

The Community Support Advisory Council (CSAC)

"CSAC Summer 2011 Quarterly Newsletter"

***Want to start a new life after prison? Contact CSAC for help –
We care about you and your future!***

Services & Referrals Available (Vary by Location):

- Food Pantry
- Job Readiness Training
- Employment Assistance
- Transportation
- Family Reunification
- Mentorship
- Housing
- Identification
- Legal Assistance
- Healthcare
- GED/ESL
- Clothing
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Financial Literacy
- Counseling
- Haircuts/Hygiene Kits
- Overcomer's Support Group Meeting

CSAC Locations & Contact Information

Westside Health Authority

CSAC – West (Chicago)
5816 W Division
Chicago, IL 60651
Phone: 773-786-0226
www.healthauthority.org

Target Area DevCorp

CSAC – South (Chicago)
1542 W 70th Street
Chicago, IL 60620
Phone: 773-651-6470
www.targetarea.org

Howard Area Employment Resource Center

CSAC – North (Chicago)
1623 W Howard Street
Chicago, IL 60626
Phone: 773-262-3515
www.howardarea.org

Tower Of Refuge

CSAC – Springfield
329 S New Street
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone: 217-241-9911
www.towerofrefugeinc.com

Lutheran Social Services Of Illinois

CSAC – Marion
1616 W Main Street
Marion, IL 62959
Phone: 618-997-9196
www.lssi.org

CSAC's Client of the Quarter: Joseph Cheatham

Joseph Cheatham, who sought employment and supportive service assistance from CSAC-Marion following release from SWICC, was recently named CSAC Client of the Quarter. CSAC-Marion assisted Mr. Cheatham with obtaining a state ID, social security card and clothing. Also, Mr. Cheatham began to attend the Overcomer Support Meeting and completed the Employment Skills School (ESS) program with perfect attendance in preparation for employment. Based on his performance in ESS, Mr. Cheatham was awarded a 3-month School Trades Program (STP) scholarship to work at the Salvation Army warehouse with the opportunity for full-time employment at the end of his 90 day work trial period.

CSAC Quarterly Update:

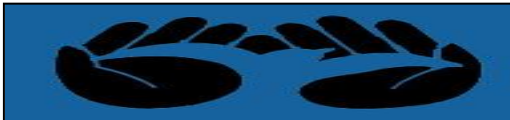


CSAC – West (Chicago) quarter highlights:

- **Facility Expansion:** In September 2011, CSAC – West will open its new building addition which will be used for registration, job readiness training and Overcomer’s support group meetings.
- **Financial Literacy:** CSAC—West has developed a relationship with PNC Bank where staff from the bank present on-site classes regarding financial literacy, including information on checking & savings accounts, and other programs which lead to financial stability. These classes provide wisdom for attendees as well as offer them the opportunity to open a FREE checking account.
- **Doctor Visits:** Every Thursday from 9am—noon, a board-certified doctor is on-site to provide FREE doctor office visits services, including prescription medicines and sub-specialist doctor referrals.



CSAC – South (Chicago) will open a Client Choice Food Pantry on 9/28/11. The new pantry will allow clients to shop for their grocery needs. Also, a family substance abuse counseling program has been implemented.



CSAC – North (Chicago) has good information to share:

- Fresh Start Orientation—4 Week Job Readiness Training
- Financial literacy program services, in association with the Northside Federal Credit Union, are provided on-site every Thursday
- FREE GED, ESL, & ABE classes; call 773-262-6622 for more information



CSAC-Springfield celebrated its third anniversary in July 2011 and is excited to announce the following new programs:

- **HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Easy):** HOME offers landlord tenant matching, independent living counseling, budget management, rental/utility assistance, and financial planning.
- **NEO (Network of Employment Opportunities):** NEO enhances the ability of clients to consistently maintain employment while navigating into roles offering greater measures of responsibility.
- **The Ties That Binds Us (TTTBU):** A venue of communication with the family of the incarcerated and the formerly incarcerated to rebuild long lasting healthy relationships through parenting, counseling, financial counseling, support groups, and mentorship.



CSAC-Marion has established an Employment Skill School (ESS) job readiness program for returning citizens with a goal of preparing clients for employment opportunities. Program participants engage in an intensive curriculum including basic computer skills and applications; maintaining safe and healthy environments; and communicating on the job.

In addition, through the capacity building efforts of the CSAC programs, LSSI has started a horticulture program called Green Re-Entry Opportunity program (GRO). Two churches and the city of Marion have donated grounds which have been converted into two functioning gardens that returning citizens maintain. Our clients use the garden crops and a portion is donated to the local soup kitchen in Marion.