

The View

F R O M T H E C H U

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CHU Program Reaches One-Year Milestone

The Character-based Housing Unit at Allendale has successfully completed its first year. Founded in September of 2011, the program has progressed and met or exceeded its original goals. The following is an update on the progress of our original goals

3-Months - Restructuring

Develop the 10-men for 10 days program. This was implemented and completed in 2nd quarter of this year.

Weed out those who do not belong in the CHU. Efforts are ongoing. Protocol was put into place to address deficiencies, formally engage, and place on redemption plans, inmates who are deficient in their commitments under the Social Contract.

Develop new meaningful programs. Quality and quantity of programs has steadily increased. Volunteer-led classes have increased. Inmate classes have also increased.

Educate the Inmate Population and Staff about the CHU. A monthly newsletter was started in 2nd quarter of 2012 for residents and is posted in general population, as well as distributed among staff. Orientation sessions and character classes for those who have placed applications are regularly held.

6-Month Goals - Mentoring

Create an Outreach/Mentoring program. Weekly character-development classes are held in the Shift Briefing room on Mondays during the 12:30 count and anyone who has attended orientation is invited to participate. In addition to the character development, it is a time for candidates to ask questions and for CHU coordinators and mentors to observe and screen potential residents. A Permanent Mentor program was established in 3rd quarter of 2012, expanding CHU leadership by 10-12 residents.

Develop Partnerships with staff and members of the community

Monthly meetings with volunteers and senior ACI staff are held. Volunteers evaluate the programs in place and assess the needs for future classes. In addition, bi-weekly meetings with the CHU administrative board help

improve the staff-coordinator partnership.

Create a community of leaders to change the culture and ACI

Through character-development and advanced character-development classes, leadership is promoted and is active at ACI.

9-Month Goals - Educating

To represent every area of the Institution with CHU residents

CHU residents are now well represented in all key position at ACI. CHU residents hold clerk and leadership productive work assignments in B-Building, Visitation, Education, Recreation, Chaplain Services, Commissary, Canteen, Cafeteria, Horticulture, Inmate Religious Organizations, and are in position to provide key workers to prison industries when a new company commits to ACI.

Having classes in each of the housing units to develop men for the CHU

Administrative decision have not allowed us to hold classes in other units, but the population is able to participate in previously mentioned outreach programs

Having community forums

CHU Coordinators host weekly Town Hall meetings. Occasionally an outside consultant has addressed "Big Picture" issues. Some special programs are held for the CHU program residents such as movies, Celebration of Recovery, etc.

1-Year Goals - Expanding

Open A-Side of F-4 for the CHU

Plans to expand in the 3rd quarter have been postponed to allow consultants Mr. Ozley and Mr. Conner to complete an evaluation and make recommendations. It is anticipated that this will be accomplished by the end of the 4th quarter. Over 170 inmates have applied to join the CHU program and are awaiting screening, acceptance and space.

A-WING POISED FOR CHU EXPANSION

Applicants to the CHU program are on the A-Wing in anticipation of impending expansion. Once all residents are screened, oriented, and sign the social contract, they will officially become part of the CHU. Meanwhile, they are learning more about the program first-hand. To be considered for the program, applicants must meet the following 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.

Upon satisfactory screening and/or completion and referral of the Behavior Modification course, residents may be placed on the waiting list by the Program Director, Associate Warden M. Newton. If the above criteria are **not** met, applicants may agree to enroll in a Behavior Modification class. Coordinators then recommend for admittance. No exceptions are made for the criteria concerning exhibition and public masturbation as outlined above.





WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

We welcome the following new residents to the CHU during the past 2 months, and wish

them every success in this program: *Herbert Salters, Grady Burke, Anthony Smalls, Richard Chastain, Brad Hall, Clark Williams, Jr., Anthony Williams, Desmond Campbell, Derrick Smith, William Pulkownik, Carlos Moore, Samuel Brown, James Lawrence, Valdedius Brown, Sr., Geoffrey Payne, and Allen Baker.*

NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM TO BE CONDUCTED IN DORMS

Reaching out to other units and demonstrating the foundations of a character-based life are just two of the goals for the new Leadership Outreach program CHU coordinators and permanent mentors are taking to other units. Coordinators will visit other units each week and encourage those interested in personal growth to take action. They will have applications on hand and are prepared to assist potential CHU residents in completing them.

RECOVERY PROGRAMS PROSPERING AT ACI

The Alcohol Recovery programs at ACI have really taken off over the past year. *Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, A New Way of Life, and Celebrate Recovery* programs have all seen increases in participation under the volunteer direction of Mike Znachko, who has been in the recovery business for 30 years, 5 of which have been at ACI. Celebrate Recovery, a Christian, 12-step program that helps inmates deal with their addictions and improve their relationship with Jesus, is the newest addition to programs. Brian Rogers and Lee Vaughn recently came on board to instruct the weekly program. CHU Coordinator Lawrence Sheedy is the General Service Representative for both AA and NA and is in constant contact with both. The CHU program currently has two AA/NA meetings a week, one *A New Way of Life* 12-step program. In addition there are two NA/AA meetings for the population (Thursdays 9-11 am,

Friday 7-9:00 pm, and Saturdays 11-1:00 pm). Currently, only CHU residents are able to attend *Celebrate Recovery* but Sheedy said they “look forward to introducing these programs to the entire population in the future.” “Everyone has some type of addiction and these programs have helped millions of people recover,” Sheedy commented. “I keep coming back to prison because I never addressed the issues that caused me to use drugs and alcohol. It was easy for me to admit I had a problem, but it’s been a lot of hard work to begin the recovery process. God willing, I will continue to recover today.” he added.

ONE-YEAR CELEBRATION PROGRAM HUGE SUCCESS

Over 58 residents and 25 volunteers were recognized October 24 in the Visitation room for their legacy in completing the CHU program’s inaugural year. CHU coordinators, Program Director, Administrative Committee, and senior staff took part in the gala which was planned by the CHU coordinators to celebrate both the volunteers and residents who have helped make our first year a success.

The keynote speaker was Kent James, a long-time volunteer and retired construction management professional.

The CHU residents receiving an award represented over 30,000 contact hours dedicated to positive programs designed to improve their pro-social skills and enhance their personal growth and development. Those receiving certificates included:

Brenist Gunter, Wesley Jarrell, Edgar White, Robert Agosto, Allen DeRoin, Ronald Albright, John Wojcik, James Carter, George Demedicis, Robert Dorsett, Juan Vasquez, Jonathan Simpson, Jerome Scott, Roy Harris, Carlos Elliot, Brian Howard, Zachary Helms, Anthony Crosby, Joseph Neal, Henry Davis, Scott Atkinson, John Ladson, Paul Hamilton, Jerry Fields, Michael Linder, Robert Morgan, Lawrence Sheedy, Tommy Maynard, Herbert Parker, Anthony Anderson, Paul Long, Todd Middleton, Sean Gordon, Horace Riley, Stanley Miller, Travis Gray, Randy Fail, Jeff Stinson, Roy Wade, Emiah Anderson, Leroy Rivers, Charlie Jackson, Clastimile Dixon, Nathan Patrick, James Reynolds, Bernard Stanley, Darrell Felder, Dennis Jacobs, Lewis Orr, Keith Bratcher, Gregory Mackey,

Zaine Davis, Louie Gilreath, Robbie Collins, Zawaski Cobb, Donald Gasque, Please Smith

Volunteers included: *Kent & Meg James, Ricky & Gail Henderson, Tom Connor, Lee Ozley, Lee Lambert, Ron Weisburg, Molly Whittlesey, Les Knight, Tim Terry, Rob Cushman, Mike Znachko, Meredith Kronz, Sharon Nelson, Bob Smith, Wayne Johnson, Norm & Susie Galloway, Pat Burkhart, Tom Hendrickson, Jeni Gardner, Brian Rogers, Lee Vaughn, Bishop Croft.*

Special thanks to the volunteers, Warden John Pate, Associate Warden Arthur Jordan, Associate Warden McKendley Newton, senior staff, and support staff who helped make all of this possible.

NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO CHU ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

We welcome three additional staff members to the CHU Administrative Committee. Ms. Cynthia Hauptman (Canteen Supervisor), Ms. Margaret McQueen (Education Coordinator), and Chaplain John Porter were added to the group last month. They are joined by the CHU Coordinators, existing staff members Lt. T. Ramsey and Classification Caseworker Ms. Kathy Hudson. Associate Warden McKendley Newton is the Chairman and Program Director. The committee is currently working with consultant Lee Ozley to better define roles and expectations of each other as they help promote the vision and facilitation of the CHU.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

If you were in a boat with your worst enemy, would you shoot a hole in his side of the boat?

On Forgiveness...

November

CHARACTER TRAIT OF THE MONTH

Sensitivity v. Callousness

Perceiving the true attitudes and emotions of those around me

