



CJM in STL News

Winter 2016

Volume 3, Number 7

SAVE THE DATE!

Inaugural Recognition Fundraising Dinner

Who: Open to All

What: Dinner Event
at \$150 per ticket;
tables of 8;
sponsorships
available

When: June 1st 2017

Where: Moulin
2017 Chouteau Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63103

Why: To Raise Funds
for CJM Programs &
Recognize those who
help make CJM
possible

How: Buy tickets
online at
www.cjmstlouis.org
or contact Anthony @
314-503-1770 or
anthonyd@cjmstlouis.org

Services Threatened by State Cuts

When Governor Greitens cut \$146 million from the state budget in mid-January, everyone at Criminal Justice Ministry wondered how it would affect the organization and, more importantly, its clients. Less than 24 hours later, the staff's wonder turned to disappointment. The Governor revealed that CJM, along with every other service provider helping formerly incarcerated individuals succeed in our communities, lost all state funding.

Upon receiving the news, CJM went to work creating a strategic response plan. According to Executive Director, Anthony D'Agostino, "our first concern is always the clients. We immediately decided to continue serving ALL our clients, no matter what, and the plan grew from that premise."



Since the funding cut was announced, CJM has actively advocated for funding reinstatement through local and state channels. From driving to Jeff City and knocking on Governor Greitens door to creating petitions to raising awareness through media outlets, CJM is determined to make the potential impact of these cuts known.

In addition to reinstatement efforts, CJM is launching a campaign to raise the funds that were cut. During this fiscal year (ending on June 30th, 2017) CJM's goal is to raise \$150,000. "It is a lofty goal," Anthony observed, "but we can't afford to stop providing services. That would be disastrous for our clients and the community." As Anthony revealed in his Post Dispatch editorial (found in the "news" link on CJM's website: www.cjmstlouis.org), these cuts actually increase state budget spending and jeopardize our safety. Without CJM services, more individuals and their families will lose vital services. As individuals lose these services, they are twice as likely to succumb to past criminal tendencies, hurting others and increasing the crime rate.

In order to reach its goal, CJM needs your help. Visit the CJM website (www.cjmstlouis.org) and sign the petition; become a member and donate; volunteer your time to a program; or call Anthony and ask how you can help - anthonyd@cjmstlouis.org or 314-503-1770.

Sign our Petition

Visit our website and sign our petitions about Reentry funding:

www.cjmstlouis.org

Contact Us

To learn more about CJM, donate or volunteer, please visit our new website:

www.cjmstlouis.org

Also, feel free to call us at 314-652-8062 or email at:

info@cjmstlouis.org

Director's Corner

Due to state cuts, CJM is experiencing some funding challenges. In spite of these obstacles, we will not cut services to our clients or compromise program quality. Please help us meet our goal to raise \$150,000 by the end of the fiscal year (June 30th, 2017), and thanks to all of you who continue to support us with your time and treasure. If you are interested in helping our mission, please contact me, even if it is just to chat/meet:

anthonyd@cjmstlouis.org

314-503-1770

Succeeding on the Outside

After spending over three decades in prison, Brian Moore had never lived alone. At only 16 years old, he was incarcerated for a crime that he didn't commit. Brian spent 10 years in prison before the state exonerated him. He had limited education, minimal skills, resentment about his wrongful conviction and nobody to help him succeed on the outside. "At the time, I was bitter," said Brian. "No one cared if I succeeded or not."

Brian immediately turned to a life of crime and drugs on the outside. Before long, he was arrested during a robbery and back in prison for 24 years. Brian continued battling drug addiction until he was caught using in 1998 and decided to quit "all of it...smoking, drinking, drugs, everything." He started attending classes and began training an assistance dog through a special dog training program inside prison. While sharing a photo of his dog, Brian reflected, "she [the dog] tried to follow me out of prison on the day they released me. I wish they would have let her."

For the second time in his life, Brian was released after a long period of incarceration. Unlike the first time, however, Brian was ready to take the steps necessary to succeed on the outside. He reached out to CJM and was accepted into the Release to Rent program. CJM immediately provided him with a small, one-bedroom apartment and all the resourced he needed to succeed (group sessions, life planning, 24/7 support and more). According to Brian, "that first night living alone was tough. I just sat in a chair all night staring at the door. I had never been alone in my own place before. Thank God, CJM was there to help with the transition. They showed me what to do, what not to do and worked with me through setbacks"

Recently, Brian successfully graduated from the program. He has a good job and has reconnected with his family. When asked about his success, Brian responded, "CJM was the key. They gave me the confidence and support to be responsible for myself. Without CJM, I would have come out here and done the same things that got me in put inside."



Volunteer Appreciation Event

CJM was built by volunteers and continues to rely on hundreds of dedicated volunteers to provide essential services every year. From teaching classes to writing letters, CJM volunteers work in a variety of capacities throughout the year. In order to demonstrate our tremendous gratitude for each volunteer's vital role, Sister Rose is hosting CJM's annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on March 9th at 5:15pm. If you are a current or past volunteer with CJM, please contact Sister Rose Rita Huelsmann about details and to RSVP (roseh@cjmstlouis.org or 314-881-6019). Also, please contact Sister Rose if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.