



Overview

The Character-Based Housing Unit (CHU) is a stand-alone rehabilitation program that ensures peer-to-peer accountability along with other program requirements needed for real, measurable change.

CHU Resident Coordinators in conjunction with an Administrative Board, govern, teach and reinforce all efforts in rehabilitation and ensure program needs are being met.

The program introduces men in prison to a new way of thinking and a new way to live by equipping them with pro-social skills and values in an ever-changing cultural environment.

Volunteers from the community, who are dedicated to this vision, give their time and talents to lead classes, facilitate opportunities for work and housing upon release, and mentor residents both inside the fences and in the community when released.

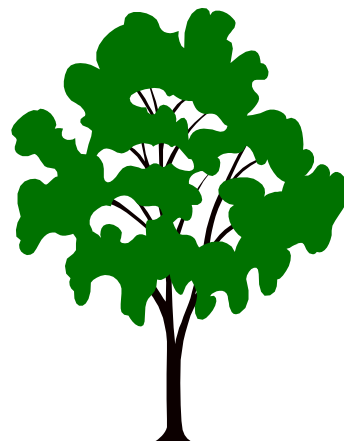
In addition, volunteers meet regularly with prison officials and community leaders to foster and develop the program.

Program Components

CHU Is More Than Special Housing to Accommodate Programming

The Allendale CHU is closely modeled after the Character-Based Living Unit at Perry Correctional Institution, and it provides much more than special housing to accommodate programming. It is a rehabilitative, residential clustering program designed as an educational, pro-social environment. The CHU is both a program itself and a facilitator of additional programming. It provides the environment and opportunity for a host of other programming modules.

Stand-Alone Rehabilitation Program



The CHU teaches and reinforces the pro-social values necessary to live in society and avoid criminal attitudes, thinking, and behavior. In addition, this program uses hands-on life skills and peer-to-peer accountability in a structured environment. These are continually reinforced in the living environment through a conflict-resolution protocol.

Measurable Progress



Administrative review of each program participant is conducted quarterly to determine if participants meet requirements for continued enrollment in the program. The residents must be gainfully employed, engaged in some type of positive programming, activities, or otherwise contributing to the community.

Respect-based rules are detailed in a *Social Contract* and provide the foundation for accountability and rehabilitation. Residents must learn and apply pro-social values, skills, attitudes, thinking, and behaviors. Residents who fail to show evidence of such participation are removed from the CHU.

The social contract governs every resident of the CHU. No one is above the laws or rules, and they are based on principles of honor and respect. Signing the *Social Contract* places responsibility on each and every one to examine his life and determine if he is willing to live by it and be held accountable to it by other residents. Each resident voluntarily enters into the contract with the community before he is accepted.

Peer-to-peer Review

Resident's peer-to-peer review is a central feature of this program. The use of peer review and inmate coordinators, or moral leaders, ensures that programming requirements are met and that real, measurable change occurs in the attitude, thinking, and behavior of each man. This *inmate-led* program provides a level of peer accountability and pressure that is absent from many agency driven models.

For society, this program provides effective, measurable rehabilitation and change at minimal costs. For the corrections agency, it provides an invaluable management tool.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Allendale Correctional Institution

CHARACTER-BASED HOUSING UNIT Social Contract

By my signature below, I _____ SCDC#____, Hereby declare that I willfully request to enter into social contract with the Allendale CHU Community, that I have been advised of the social contract and its rules, and that I will submit to them. I am also advised that I will be under peer review and that I will be judged and removed by my peers from this community if they determine that I have violated this contract

1. Respect others by controlling noise levels.
2. Respect others by maintaining personal hygiene
3. Respect others who live in/clean living area.
4. Respect others by controlling physical contact.
5. Respect others by not taking possession of property that is not yours.
6. Respect others by giving them their own personal space.
7. Respect others by controlling verbal communication.
8. Respect others by scheduling personal activities at a time/place that does not interfere, impede, or disturb another person.
9. Respect the requests/orders of any person acting in an official capacity/position.
10. Respect yourself by never acting in a way that denigrates your human dignity, that of another person, or the community.

Innovations in Corrections

As early as 2000, the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) began to experience many of the institutional disturbances like gang violence and lock-downs which other states had been plagued with for decades. Adapting and responding to these new developments proved a challenge while facing severe state budget reductions.

In 2009, six prisoners at Perry Correctional Institution, one of South Carolina's maximum security level facilities located in the upstate, approached the Warden and administrators with a proposal.. They had a vision to engage and change the prison culture from within by focusing on pro-social values and peer-to-peer accountability.

The vision turned into a collaboration for one of the most progressive and effective programs the agency has seen. Then-SCDC Director Jon Ozmint, Supreme Court Justice E.C. Burnett (retired), several prominent legislators, and ministry organization leaders travelled to Florida to tour its faith and character-based facility, and on April 9, 2010 the Character-Based Program was established at Perry. It is a thriving model that has served as an inspiration for other institutions to follow.

Allendale Correctional Institution established its program in September of 2011 with 128 residents on one wing of one dorm.. While it is similar in its structure, ACI's Character-based Housing Unit (CHU) is unique. Warden Pate appointed a panel of senior staff to act as an administrative board. At the same time, 8 resident coordinators were chosen to govern lead, promote, and facilitate the program's growth.

ACI's CHU is a tremendous success story. Over 15 volunteers from the community have been recruited to assist with programs and administrative consultation. Their leadership training and input has helped the program offer over 35 educational and personal growth classes, about half of which are lead directly by volunteers.

Plans are underway to expand the CHU to the other wing and eventually to impact the whole yard. The program is on target and poised for growth.

Character-based Housing Unit Components

- **Positive Social Environment**
- **Character Development**
- **Goals Setting**
- **Tailored Educational Courses**
- **Peer-to-Peer Accountability**
- **Respect-based Social Contract**
- **Inmate Governing Coordinators**
- **Vision for Success**

How Can You Apply?

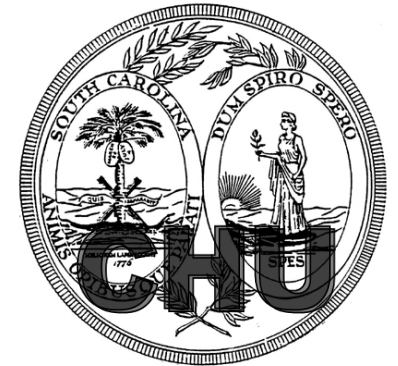
To obtain an application, send a request to staff to the Associate Warden for Programs asking for an application. Once you have been screened and approved based on the following criteria, you will be sent an application to complete and return.

Criteria

- *Must be MI, MO, or MOR custody.*
- *Must be in ACI general population and satisfactorily employed for at least 3 months.*
- *Must have 12 months or more remaining on sentence at the time of application.*
- *Must be disciplinary free of a MAJOR charge for one (1) year. If you have received a major charge in the past year, you will have to attend the Behavioral Modification Program (to be approved by Associate Warden)*
- *Must not have had more than three (3) ADMINISTRATIVE disciplinary convictions within the last year.*
- *If you have been convicted of a FIRST time offense of Exhibitionism and Public Masturbation, you will become eligible after two (2) years from the date of your release from SMU, successful completion of the ACI Sexual Misconduct Program and meet the other criteria listed above.*
- *If you have been convicted of multiple offenses of Exhibitionism and Public Masturbation, you will become eligible after five (5) years from the date of your last release from SMU, successful completion of the ACI Sexual Misconduct Program and meet the other criteria listed above.*



Allendale Correctional Institution



CHARACTER-BASED HOUSING UNIT

Introducing Men Behind Bars to a New Way of Life Equipping Them With The Pro-Social Skills Necessary to Eliminate the Prison Culture and Develop the Character Traits Needed to Be Successful in Their Community.