program (MCSO, 2012)

- ♦ **77% reduction of days in jail:** Average reduced from 128 days to 30 days
- ♦ **74% reduction in Jail Costs:** 31 men cost \$564,000 one year before joining CPR. The year the same men were in CPR, it was reduced to \$146,000.

## RECIDIVISM: Prison Population 3 Years Post-Release (PSU, 2010)



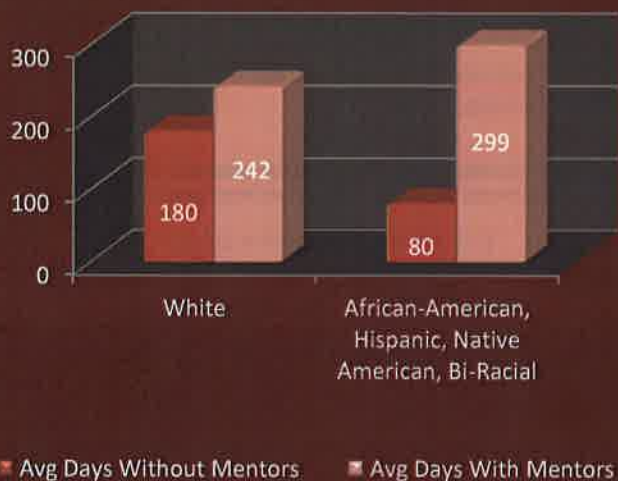
*"Recidivism" is defined as no new felony convictions within 3 years post-release*

## CPR KEEPS YOUNG MEN CONNECTED

CPR added culturally-appropriate Mentors who model their own success leaving gangs, crime, drugs and prison through a 2012 Second Chance Act grant. By April 2013, the average days engaged in CPR's post-release services experienced a surge:

- ♦ **274% increase** for African-American, Hispanic and Native American participants
- ♦ **34.4% increase** for White participants

More than half (52%) of CPR participants are young men of color and over a third (39%) of participants are fathers.



## CURRENT AVERAGE ANNUAL COST PER PARTICIPANT

(April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013)

**\$4,600** (pre and post-release)

# Reentry Enhancement Coordination (REC)

## A Reentry Transition and Addictions Services Program

The **Reentry Enhancement Coordination (REC)** program closes gaps in services provided to those transitioning from prison to the community. REC serves men and women who have severe addictions and have completed treatment during their incarceration and who will benefit from assistance in securing housing, treatment, and employment after release. The REC team is a partnership between VOA Oregon's InAct program, the Department of Corrections, the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, SE Works and Bridges to Change.

InAct provides evidence-based, individually-tailored substance abuse and mental health treatment services to REC participants including Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Seeking Safety, and Motivational Enhancement Therapy.

*As part of a partnership with other community providers, REC provides intensive wrap-around services for men and women transitioning back to the community from prison.*

## Rethinking Recidivism

### A multi-faceted approach

## VOA InAct Program

### Activities Include:

- ♦ Institutional reach-in (establishing relationships with clients prior to their release from prison to help facilitate their transition to life and programs on the outside);
- ♦ Coordination and oversight of services;
- ♦ Collaborative offender case management and supervision.

### Services Include:

- ♦ Evidence-based outpatient substance abuse and co-occurring mental health treatment;
- ♦ Alcohol and drug free transitional housing;
- ♦ Recovery peer mentors;
- ♦ Employment and job development specialist support.

### Program Goals:

- ♦ Reduce recidivism, relapse and use of addictive substances;
- ♦ Increasing treatment engagement;
- ♦ Increasing participant ability to attain and maintain secure housing and employment.

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### REC Program Origins:

In 2008, the Governor dedicated \$2.5 million in Byrne Grant Funding to four counties to:

- ♦ Reduce Crime in Oregon
- ♦ Target transitioning inmates who completed prison-based inpatient treatment

### REC Program Services:

Insure successful prison transition by providing:

- ♦ A&D Continuing Care
- ♦ Transitional Housing
- ♦ Employment Development
- ♦ Peer mentor support
- ♦ Intensive case-coordinated supervision

### Byrne Grant Goals:

- ♦ Reduce recidivism of inmates engaged in prison-based treatment programs
- ♦ Provide continuing A&D outpatient treatment
- ♦ Provide wrap-around services to ensure successful transition
- ♦ Increase collaboration with State prisons and community providers

*Cost Per Participant = \$3,419*  
*System & Tax Payer Cost Avoided = \$8,631*  
*Crime Victims Cost Avoided = \$14,388*

***Costs Avoided Per Participant =***  
***TOTAL \$23,019***

### *Cost Benefit of REC Program*

*Benefit to Cost Ratio = \$6.73*  
*\*\*Every \$1 spent on REC*  
*Program = benefit of \$6.73*

### Program Outcomes Overview

July 2011 Criminal Justice Commission Offender Reentry Program Preliminary Evaluation (Multnomah County participants released from prison May 2009 to September 2010)

**Recidivism: REC participants had a 43% reduction in recidivism compared to control group**

- Control group arrests: 28%
- Reentry grant participant arrests: 16% (213 clients)

**Employment: 74% of REC participants achieved employment within 90 days of release from prison**

**Housing Outcome: 84% had independent housing 90 days after release from prison**

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