



Housing, not Handcuffs

Most women are jailed for low-level, nonviolent offenses, according to the Vera Institute of Justice. They often become involved with the justice system as a result of efforts to cope with life challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and significant physical or behavioral health struggles.

Once incarcerated, women must grapple with systems designed primarily for men. As a result, many leave jail with diminished prospects for physical and behavioral health recovery, as well as greater parental stress and financial instability. Used to having every minute of their day structured, when they become homeless, they are prone to have a parole or probation violation.

Across the country, cities are criminalizing homelessness, making it illegal for people to sit, sleep, and even eat in public places—despite the absence of housing or even shelter, and other basic resources.

These laws and policies violate constitutional rights, create arrest records, and fines and fees that stand in the way of homeless people getting jobs or housing.

The evidence is clear that home-

lessness is reduced in communities that focus on housing, and not those that focus on handcuffs.



Criminalization of homelessness costs more money than simply solving the problem by ensuring access to adequate housing.

And there is a growing awareness among the public that our criminal justice system is not the solution to social problems.

The *Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign* was initiated by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and the National Coalition for the Homeless, and more than 100 participating organiza-

tions, including groups that don't commonly work together, such as:

- Housing groups pushing for greater access to affordable housing
- Homelessness groups pushing for homeless services and rights
- Civil rights groups
- Criminal and juvenile justice reform groups
- Organizations supporting children and youth

A safe place to live is essential for the women Shiloh Village will serve. Fresh out of jail, most ex-prisoners have no money to pay rent and no household furnishings.

Helping a newly released woman find affordable housing will have a huge impact on whether she will become a law abiding citizen or return to jail.

Shiloh Village will provide an apartment and the support networks to help them get back on their feet and successfully transition back into society.

All roads lead to . . .

Shiloh Village!



Meet & Greet

On November 16, several of our board members attended the Open House at the Schoenbaum Family Enrichment Center (SFEC) located in Charleston's West Side on 5th Avenue.



Josie Counts, SFEC Board Member, Gail Kopf, Executive Director of Shiloh Village, Loretta Jett-Haddad, SFEC President and CEO

In the early 1990's, the president of the Community Council of Kanawha Valley brought their nonprofit center idea to Alex Schoenbaum, a pillar of the Charleston community who developed the chain of Shoney's restaurants.

Alex and his wife, Betty, were enthusiastic about the proposal and agreed to support the center's development. After Alex passed away, Betty gave \$500,000 to secure the property for SFEC.

We met President and CEO, Loretta Jett-Haddad

who detailed the history, growth and future of SFEC. Opened in 2002, their mission is to provide or coordinate needed resources for people, families, and businesses through services, community partnerships, and opportunities.

SFEC provides versatile space with affordable rates, and they act as a leasing agent and facilitate meeting room rentals for SFEC, as well as offering an information center, technology solutions, and the James H. Dissen Resource Library for service providers and community members.

Their family and children-focused center, houses nonprofit resource programs that deliver critical services such as child care, early childhood intervention, workforce training, information and referral services, community programming, emergency and personal assistance, in-home care, and free internet access and computer use.

We've learned that collaboration with organizations like SFEC can be enormously positive for moving an agenda forward, or simply increasing a nonprofit's ability to influence a greater number of people.

Did You Know?

The Vera Institute of Justice says it's crucial for an inmate to be motivated by a specific opportunity or program (such as Shiloh Village) for positive employment outcomes.

Putting 100 formerly incarcerated people back to work could:

- Increase their lifetime earnings by \$55 million
- Increase their income tax contributions by \$1.9 million
- Boost sales tax revenue by \$770,000
- Save \$2 million in criminal justice expenditures

Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, Sept. 2011



Building Blocks

In November 2017, the WV Housing Development Fund in cooperation with the WV Coalition to End Homelessness, and TDA Consulting Inc. launched a project call the Rural Supportive Housing Initiative (RSHI). Using a national HUD grant awarded to Collaborative Solutions, Inc., the initiative recently expanded into WV.



After we completed the application process, Shiloh Village, Inc. along with eight other organizations, was selected as a member of the West Virginia Peer Network.

The RSHI works with housing developers, service providers, municipalities, and state agencies throughout the U.S. in an effort to increase permanent supportive housing for vulnerable populations, including those living with HIV/AIDS, serious mental illness, substance abuse and disability, and those experiencing homelessness, like inmates released from jail or prison.

RSHI is a supportive forum for nonprofit housing developers and service providers to engage in shared learning, to strategize overcoming local challenges, and to gain confidence in advocacy efforts to change systems. Because they interact with vulnerable populations who often face housing instability, participants have a common goal, purpose and investment in the work.

The result is rapport and trust within the group and an environment conducive to learning and change. Through the Peer Network participants work with skilled trainers and one another to enhance their organization's capacity to lead their organizations and communities in the creation of permanent sup-

portive housing. As participants, we'll learn about the resources necessary to undertake housing development and be able to create partnerships be-



Randall Mullen, Vice President of TDA Consulting, Inc.

tween the developers and Shiloh Village, Inc.

On November 28, TDA Consulting, Inc., held a kick-off meeting at the office of the WV Housing Development Fund in Charleston, WV.

Among the topics presented were, *Understanding the Affordable Housing Market and Community Needs*, *What is Supportive Housing and How is it Provided*, *Networking in the Specialized Program Area*, and *Funding and Financing*. This was followed by a remote session in January 2018.



Mentoring Works!

For more than 15 years, Criminal Justice Chaplaincy has worked with Calvin Christian Reformed Church and other churches in Grand Rapids, MI, to mentor women recently released from prison. The women receive support to reintegrate into life after prison through the Take Charge program.

Following mentor training, volunteers attend the Take Charge meetings and work with women who have been referred by probation officers, homeless shelters, and domestic violence support organizations.

“These women come uncertain, isolated, and sometimes angry. Over time we see them let their guard down and trust again,” said Take Charge program manager Sarah Rhein.

During their meetings, the women are able to meet with other women, create friendships, and gain peer support. They cover topics such as finances, parenting, and nutrition. As the women attend groups or receive mentoring, they can also become reintegrated with a church community.

“Many of the speakers for the Take Charge group, share how God has been instrumental in the transformation they’ve experienced in their live,” Rhein said. “We see participants strengthening their connection to Jesus, reestablishing a relationship with God, or becoming more open to beginning one.”

~ Karen Schmitt ~

The Banner Newspaper, July 29, 2016



U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2012 Robbery and Property Crime by Type and Average Value Lost

Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Clock Statistics

Success Story

Mark Wahlberg is a model citizen now. In addition to being an Oscar nominated actor and Hollywood leading man, the 46-year-old is married, and a loving father to four young children.



He's the world's highest paid actor, grossing 68 million in the past 12 months.

But when he was 16, he attacked two Vietnamese-American men, knocking one unconscious with a 5 foot long stick and punching the other. He was charged with attempted murder, pleaded guilty to

assault, and **served 45 days in prison**. In 2014, he briefly pursued a pardon for the assaults but later dropped the motion, according to the Los Angeles Times.

However, the process allowed Wahlberg to meet with one of his victims and the victim's family, to apologize for those horrific acts. "Some good did come out of it," he told reporters in 2016.

In his 2014 request, he wrote, "I have not engaged in philanthropic efforts in order to make people forget about my past. To the contrary, I want people to remember my past so that I can serve as an example of how lives can be turned around and how people can be redeemed."



 Visit Us, Like Us, & SHARE US on Facebook

Shilohvillage.org