African American Healthy Marriage Initiative
Research to Practice Conference

The Black Family in the 21st Century

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Friday Center

June 16-18th, 2009
Trials & Triumphs

Making the Case for Faith-Based Initiatives & Neighborhood Involvement:
A Practitioners Perspective

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Director of Treatment
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Faith Based Community in Action

- Returning
- Recidivism
- Religion
- Recovery
- Resources
Two Initiatives

1. Court Services & Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) Faith-Based Mentoring
2. DC Criminal Justice System Fugitive Safe Surrender Program
Principles of Faith Based Involvement

- Long standing and powerful community institutions
- Provides bridge between returning citizens and family
- Faith-based describes affiliation and motivation
- Religious attendance and involvement not required
Acceptance
Faith Based Mentors

- CSOSA Faith Community Partnership since 2002
- 140 trained faith-based volunteers
- 7000 D.C. residents incarcerated in BOP facilities across the nation
- Life coaching and mentoring
- Family and Marriage Reunification
- Housing
- Drug Treatment
- Clothing for job interviews
- Meals
- Fellowship & Support
Faith Based Mentors

- 411 individuals of faith trained between 2002 and 2005
- 212 returning citizens referred to program
- One-on-one mentoring, plus group mentoring
- CSOSA Faith Advisory Council
- Three geographic clusters; lead institution in each cluster; paid Cluster Coordinator
- $100,000 per cluster for administrative expenses
The Closing of Lorton Correctional Facility
Reverend Donald Issac
Executive Director, East of River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership, Washington, DC

“Everyone returning home after years away has a need to feel connected with family, friends, and community. The faith community can be the connection when there are no others. We can be the family the offender is looking for.”
“The sacred, spiritual mission must be there to change. You have to have it. It may not mean a reliance on a religion, but faith is a necessary component of change. To make progress on the path of peace, belief in yourself is a crucial first step. Offenders see it work with others. They begin to believe. Spirituality gives hope beyond human needs.”
Video Mentoring Program

- Rivers Correctional Facility, Winston, NC
- Over 1000 DC inmates housed
- Mentors and returning citizens meet and begin the mentoring process via video conference
THE RESULTS
A FAITH-BASED SCANDAL AT LORTON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
Do the right thing. Right now.
DC Fugitive Safe Surrender Partners

- CSOSA
- District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency
- U.S. Marshal Service
- U.S. Attorney’s Office
- D.C. Superior Court
- D.C. Public Defender Service
- Bible Way Church
DC Fugitive Safe Surrender

- November 1 – 3, 2007
- Encourages persons wanted for non-violent felony or misdemeanor crimes to surrender voluntarily to faith-based leaders and law enforcement in a faith institution. Parole and probation violators are eligible for the program.
DC Fugitive Safe Surrender

- Bible Way Church in Downtown Washington DC
- Volunteers from the church greeted fugitives
- Family waiting areas and child care provided
- Defense attorneys on hand
- Department of Employment Services & Department of Health mobile units on site
Fugitive Safe Surrender Cities

- Phoenix, Arizona
- Rochester New York
- Akron, Ohio
- Camden, NJ
- Columbia SC
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Detroit, Michigan
- Cleveland, Ohio
- Indianapolis, Indiana
- Memphis, Tennessee
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Washington, DC
“African Americans are wedded to God and spirituality. We have to return to our history. Spirituality is a part of our existence and our survival. It is the key to our future success.”
Sustaining Satisfying Sobriety

Serenity