

ANNUAL REPORT – 2014

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2014 found Horizon Communities in Prison expanding on at least two different fronts; Florida and Ohio. Initiatives in Texas and Oklahoma remain stable but ready to expand.

Florida Department of Corrections contracted with Horizon for two new initiatives in 2014; Hernando C.I. (women) and Lowell Annex (women) to join Horizon programs at Tomoka C.I., Wakulla C.I and Wakulla Annex. The program at Tomoka C.I. the first such program in a maximum security prison, now consisting of four dorms housing 300 men, continued to grow and solidify its position as the bellwether reentry preparation program in Florida.

After observing Horizon at Tomoka for fifteen years, the Florida Department of Corrections has released recidivism rates specific to Tomoka Horizon, both for an eleven year look, and the most recent 5 years. They show that over 11 years, the Horizon graduate recidivism rate has been 15%, and the most recent five year rate has been an astounding 5.5%, proving that programming and procedures developed by Horizon, in collaboration with Corrections, have produced an unprecedented program of preparing inmates for release.

The Horizon team at Wakulla C.I. and Wakulla Annex continues to work closely with nearby government offices in Tallahassee to coordinate Horizon programs written by inmates and presented by trained inmate peer facilitators for distribution throughout the system. Policy makers can easily visit Horizon programs in action at Wakulla, and they like what they see.

Industry certification programs are offered wherever administrative support is provided by the institution. Tomoka has become a registered test site for Wastewater Treatment Certification by the Florida Environmental Agency and boasts an 80% pass rate as opposed to the state-wide 25% pass rate. Technology industry programs hold equally impressive opportunities for participants.

Ohio Horizon, led by Jeff Hunsaker, manages communities in London C.I. and Chillicothe C.I. as well as the original Marion C.I. which began in the year 2,000. Growth of Ohio programs has been steady and continuous with the recent installation of New Century Education under a grant from the Attorney General's Office. These installations utilize the Horizon Community to provide clerks, tutors and general oversight of educational components. Inmates ready to take the GED are referred to the Education Department for testing and certification. In both Ohio and Florida, this prototype is proving to be the most economic education process in Corrections today.

The cumulative recidivism rate in Ohio, since their 2000 start-up, continues to drop from an already impressive 15% as the education component takes effect. With the addition of education, we are sure the Ohio recidivism rate will draw very close to the Tomoka record within a short period of time.

Horizon has received new inquiries from the Alabama Policy Council, which is examining the development of Horizon, or Horizon-type programming into their Department of Corrections.

Horizon is actively searching for a new executive director. With the recent documentation of outcomes, both in Florida and in Ohio, Horizon Communities offer an outstanding approach to reentry preparation which holds great potential in any prison system. We therefore ask your assistance - to be on the lookout for the next generation of leadership. This is an incredible opportunity for that special man or woman, from the ordained or laity, who:

- is retired, or facing early retirement, seeking truly meaningful work in a very interesting environment;
- has a passion for helping the incarcerated prepare to be a free citizen;
- is an individual of strong personal faith who can work in a deeply ecumenical setting with no compunction to proselytize;
- understands the military command structure of Corrections and can work within their structure, yet works from the heart of ministry;
- is an individual with a national, rather than a regional scope of interest,
- does not totally depend on Horizon for financial support.

The new executive director will be able to:

1. Shape the Board of Directors to support his/her work in expansion
2. Bring new technology to bear on the administration and organization of Horizon as it grows.
3. Meet and work with some of the most interesting, genuine and creative people in the world – people who live and work from the confinement of a prison cell to the halls of government, and everywhere in between.

I thank God every day for the privilege this opportunity has provided over the last thirty years...

Ike Griffin

President, Horizon Communities in Prison

Former Executive Director of Kairos Prison Ministry International.

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