



Our mission is to assist inmates and ex-offenders build healthier lives and become responsible citizens

2005-2006 Biennial Report

January 2007

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And become responsible citizens.

Dear Friends and Supporters:

I am very pleased to present CMNRP's biennial report for September 1, 2005 through December 31, 2006. CMNRP received its Minnesota non-profit status as a prisoner reentry program on September 1, 2005, and its 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt designation on May 1, 2006. With the assistance of AMICUS as our mentor and fiscal agent, we were able to create a modest beginning as a prisoner reentry program serving Benton, Stearns, and Morrison counties. We offer our special thanks to Victor Communications for providing free office space, phone and computer equipment that allowed us to begin operations. Start-up funding was a challenge since the business community was hesitant to provide funds to help ex-offenders. However, we were able to secure some local funding. In April 2006, with start up grants from the Initiative Foundation and the Otto Bremer Foundation, we set up operations in the East Gate Office Suites, 22 Wilson Avenue SE in St. Cloud and began serving clients.

In February 2006, more than sixty-five people representing service providers, state and county corrections and government agencies attended our first Call-To-Action meeting in the Stearns County Administration meeting room. It was a good introduction for elected officials, state and community corrections personnel, human service providers, and the general public interested in CMNRP's mission. From this event we had several individuals come forward as potential volunteer mentors.

During the last twelve months, we gave several presentations to local community service groups to build awareness of the need for CMNRP's services, as well as to request donations and recruit mentors. Our efforts met with limited success. CMNRP received \$100.00 from the St. Cloud Downtown Kiwanis Club but no mentors came forward. The *St. Cloud Times* did a feature story on our program. WJON radio provided us with a 15-minute opportunity to tell our story to their listeners.

Community response has been apathetic. We believe this is because there has never been a prisoner reentry program in the Central Minnesota area. Public perception seems to be that "If we ignore them, they will go away." In fact, this does not happen. Ex-offenders are released to the county where they committed their crime. We have served more than fifty ex-offenders who returned to our community from state correctional facilities or county jails. Minnesota Department of Corrections statistics show that 211 ex-offenders will be returning to our communities within the next twelve months. In addition, more than 3000 are released from Stearns and Benton County jails annually. As more people become aware of CMNRP, we will play an even larger role in helping those who want to change.

By October 1, 2006, we admitted that our original goals for securing funding and volunteer mentors from the community had been too idealistic. By downsizing our office space, we were able to reduce our monthly overhead by two-thirds, allowing us to focus more on providing transitional services and support to our clients. As a result of earlier grant writing efforts, in December 2006 we received \$30,000.00 in funding that will provide us with operating capital as we begin 2007. Grant writing and community fund raising efforts will continue to be a major focus along with our continuing efforts to provide a strong, effective re-entry program and develop a mentorship program to help prisoners and ex-offenders build healthier lives and become more responsible citizens.

Sincerely,

Joe Gibbons, Executive Director
Central MN Re-Entry Project

Mission and Vision

Our **Mission** is to help inmates and ex-offenders build healthier lives and become more responsible citizens.

Our **Vision** is to partner with inmates, ex-offenders and communities to build successful lives and strong communities through program that:

- Are person-centered and responsive to the needs of the individual
- Promote inner growth and change through caring one-to-one relationships and group experiences.
- Add to inmates' competencies and skills to enable them to live independent, positive, and self-sufficient lives.
- Educate the public about ex-offenders, counter negative stereotypes, and share success
- Partner with communities to reintegrate ex-offenders and heal family relationships and communities and a spirit of restorative justice.
- Partner with government, other agencies, and community groups to maximize resources and opportunities for ex-offenders building new lives.
- Are relevant to community needs and worthy of community support

Programs

MENTORSHIP; matches trained volunteers with motivated inmates to provide friendship and mentoring. By offering visits and friendship, volunteers help inmates feel cared about, develop trust, and gain a new outlook.

Re-Entry; provides referral services that help inmates plan for their release and offers much needed assistance in searching for job, housing, clothing, family services and more.

The fact that about 32-35% of Minnesota's ex-offenders return to prison with-in the first three years after release indicates that incarceration alone is not adequate

CMNRP programs are based on three principles;

1. Inmates can and do change
2. Spending time with caring positive people promotes change
3. Connection to a community deters crime

Board of Directors

Thomas K. Arnold, Chairman
Co-Founder
Community Small Business Owner

Carol A. Tembreull, Treasurer
Co-Founder
Prison Ministry Volunteer

Kathy Heinmiller, Vice Chairman
Assistant to President of AMICUS Re-Entry Program serving the twin cities seven county metro for 40 years

Mr. Jim Kostreba
Retired Sheriff, Stearns County, Minnesota

Janice R. Tarvestad, Attorney at Law
Tarvestad Law Offices

Dr. Carolyn A. Williams, PH.D.
Associate Dean, University of St. Cloud

Linda Yozamp, Area Manager
MN Job Service

Staff

Joe Gibbons, Director
Retired Business Owner and volunteer mentor for 18 years for AMICUS

ORGANIZATION BUDGET

Note: The below is an estimated budget based upon one year of operation.

INCOME

<u>Source</u> <i>Support (below are all possible funding sources not yet applied to as of this date)</i>	<u>Amount</u>
Government grants	When available
Foundations	\$30,000.00
Corporations	\$10,000.00
United Way or other federated campaigns	Not in 07
Individual contributions	\$7,600.00
Fundraising events and products	N/a
Membership income	\$N/a
In-kind support	\$2,400.00
Investment income	\$N/a
Revenue	
Government contracts	\$N/a
Earned income	\$N/a
Other (specify)	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total Income	\$50,000.00

EXPENSES

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salaries and wages	\$12,000.00
Insurance, benefits and other related taxes	\$1,000.00
Consultants and professional fees	\$1,000.00
Travel	\$3,500.00
Liability Insurance	\$7,000.00
Supplies	\$1,000.00
Printing and copying	\$1,000.00
Telephone and fax	\$3,600.00
Postage and delivery	\$1,000.00
Rent and utilities	\$4,800.00
In-kind expenses	\$2,400.00
Depreciation	\$1,000.00
Other (specify) Lunches and meetings with service providers and clients	\$1,200.00
Community and Volunteer Meetings and Training	\$2,500.00
Service support to ex offenders	\$7,000.00
Total Expense	\$50,000.00

Contributions Received from 9/1/05 thru 12/31/06

2005

Initiative Foundation if Little Falls	\$5,000.00
Andy & Carol Hilger Family Fund	\$ 300.00
American Legion of St. Cloud	\$ 100.00
Wiman Company	\$1,000.00
St. Marcus Catholic Church	\$ 200.00
Dennis Gregory	\$ 200.00
Liberty State Bank	\$ 100.00

Total \$6,900.00

2006

Initiative Foundation of Little Falls	\$ 7,500.00
Otto Bremer Foundation	\$20,000.00
Mardag Foundation	\$10,000.00
Stearns Electric	\$ 250.00
Minnesota Power of Duluth	\$ 500.00
People in Business Care Foundation	\$ 1,000.00
Good Samaritan Council of Central MN Community Foundation	\$ 2,490.00
Andy & Carol Hilger Family Fund	\$ 500.00
Houck Machinery Company, Plymouth	\$ 2,500.00
Catholic Charities of St. Cloud	\$ 100.00
Boys & Girls Club of Central Mn.	\$ 100.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MN	\$ 100.00
Michael Lehn	\$ 30.00
Anonymous	\$ 500.00
Tom Arnold	\$ 500.00
Dennis Kurowski, Tire Shoppe	\$ 500.00
Jeanne Klock	\$ 1,000.00
Dennis Gregory	\$ 200.00
Care Transportation	\$ 25.00
Kiwanis Club of St. Cloud	\$ 100.00
St. Marcus Catholic Church	\$ 200.00
Fr. Joe Vanderberg	\$ 25.00
Church of the Annunciation	\$ 200.00

Total \$ 48,320.00

Received/Pending for 2007

Otto Bremer Foundation, Committed	\$5,000.00
Emerging Leaders Forum.	\$2,500.00
Chester Hutchinson,	\$1,600.00
Good Samaritan Fund of CMCF	\$1,100.00
Holdingsford Knights of Columbus	\$ 250.00
Gilman Knights of Columbus	\$ 100.00
St. Joe Knights of Columbus	\$ 100.00
Anonymous Donor	\$ 100.00
Anonymous Donor	\$ 94.00
Church of St. Augustine	\$ 200.00

David Maciej
 Church of the Annunciation

\$ 200.00
 \$ 500.00

Offenders returning from State Corrections in the next 12 months*

<u>Type</u>	<u>Benton</u>	<u>Morrison</u>	<u>Stearns</u>	<u>Sherburne</u>	<u>Total</u>			
CSC (Criminal Sex Crimes)	7	9	17	12	45			
ASSAULT	5	3	25	8	41			
BURGLARY	7	1	18	8	34			
METH	4	3	13	9	29			
DRUG POSS	5	2	16	0	23			
DWI	2	1	8	2	13			
THEFT	2	2	1	0	5			
WEAPON POSS	0	1	3	1	5			
POSS STLD PROP	1	1	3	1	6			
ESCAPE	1	1	2	2	6			
FORGERY	1	1	2	0	4			
VIOLENT CRIME	1	0	2	0	3			
RACKETEERING	0	0	3	0	3			
THREATS	0	0	3	2	5			
ARSON	0	1	1	0	2			
PROP DAMAGE	1	0	1	0	2			
ADMIN CRIME	1	0	1	0	2			
FRAUD	0	0	1	0	1			
TOTAL	38	26	116	46	229			

*Provided by the Minnesota Department of Corrections for the months starting Oct 06 through September 07

Excerpts of Letters from Ex-Offenders:

Henry H. CIP-Willow River

“First of all let me say ‘Thank you’ for your hard work finding me a place to live upon my release. My wife told me that you really helped her. That means so much to me. It is really respected and appreciated; I have been going crazy trying to find a home from in here. But I can tell you this, I will never do things that take me away from my family. Thank you with all my heart and soul.”

Tony T. MCF-Fairbault

“I would like to thank you for reaching out to me after my wrong doing incident. I’ll be truthful, I promise, with your from now on, even if it hurts. I can’t risk looking you, the only friend I have.”

Frank B. MCF-Lino Lakes

“I want to thank you for your diligence in meeting my housing needs. I will send this last letter you sent to my case manager, and hopefully he can help see what going on with my request. Again I want to ‘Thank you’ for your continuing contact and help in my release. I hope to have better news coming soon.”

Chris M. MCF-St. Cloud

“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year? Thanks for the card and also your prayers. I’d like to help your organization if possible. Too many people have fallen victims to drugs and sex addition and need support leaving prison. I’ve given your name to a few people, because I am a hardcore supporter of CMNRP.”

Dan L. Stearns County Jail

“I was in Stearns County jail from Jan 13 to Feb. 21, 2006. I signed up for the RAP Group. Joe Gibbons was part of that group and agreed to me my mentor. I am 44 years old; I thought I was too old for a mentor. It turns out I was wrong. Joe got me into the Dream Center (halfway house) and helped me with transportation. I can talk to him about anything; he does not judge me or BS me. He’s straightforward. I’m glad I didn’t turn him down, He’s a good friend, and I don’t call just anyone a friend.”

Maurice R. Benton County Jail

“I was released from Benton County Jail on February 13, 2006. Since then, I have been mentored by Joe Gibbons of CMNRP. Mr. Gibbons has been very supportive in many ways. He provided transportation to the food shelf, for job hunting, and to court dates. Upon my release I had nothing. He helped me get clothing and 10-card bus pass. Mr. Gibbons provides advice and years of wisdom whenever I have an issue.”

Todd M. Benton County Jail

“While an inmate, they had programs such as ‘Lets Talk’ and REC. This is where I first met my Mentor. My mentor and I have a very true friendship. Plus I can count on him always. Back in the days when I was using drugs, I had no one to call for help, because I had burned all

bridges. Today my life has changed forever. It took a lot of hard work on my part also, but I owe most of my changes to my mentor. Most of all it feels good to have him as a mentor. What he helps with comes from the heart.”

Community Organization and Industry Association Membership

Below are the various community organizations that CMNRP is involved with;

- **AMICUS Prisoner Re-Entry Program:** AMICUS has been our mentoring organization that guides our program. All forms and procedures have been approved by AMICUS.
- **RAP (Release Advance Planning):** Holds meeting at Stearns County Corrections at 3 to 4 each Wednesday. The committee meets with an inmate to determine what services are needed for a successful reentry from jail.
- **DOC Transition Coalition:** Holds monthly meeting at the State Department of Corrections in St. Paul that address transition issues that pertain to inmates returning to the community from state correctional facilities
- **St. Cloud Human Resource Council:** Convenes monthly meeting with various human resource agencies that are part of Central Minnesota United Way.
- **Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless:** Convenes monthly meeting with area agencies that are concerned with the homeless in the St. Cloud area.
- **Community Corrections Transition Committee:** Holds monthly meeting with area correction advocates that address housing issues for felons returning to the community from county and state correctional facilities.
- **Stearns/Benton Counties Meth Coalition:** Holds monthly meeting with various advocate agencies addressing the Methamphetamine abuse problem in both counties. CMNRP is involved in the recovery aspect of the of the committee work.
- **Central Minnesota Continuum of Care Association:** Convenes monthly meeting of area people and groups that work toward providing care for inmates in transition.

Industry Membership Dues Paid:

- **Minnesota Council on Foundations:** Annual dues are \$178.00. This association provides information on Minnesota Foundations that provide funding to various organizations.
- **Minnesota Council of Non-Profit:** Annual dues are \$45.00. This association provides various information and training for non-profit organizations.
- **Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration:** Annual Dues are \$135.00. This association provides continuing training for non-profit organizations who need to obtain, train, and retain volunteers.
- **St. Cloud Human Service Council:** Annual dues are \$25.00. The Council is composed of members who are human services providers in the Central Minnesota areas and funded by Central MN United Way. The Council meets monthly to discuss community needs and training events. The Council is also involved in government issues and creating contacts and connections at the state government level.
- **Minnesota Community Correction Association:** Annual dues are \$20.00. The Minnesota Department of Corrections in St. Paul provides a variety of training opportunities to members who are involved in corrections and re-entry programs.

*“ Never doubt that a
small group of
thoughtful committed
citizens can change the
world; indeed it’s the
only thing that ever
has.”*

Margaret Mead

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