

**JUSTICEWORKS · JOURNAL**

**1547 STRONGS AVENUE  
STEVENS POINT WI 54481**

*Fostering forms of justice that strengthen and heal communities*

# Justiceworks•Journal

*Fostering Restorative Justice for Communities*

12/07/12

## *Counting Our Blessings*

Looking back on our organization's achievements in 2012, it's been a wonderful year. Since its inception in 2007, Justiceworks has helped thousands of individuals with its direct service justice programs. We would like to thank community leaders, volunteers and donors for helping us keep these programs intact in 2013 through financial support and participation. Like all non-profit organizations, we rely on a diverse funding base of public and private grants, as well as private donations. Please consider supporting restorative justice initiatives in 2013 by attending our upcoming community events: Please **SAVE THE DATE** for the inaugural **Justice For All Ball on April 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Stevens Point Country Club. Proceeds from this event will go directly to justice-related

programs that support disadvantaged individuals in Portage County. Prior to our inaugural Justice for All Ball, drop in at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual **Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration on Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>** at the SPASH Auditorium. For more details on these exciting events and our justice programs, read on....



Happy Holidays from the Justiceworks Staff

***Happy Holidays,***

Katherine Munck

Executive Director, Justiceworks, Ltd.

## ***Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*** ***Community Celebration***

Please plan to attend Justiceworks, Ltd's ***Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration*** on Monday, January 21, 2013 from 7:00 -8:30 pm. at the Stevens Point Area Senior High School, 1201 Northpoint Drive, Stevens Point, WI. Admission to the program, including refreshments, is free and open to all community members.

This year's keynote speaker, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Chancellor Bernie L. Patterson, will address justice issues within the context of Martin Luther King, Jr's historical legacy. The program also includes musical performances by the Monteverdi Master Chorale and the Stevens Point Senior High School Concert Choir. The 2013 John Klismet Justice Volunteer Award of the Year will be presented to community activist Roseann DeBot in recognition of her volunteer contributions to our community.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration is an annual holiday recognition event coordinated by Justiceworks, Ltd. and a team of volunteers from diverse faith backgrounds and non-profit organizations. Currently, thirteen community and faith-based organizations are represented in event planning and coordination.

The objective of the MLK event is to give community members an opportunity to learn about the significance of the civil rights movement, Martin Luther King's legacy, and current social justice issues. In addition, the MLK event provides information on volunteer opportunities in the justice system via community-based justice programming and education outreach.



## *Roseann DeBot to Receive 2013 John Klismet Justice Award*



Justiceworks is pleased to announce the John Klismet Justiceworks Award winner for 2013, community volunteer Roseann DeBot. Roseann has been active in justice-related community initiatives through her work as director of Operation Bootstrap, Portage County's food pantry and community resource referral center. Roseann has worked as director of the food pantry for almost 40 years without financial compensation. During this time, she has administered to the needs of the poor in our community; many of whom also receive services through Justiceworks' restorative justice programs. Roseann believes in the importance of providing community support for successful reintegration of ex-offenders into the community, which is the objective of Justiceworks' TEAM reentry offender mentoring program.

**Roseann will receive her award at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration on Monday, January 21, beginning at 7 pm. in the Stevens Point Area Senior High School Auditorium.**

## ***Effective Justice Strategies in Wisconsin: A Report of Findings and Recommendations***

by The National Center for State Courts, State Justice Institute (2012)

The old idea that justice largely began with a conviction and ended when the convict “paid his debt to society” no longer works for those who think about the justice system thoughtfully. This is particularly true given the explosive growth of what some term the “corrections-industrial complex” over the last forty years that has turned the United States into the world's greatest jailer, both in raw numbers and per capita. States like Wisconsin now spend more on corrections than on higher education. Professionals from every level of corrections from local to federal, and every corner of the justice system from jailers and probation and parole agents to prosecutors, judges and public health providers have been working for decades now to develop new policies and practices to protect Americans from crime in ways that use the limited dollars available to this task most efficiently, that is, in ways that decrease repeat offending.

***Effective Justice Strategies in Wisconsin*** makes clear that effective justice strategies for the twenty-first century can only result from the implementation, use, and continual refinement of “evidence-based practices in assessing, sentencing, supervising, and treating offenders.” While some still rely on their “guts” or intuition when dealing with specific offenders, this report comes down clearly on the side of using pre-sentencing risk and needs assessments in every jurisdiction in Wisconsin. These tools can help judges in sentencing offenders, but also guide community supervision officers and other treatment providers with strategies and programs that will encourage the offender to develop pro-social attitudes and activities that will reduce repeat offending.

The last few decades have seen an explosion of knowledge in all areas of the criminal justice system. Criminal justice professionals have developed concepts such as the Risk-Needs-Responsivity Theory (RNR). According to the report, RNR-based approaches can help to achieve more effective justice strategies by better understanding

offenders because it uses actuarial, evidence-based metrics in order to determine not just their sentences, but also their treatments and outcomes. Wisconsin's Department of Corrections has adopted one such tool, COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiles for Alternative Sanctions). This fourth-generation tool provides a wide variety of users—including Justiceworks' Volunteers in Probation program (VIP)—not only analysis but also case management functions. Citizens of Portage County can take pride that Portage County was one of only 15 counties included in a pilot project that paved the way for this report, as well as the fact that the county is leading the way in implementing the report's recommendation to “focus offender supervision and treatment resources toward community-oriented evidence-based practices.”

*Effective Justice Strategies in Wisconsin* does not address all the problems faced by the criminal justice system in Wisconsin. But it does serve as a good introduction to the general dilemma of providing the safest environment possible for its citizens through the most effective means, both in terms of helping offenders not to re-offend, and using tax dollars wisely. It starts with a very useful glossary, and is written clearly, without a lot of jargon. Everyone in Wisconsin who wants a better justice system should read this report, which is available as a free PDF download on the internet.

Justice at its best is a process that starts with an anti-social offender and ends with an ex-offender who contributes to society rather than preys on society. This report lays out some evidence-based practices to do that effectively into the future.

By Michael Foret



# ***Program Spotlight: VIP***

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The Volunteers in Probation Program (VIP) enables someone convicted of a misdemeanor offense to voluntarily enter a structured rehabilitation program. Through treatment programs and mentoring, the program offers a second chance to qualifying offenders who want to turn their lives around. It encourages them to restructure their lives and reenter the community as productive citizens. With this help, many offenders avoid committing further offenses, and thus reduce the county's incarceration costs. The VIP mentoring program utilizes community volunteers who serve as mentors to participants. Successful completion of the program prevents the offense from appearing on the individual's criminal record, and provides the offender with an incentive to succeed.

**VIP Program Completion Rate:** March 2008- March 2012

Males: 91 Females: 39

**VIP Recidivism Rate:** 5.4%

Seven out of 130 VIP program completers re offended after program completion

**WI Department of Corrections Probation Recidivism Rate:** 40%

Probationers with same level of offenses; same risk profile as VIP program participants per DOC analysis

**Program costs:**

After accounting for program costs, a conservative estimate of anticipated annual cost avoidance for our community is \$72,688.

For the complete report, please contact the Justiceworks Office or email to [Katherine.Munck@Justiceworksltd.org](mailto:Katherine.Munck@Justiceworksltd.org)



## *Justiceworks FAQ*

Q: What is Justiceworks?

Justiceworks is a non-profit community justice organization serving the population of Portage County.

Q: What is Justiceworks' organizational mission?

The mission of Justiceworks, Ltd. is to foster forms of justice that strengthen and heal the communities of Portage County. Volunteers concerned with community justice in Portage County established Justiceworks, Ltd. as a non-profit corporation dedicated to the advancement of programs that secure right relationships between offenders, victims, and their communities.

Q: How does Justiceworks benefit community members? Justiceworks direct service programs include the *Volunteers in Probation* and *TEAM Reentry* mentoring programs to reduce the rate of repeat offenders, the *Family Law Information Center* to provide legal process assistance to unrepresented litigants, and the *Make It Right Restitution Mediation* program to provide immediate response to victims who have incurred damages from civil ordinance violations. Justiceworks also provides education outreach on justice topics, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration, legal symposiums, and public education forums.

Q: What is the driving philosophy behind Justiceworks—give me the shorthand version!

Justiceworks advocates for evidence-based restorative solutions to justice-related problems in our society. Our motto is “Justice in Balance”.



## ***SAVE THE DATE for the Inaugural JUSTICE FOR ALL BALL***

Jeff grew up with alcoholic parents in a chaotic household. As a young man without a reliable adult to guide him, Jeff turned to drugs, alcohol and the wrong crowd for support. He soon faced charges for possession and disorderly conduct. Too old for juvenile court, but still in need of direction and guidance, the Volunteers in Probation program gave him a volunteer mentor. Forming a bond with the mentor, he began to flourish. Thanks to the help of his mentor and the VIP case management team, Jeff now studies in a vocational training program, attends AA and NA meetings, and has had no new criminal charges over three years.

Cheryl's husband left her due to the stress of her life-threatening health issues. After medical bills, Cheryl did not have money to hire an attorney for her divorce. The Family Law Information Center assisted her in representing herself by guiding her through the legal process and forms needed.

A young adult who had been drinking on the square broke into a couple's home near downtown. The offender was remorseful and wanted to repair the damage his actions had caused. The owners wanted their damages paid, but didn't want a drawn-out and expensive process to collect them. With help from a mediator in Justiceworks' Make it Right Restitution Program, the victims received timely payment for their damages while holding the offender accountable for his actions. Both victims and offender were pleased with the outcome and the opportunity to share information on why the incident occurred and the harm it had caused.

These true stories describe the benefits of Justiceworks direct service programs. You can support these programs by attending our first annual gala fundraiser: ***The Justice For All Ball*** on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Stevens Point Country Club. For a reasonable price, attendees will receive a gourmet dinner, entertainment from the comedy auction show: *Paul and Denny Live and At Your Service*, live music, and opportunities to purchase fine gifts at the Silent Auction. Additional details regarding the dinner and auction will be forthcoming in 2013. Request an invitation by calling the Justiceworks Office at 715-344-3677 or by emailing your name and address to [Katherine.Munck@Justiceworksltd.org](mailto:Katherine.Munck@Justiceworksltd.org)

## **Justiceworks Welcomes New Staff Member**

Justiceworks welcomes new staff member, Carol Trebatoski, into the Justiceworks fold. Carol helps with administrative details and clerical work in the Justiceworks office. She is a long time resident of Portage County and enjoys spending time with her family and grandchildren. She is a Packers fan and enjoys walking, knitting and baking. In addition, Carol is a fan of Justiceworks programs and community initiatives. Welcome Carol!



## **Justiceworks Calendar**

Family Law Information Center Volunteer Meeting, Wednesday, December 5, 1:00 pm. FLIC Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Portage County Courthouse

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Planning Committee meeting, Wednesday, December 5, 6:00 pm. Emy J's Coffeehouse

Justiceworks' Financial Sustainability Committee meeting, Thursday, December 6, 5 pm., Justiceworks Conference Room

Justiceworks' Board of Directors Board Meeting, Justiceworks Conference Room, Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm. Justiceworks Conference Room

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration, Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm., Stevens Point Senior High School Auditorium

Volunteers In Probation (VIP) and TEAM Mentor Training Session, Wednesday, January 16, Noon, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Presentation: *Workforce Investment Act and Career Readiness Opportunities*

Justiceworks Annual Meeting, 5:00 to 5:30 pm., Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Whiting Room, Stevens Point Country Club

*Justice for All Ball* Fundraiser Dinner, Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Stevens Point Country Club, beginning at 5:30 pm. with Social Hour, Dinner, Program, Auction and Live Music

# **JJ** JUSTICEWORKS•JOURNAL

A quarterly newsletter published by Justiceworks, Ltd, a non-profit community justice organization dedicated to advancing policies and practices of justice that create right relationships in the communities of Portage County. Volunteer task forces of Justiceworks consider issues of mentoring, victim/offender conferencing, substance-free housing, and access to justice. Justiceworks has received grants from the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Community Foundation, the United States Department of Justice, St. Bronislava Church, the Polish Legion of American Veterans, and the Wisconsin Humanities Board. Alternatives to incarceration in the justice system require substantial assistance and commitment. To join the effort please return the registration below with your pledge. All contributions are tax deductible as Justiceworks is a tax exempt organization under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Justiceworks, 1547 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## **quote for a quarter:**

No one is useless in this world  
who lightens the burdens of another.

Charles Dickens