



# Minnesota Community Corrections **HAPPEN**

Winter 2005

## Sponsor Spotlight

### **Volunteers of America Correctional Services**

-Bill Nelson



**V**olunteers of America (VOA), a national organization, has been rooted in corrections since 1896. Maude Booth, a co-founder of the Volunteers of America, did early work in Sing-Sing Prison to counsel and preach; this was a time when the mere presence of women in male prisons was very unusual. Maude's work was founded primarily on Christian principles of reform and salvation. In the early 1900's she established a number of community "resettlement houses" called Hope Halls.

way house), to be located in South Minneapolis. More than 9,000 people in the South Minneapolis neighborhood signed petitions to thwart the establishment of



*Volunteers of America - Residential Center*

As early as 1896, Volunteers of America had a presence in Minnesota that included street ministries, camps outside of the cities for women and children, and the establishment of the Bar None Ranch located in Anoka. At that time, there were few government programs that directly financed the private non-profit sector. VOA's work was carried on in Minnesota through volunteerism, passing the hat in places such as bars, and other public free-will donations.

#### **Volunteers of America - Residential Center**

In the mid 1960's Volunteers of America proposed to establish the first community correctional facility (half-

the halfway house, and VOA was obliged to carry the matter to the State Supreme Court. VOA opened its doors in May of 1969 and admitted residents on referral by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Over the years, the agency has served more than 6,000 state and federal offenders by helping them in their search for employment, offering chemical dependency counseling, and developing a positive support system in the community. The VOA Residential Center has received six accreditation awards by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections (ACA), maintains a 58-bed program, and has become a center for the assembly of Narcotics Anonymous groups. During any given

*VOA, continued on p. 8*

## **DOC**

### **Transitions Services**

- Tim Lanz, Transition Program Director

**T**he Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) has recognized for some time the critical importance of effective transition services that prepare offenders for release from confinement. Toward that end, a good deal of energy has been put into organizing resources and starting initiatives within DOC facilities.

One recent innovation was to create a new state job classification of Corrections Transition Program Coordinator. This allowed staff who had been doing transition work in an assortment of positions to move into a distinct classification that provided improved clarity of objectives, work responsibilities, and service consistency from facility to facility. These new

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## Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)

**M**innesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) is a non-profit organization that has been in existence for more than twelve years. Our mission is to provide/coordinate preventive transitional & permanent housing and supportive services for veterans who are experiencing homelessness or who are in danger of becoming homeless and who are motivated towards positive change. "Veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. We have served more than 2600 homeless veterans.

MACV's main office is located on the VA Medical Center Campus in Minneapolis. There are two additional outreach centers that work to reach veterans in greater Minnesota. Veterans Outreach North is located in Duluth, and serves northern Minnesota. Veterans Outreach South is located in Mankato, serving southern Minnesota. We also own and operate a transitional housing unit in St. Cloud, MN.

MACV works with homeless veterans to place them in transitional and permanent housing for the veterans and their families. We are the only known program in Minnesota that works exclusively with homeless veterans as their target population. We use the Twelve Step Alcoholics Anonymous program and incorporate life/living and employment skills programming developed by Hazelden into our supportive service approach.

Homelessness and its consequences are leading causes of personal and family suffering and community problems resulting in major health and social costs. MACV exists to directly help veterans and their families affected by homelessness; to serve, inform, educate and train others to carry our message of hope; and to set a national standard for caring and excellence working with veterans who are threatened by or are experiencing homelessness.

MACV provides a structured program that gives the homeless veteran the support to become a productive member of the community. We provide food and housing, coordinate employment, assist with school and work, in a structured program that is affordable.

### MACV Transitional Housing

We own nine transitional housing residences for participants in our Structured Independent Living (SIL) program. We have seven homes in South Minneapolis, one in Richfield, and one in St. Cloud. A veteran can reside in one of our transitional houses for up to 24-months. Admission requirements for MACV's housing are as follows:

It is the policy of the *Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans* to admit all veterans without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion or disability; sexual orientation and who meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a veteran of the United States as defined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The veteran must furnish proof of veteran status (a copy of DD214 or letter from VARO stating they are eligible for full veteran benefits). No bad conduct, undesirable or dishonorable discharges are eligible for our services.
2. Must be homeless. (Defined as an individual without adequate and fixed nighttime lodging).
3. Must be ambulatory and be independent in activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, etc.).
4. Must be free of communicable diseases. In cases where veterans have communicable diseases, they must be a-symptomatic and/or receiving medical treatment.
5. Must show proof of Minnesota residency (minimum 30 days).
6. Must comply with a Criminal Background Check prior to entry into our residential programs (i.e. Building 47) or any of MACV's Structured Independent Living Housing Units. Based on this background check, MACV reserves the right to refuse entry into our programs. Convicted or pending arson charges are **NOT eligible**. Charges pending for criminal sex cases are also **NOT eligible**. Convictions for criminal sex offenses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis **only** for possible entry into our residential program (Building 47). This review may include current legal disposition, treatment outcomes for the offense, contact with the treatment provider, and contact with the probation officer, and all others concerned. Convictions for criminal sex offenses are **NOT eligible** for entry into our Structured Independent Living Housing Units.
7. Veterans in any of our residential programs (i.e. Building 47) must have a PPD Test (TB).
8. Proof of income if currently working. If not currently working, must be employable and willing to participate in program activities to include job club, recovery seminars, living skills, etc. Plan must include veteran participation, which includes a monthly program fee of \$330.00. This fee pays for all housing including utilities and phone. If the veteran is not employed, the program fee will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

MACV's facilities are alcohol- and drug-free. Therefore, veterans must not use alcohol (this includes no usage of 'non-alcohol' beverages) or mood-altering chemicals while living in our facilities. Methadone patients are **NOT eligible** for

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## Spirituality Workshop

The Minnesota Community Corrections Association and City House, a Minneapolis, non-profit organization, held a workshop October 1<sup>st</sup>, on *Supporting the Spirituality of Corrections Clients*. The workshop covered understanding differing points of view about supporting client spirituality; understanding when to go there, if at all with clients, and practical tools for going there.

Topics discussed included what spirituality is, and is not, various points of view held by people, what ways is spirituality uncomfortable or inappropriate for Corrections

Organizations in supporting client spirituality, why address spirituality at all? And Practical tools for discussing spirituality with clients. There was consensus that all people have a relationship with a higher power but that there is a lot of different language used. Someone may be religious and not spiritual and/or vice versa. There is a fine line in supporting clients spiritually when also enforcing appropriate boundaries. Of importance is not proselytizing and honoring where the client is coming from whatever language they may use. There are openings and opportunities to discuss spirituality with clients when they are in a state of hope-

lessness, despair, grieving, crisis, and working with 12 steps, to name a few. Exploration questions that can help broach the topic may be— what gives you strength? what gives you life? what ways of praying and/or meditating work for you? These are just a few different approaches that can open one up to a spiritual conversation.

City House has 50 volunteer spiritual companions that work with 20 social service agencies. The volunteers provide spiritual direction/companionship with individuals that are homeless, in correctional facilities, or recently released, and individuals dealing with



chemical dependency. City House believes that spirituality is strength and when a client's spirituality is addressed, there is an increase in program completion, client self-sufficiency, and reduced recidivism. For further information, please contact Tom Allen Executive Director, 612.929.0874 or [www.cityhouse.org](http://www.cityhouse.org)





## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



### LEVEL OF SERVICE INVENTORY – REVISED (LSI-R) TRAINING

In this training you will learn about the use of the LSI-R risk/needs assessment tool and its function as part of a case planning effort. This training is cosponsored by Minnesota DOC, St. Louis County and the LSI-R Network. It is for supervisors, agents, case managers and other correctional practitioners whose responsibilities include conducting adult offenders' LSI-R risk/needs assessments or ensuring their quality control.

**When:** January 24 - 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
January 25 - 8:00 am-4:00 pm  
January 26 - 8:00 am-3:00 pm

**Where:** DOC Central Office, St. Paul, Pung 2 and Pung 3

**Trainers:** Jason Anderson – DOC Field Services, Gr. Rapids  
Cheryl Harder, St. Louis County

**Cost:** No registration fee. Registrants are responsible for their own lodging, meals & travel.

**Registration Deadline:** January 10, 2005

**Training Hours:** 20 hrs.

### YOUTH LEVEL OF SERVICE/ CASE MANAGEMENT INVENTORY (YLS/CMI) TRAINING

In this training you will learn about the use of the YLS/CMI assessment tool and its function in determining the appropriate level of supervision as well as identifying goals for reducing risk areas. This training is cosponsored by Minnesota DOC, Anoka County Community Corrections and the YLS/CMI Advisory Board. It is for supervisors, agents, case managers and other correctional practitioners whose responsibilities include conducting juvenile offenders' YLS/CMI risk/needs assessments or ensuring their quality control.

**When:** February 22 - 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
February 23 - 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
February 24 - 8:30 am-4:30 pm

**Where:** DOC Central Office, St. Paul, Pung 1 & Pung 2

**Trainers:** Mary Evers and Scott Phillips –  
Anoka County Community Corrections

**Cost:** No registration fee. Registrants are responsible for their own lodging, meals and travel.

**Registration Deadline:** February 8, 2005

**Training Hours:** 21

**Regarding the two abovetrainings: If you are considering promotion, check with your supervisor to see if you need this training.** You will receive instruction related to effective interventions, principles of offender classification, interviewing, scoring and using the LSI-R, and recording assessments online. You will develop an understanding of the principles involved as well as develop the skills necessary to put them into practice. Participants **MUST** attend all parts of the training to receive training credit.

Registrations: Maximum 30 registrants; minimum: 15 registrants. DOC staff and county staff who have received an ID number for registrations can register on the DOC website (see "Other DOC Sites" and then "Training Opportunities"). Others should send an e-mail specifying the course and dates, their name, job title, agency, mailing address, phone number, **and e-mail address** to [cotraining@co.doc.state.mn.us](mailto:cotraining@co.doc.state.mn.us). Space is limited so do not delay!

Questions? Contact Person: Sue Stacey – [susan.stacey@state.mn.us](mailto:susan.stacey@state.mn.us)





## MORE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES!!

**Save the Date: February 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 2005**

We're back at Camp Ripley! Join MCCA on February 17<sup>th</sup> and for a half day on February 18<sup>th</sup> to strengthen your knowledge and career on these topics:

- Treatment and supervision of female sex offenders
- Minnesota's Methamphetamine Epidemic
- Cognitive concepts and programs to use with offenders
- An understanding of the Civil Commitment process
- Effective Case Management
- Restorative justice and family group conferencing
- Cultural sensitivity training

Pre-Registration is required to help maintain security at Camp Ripley. Please use the attached form (p. 11) and return with payment by February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Make sure to check the appropriate boxes if you wish to reserve a private, maid-quartered room on base at Camp Ripley. Please DO NOT send payment for the room with registration. On-base rooms are payable to Camp Ripley upon arrival. If you have further questions, please contact Bridget Letnes at [Bridget@180degrees.org](mailto:Bridget@180degrees.org), (612) 813-5017.

### Sexual Psychopathic Personalities

**Date:** March 18, 2005  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
**Location:** Dept. of Corrections, Central Office, Pung Rooms 1 & 2  
**Presenter:** Steve J Huot, M.Ed., Licensed Psychologist  
**Resgistration:** Mark Groves, [mgroves@rseden.org](mailto:mgroves@rseden.org)

Steve is currently the Director of Sex Offender Management Services for MN DOC. In that capacity, he serves as the Clinical Director of the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP). He has worked for the DOC for 18 years as a staff psychologist and clinical director, he is one of the co-authors of the Minnesota Sex Offender Screening Tool-Revised and has conducted research on sex offender treatment and recidivism, civil commitment, and community notification. He is a clinical member of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers and was the president of the Minnesota Chapter (MNATSA) from 2001 to 2003.

*This training is free to MCCA members. If you are not an MCCA member, you may attend this workshop and pay your annual \$20.00 membership.*

### Transition Services, continued from cover

positions have been established at the Lino Lakes, Faribault, Moose Lake, and Shakopee facilities. There is discussion of also establishing one at Stillwater.

Transition coordinators use multiple strategies to assist offenders. They provide pre-release classroom instruction and individual assistance for offenders with specialized needs. They operate self-service library resource areas at each facility, coordinate guest speakers on transition topics, and conduct resource and job fairs and workshops. They focus on topics such as housing, employment, personal health and health insurance, personal identification documents, financial management, and family issues.

Although they are located within facilities, transition coordinators must continuously reach out to the many and varied resources in communities throughout Minnesota. Regular communication and collaboration with state, local, and federal agency staff is critical to success, as is communication and cooperation with many varied faith-based groups and community-based organizations.

Transition coordinators are transition resource and process experts at their facilities, both for offenders and staff who rely on them for current information on resources as well as the procedural complexities commonly involved in accessing them.

The challenge is to stay abreast of an incredibly complicated, constantly changing landscape of offenders and offender resources. The creation of these new staff classifications has positioned the DOC to do this in the most effective and collaborative manner.

For more information about transition programming or a directory of current DOC transition staff, contact Tim Lanz, Transition Program Director, at 651/603-0080 or [Timothy.J.Lanz@state.mn.us](mailto:Timothy.J.Lanz@state.mn.us).

## The Reality of Low-Wage Jobs

- Herb Frey, Alliance Housing Executive Director

Alliance Housing's big interest right now is workforce housing. We first got interested in it after reading Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dime*. The book relates Ehrenreich's experiences working in Key West as a waitress, in Portland, Maine as a house cleaner, and in Minneapolis as a Wal-Mart retail clerk (or "associate" in Wal-Martese). Ehrenreich finally had to bail on her Wal-Mart job since she simply couldn't find an apartment cheap enough to rent on her \$7.00 an hour Wal-Mart wages.

Since reading this book, Alliance Housing has begun developing two projects: Hiawatha Commons, 80 units of workforce housing at Lake and Hiawatha in Minneapolis; and Broadway Workforce Apartments, 31 units on West Broadway in north Minneapolis, a few blocks before Minneapolis turns into Robbinsdale. Together the two projects will have 80 efficiency apartments, 25 one-bedrooms, and 16 two-bedrooms. Rents for the efficiencies are all \$402 a month, affordable to someone making \$7.75 an hour and working full-time.

The economic downturn has been hard on many Alliance Housing tenants. Some residents have been forced into working out of the temporary labor pools. Others can't get full-time work. The result is often not enough income to pay rent. Alliance Housing cuts them slack and hopes they can catch up on their rent. Some do. Some don't and have to move back to the shelter.

Sadly, more low-wage jobs appear to be the future of the US economy. In the 1970s, manufacturing employed a third of the men who didn't attend

college. That dropped to 16% in 2000 and is expected to drop to 12% in 2008. Those jobs have been replaced by service sector jobs which now make up 80% of non-farm jobs in the US. A third of these jobs pays well and belong to architects, lawyers, stockbrokers and executives. The majority, however, are low end. This low-wage sector creates over half the new jobs in the US.

What are these jobs? Food preparation and service, retail sales, cashiers, security guards, waiters and

***Low-wage sector jobs create over half the new jobs in the US., which include food service, retail sales, cashiers, security guards, waiters and waitresses, janitors, health care aides, teacher's assistants and child care workers.***

waitresses, all of which belong to the top ten job growth sectors in the economy. Other growing job sectors include: janitors, home health aides, nursing aides, laborers, landscapers, teacher's assistants, receptionists and information clerks, child care workers, packagers, and medical assistants. Nationally, the average wage for these jobs is around \$8.50 an hour, or \$17,680 a year, for those lucky to be full-time.

This is half what such workers make in Germany, where workers also get automatic health care, child care, and education benefits.

As you might expect, 60% of low-wage workers are women. However, only 20% of these workers are white women. Minorities and immigrants

make up the majority with black women holding 31.2% of these jobs and Latino women 40.4% of the jobs. Men do better: only 20% of male workers work for low wages, but this percentage is increasing.

It isn't just their low pay that make these jobs a problem, it's also that most are part-time and without benefits: no health insurance, no vacation or sick days, no retirement, no unemployment. Many of these workers have to work nights, irregular work weeks (which makes it hard to schedule a second job), and overtime whenever it's required (which makes it hard to pick up kids at daycare if you can afford daycare). Couples who work these jobs often stagger their hours so one or the other can be home at the same time the kids are. While it seems practical, it's not the best arrangement for a couple's relationship.

Myths abound with these jobs. One myth is that teenagers hold most of these jobs. Just 7% of these jobs are held by teenagers. Another myth is that they are entry-level jobs. Wrong: they're dead end jobs. They lead to nothing more than another low-paying job. According to Harvard's Richard Freeman, we're creating an apartheid economy in the US. Low-wage workers stay low-wage and so do their children. They aren't moving into the middle class, which is really shrinking. (In 1983, middle-income jobs made up 44% of US jobs; in 2005, that percentage will have dropped to 39%.)

Bill Clinton figured we could educate our way out of a declining wage base. Ship the low-end manufacturing jobs off to the Third World and train US workers to do the higher-end jobs. The trouble with this scenario is

## MCF-Moose Lake Transition Fair

- Nate Knutson, Transition Coordinator

The 5th Annual Transition Fair was held on September 16, 2004. Forty-one community agencies participated in this year's event. Approximately 500 offenders were in attendance. Offenders from the Moose Lake Facility were thankful for the wide range of information that they were



able to acquire for their use in planning for their release. This year, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) sent a film crew to document the fair. Their emphasis was to expose the barriers that offenders face when returning to the community after incarceration. The Minnesota Community Corrections Association (MCCA) co-sponsored this year's event and can be thanked for the delicious luncheon. The success of this kind of event hinges directly upon the agencies that attend the fair. Planning for 2005 is already underway and we hope to provide a more diverse collection of agencies. Next year, our goal is to make the "2005 Transition



Fair" the biggest and best resource fair of its kind. We hope to have representation from 65 to 75 agencies and organizations. If you represent or know of an agency whose services could be of benefit to the residents of MCF-Moose Lake, please have them get in contact with transition coordinator Nate Knutson at 218-485-5000 x5672 or [naknutso@ml.doc.state.mn.us](mailto:naknutso@ml.doc.state.mn.us).

### What if you ...

- If you have something to do, and you put it off long enough, chances are someone else will do it for you.
- If you have to ask, you are not entitled to know.
- If you keep saying things are going to be bad, you have a chance of being a prophet.
- If you make people think they're thinking, they'll love you; but if you really make them think they'll hate you.
- If you mess with a thing long enough, it will break.
- If you put it off long enough, it might go away.
- If you see someone approaching you with the obvious intent of doing you good, you should run for your life.
- If you think that OSHA is a small town in Wisconsin, you're in trouble.
- If you think the problem is bad now, just wait until we've solved it.
- If you throw something away, you will need it the next day.
- If you try to please everybody, nobody will like it.
- If you understand it, it is obsolete.
- If you want to be well liked, never lie about yourself, and be careful when telling the truth about others.
- It works better if you plug it in.
- If your next pot of chili tastes better, it probably is because of something left out, rather than added.
- If ignorance is bliss, no wonder I'm so depressed.
- In a hierarchical organization, the higher the level, the greater the confusion.
- In any calculation, any error which can creep in will do so.
- In any hierarchy, each individual rises to his own level of incompetence, and then remains there.
- In case of doubt, make it sound convincing.
- It is later than you think.
- It is morally wrong to allow suckers to keep their money.
- It is not how someone measures up. It is how they measure you.
- It is not sufficient to be a success; it is also necessary for your friends to be failures.
- It is okay to be ignorant in some areas, but some people abuse the privilege.
- It isn't that they can't see the solution, it's that they can't see the problem



VOA, continued from cover page*Volunteers of America - Regional Corrections Center*

week, more than 100 individuals from the Twin Cities community participate in Narcotics Anonymous at the facility.

### **Volunteers of America - Regional Corrections Center**

In 1984, Volunteers of America and Ramsey County entered into an agreement to allow VOA to establish and run a private jail/workhouse in a building formally known as the Woodview Detention Center (for delinquent children). This became a landmark partnership because prior to that time, there were no private jails or prisons – the concept was just beginning to evolve. The program began as a 32-bed operation that later expanded to 42, and ultimately became a 74-bed facility. The basic philosophy of the program from its beginning is that people come to the facility “as punishment not for punishment.” While strictly following all of the jail protocols, the emphasis has been on programs such as GED, chemical dependency treatment, as well as gender-specific programming such as domestic abuse, prostitution, and related issues. More than 130 volunteers contribute their time and talent that extends possibilities for additional programming. The program has been accredited by ACA three times. Through cooperation with local agencies, VOA has hosted a number of site visits by foreign criminal justice professionals through referral by the U.S. State Department. Recently,

a staff member lectured at the University of Goteberg, Sweden, on gender-specific programming as part of a trip to visit criminal justice agencies in Sweden.

### **Volunteers of America - Women’s Recovery Center**

In 1998, Volunteers of America conducted a study of one of the more recognized “revolving door” offenses: prostitution. During the course of this

*Volunteers of America - Women’s Recovery Center*

study, it became apparent that the traditional criminal justice system approach was having little or no effect on persistent commitments of women involved in prostitution. Frequently, women were serving cumulative terms of 5-6 years for prostitution and related offenses at an estimated cost of \$90,000-\$130,000 per person.

The concept of “recovery” evolved, recognizing that women in prostitution typically experience childhood sexual

abuse, early introduction to drugs, and entry into the life-style of prostitution as early as the age of 13.

A residential recovery center was funded by the Minnesota legislature and opened in February 2000 with 12 beds. This was later expanded to 24 beds. Services provided include treatment for sexual trauma, while simultaneously treating for chemical dependency, and offering life skills training through case management and an “Expanded Life Choices” curriculum. Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), a cognitive approach for symptomatic relief from trauma associated with sexual assault, battering, and other forms of abuse, has supplemented the treatment program.

The facility is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services as an extended care treatment program. The program has been identified as a “model” by The Sentencing Project,

Washington DC, and in September 2004 was given a cash award for criminal justice innovation by the Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.

### **Conclusion**

From the days of its humble beginnings, Volunteers of America correctional programs have remained committed to the mission: “To reach and uplift all people” through the development of creative programming addressing the needs of correctional clients and the larger community.



**Low Wage Jobs, continued from p. 6**

that there aren't enough skilled jobs for all those folks getting trained and educated. Of the new jobs now being created, 57% require no college education. Not to demean low-wage jobholders, you don't need a lot of education to be a retail store worker, a call center worker, a janitor, a motel cleaner or receptionist, a poultry processing worker, a nursing home worker, all jobs that, nationally, pay \$8.50 an hour.

A hundred years ago the US paid workers poorly.

Labor unions and government corrected that situation for factory jobs, for some service sector jobs like telecommunications and retail food, and later, for

teachers and government workers. Now unionization is down to 12% of the workforce and Congress has made it almost impossible to organize new workers. The top third of the US workforce, however, is better off than ever. And for them, health insurance, vacations, sick leave, retirement plans are all automatic.

What a country! The folks on the bottom whose wages are actually declining, who need help with their health care and child care, who need steady or full-time work and predictable hours, who need a week off with pay, get less and less of the pie.

Meanwhile, the folks on top get the good wages, the health care, vacations, retirement plans, and whole suburbs and downtowns worth

of higher-end housing. As you can imagine, there's lots of job turnover on the bottom: 30-40% among teacher's aides, the same with home health care aides. Wal-Mart's turnover is 44% a year.

Alliance Housing's answer to this income decline is a lower rent, which, depending on your wage and how many hours you get, may not even be an affordable rent (no more than 30% of gross income). You work at Wal-Mart for \$7.00 an hour, \$402 a month for rent will still be more than 30% of your income, but

only if you get 40 hours of work a week which you won't. So, even at \$402, your rent is not affordable.

For 50 years, government has

stepped in and provided housing subsidies to some low income people so these folks would never pay more than 30% of their income for housing. No more. The federal government actually wants to reduce what it spends on subsidized housing or limit the subsidy to five years max, the same way it has for welfare benefits. According to HUD, the problem with public housing is that the people in it are too poor which means they have to be subsidized more (and a greater cost to the government).

Alliance Housing is planning these workforce projects without subsidies, at least when it comes to the efficiencies, and locating them next to public transit. (One-third of

low wage workers have no car.) Maybe it's making the best of a bad thing, but until this country starts giving people a new fair deal, letting unions organize, nationalizing health care, raising wages, creating more housing subsidies, honoring families and children, even when they're low income, Alliance Housing can at least provide them a decent place to live and a lower rent.

Alliance Housing Incorporated is a Minnesota non-profit organization located at 118 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street, #202 in Minneapolis, MN 55404. They can be reached at 612-872-2310, [alliancehousing@qwest.net](mailto:alliancehousing@qwest.net).

***According to Harvard's Richard Freeman, we're creating an apartheid economy in the US. Low-wage workers stay low-wage and so do their children.***

***Listen Up!***

*Two psychologists meet at their twentieth college reunion. One of them looks like he just graduated, while the other psychologist looks, old, worried and withered.*

*The older looking one asks the other, "What's your secret? Listening to other people's problems every day, all day long, for years on end, has made an old man of me."*

*The younger looking one replies, "Who listens?"*

**MACV, continued from p. 2**

our programs. All veterans must follow a recovery plan, which includes educational as well as vocational components during their stay. While this plan is self-directed it must be coordinated with staff.

**VETLAW**

MACV also has a new program that addresses the barrier that legal issues present to our veterans. Veterans Employed Through Legal Advocacy Work (VETLAW), complements our other programs by filling a gap in services we have noticed and documented. Legal issues are a barrier to employment for many of our veterans. We concluded that having our own on-staff attorney is the most effective method to address our population's legal problems. This program represents a new approach to focusing on the employment and retention of jobs for our veterans. We know homelessness is a multidimensional circumstance and it requires a multidisciplinary holistic approach to have a measurable, positive impact on it. By also addressing the multitude of legal issues that many veterans face, yet another barrier to stabilized living and employment is removed. Clients served by Vetlaw must already by MACV clients.

To Contact MACV, please call the regional office located closest to your location.

**Veterans Outreach Metro/Twin Cities**

VAMC Building 47  
One Veterans Drive  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417  
612-726-1327 FAX: 612-725-2082  
*Building 47:*  
Nathaniel Saltz, [nsaltz@mac-v.org](mailto:nsaltz@mac-v.org)  
*SIL Housing:*  
Edwin Williams, [ewilliams@mac-v.org](mailto:ewilliams@mac-v.org)

**Veterans Outreach North**

Durbin M. Keeney  
Regional Director  
101 West Second Street, Suite 102  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
218-722-8763  
FAX: 218-727-9358  
*e-mail: [von@cpinternet.com](mailto:von@cpinternet.com)*

**Veterans Outreach South**

Susan E. Sorenson  
Regional Director  
12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2090  
Mankato, MN 56001  
507-345-8258  
FAX: 507-345-8292  
*e-mail: [vos@gotocrystal.net](mailto:vos@gotocrystal.net)*

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***You Don't Say***

*One night, Tim was walking home when, all of a sudden, a thief jumped on him. Tim and the thief began to wrestle. They rolled about on the ground and Tim put up a tremendous fight. However, the thief managed to get the better of him and pinned him to the ground. The thief then went through Tim's pockets and searched him. All the thief could find on Tim was 25 cents. The thief was so surprised at this that he asked Tim why he had bothered to fight so hard for 25 cents. "Was that all you wanted?" Tim replied, "I thought you were after the five hundred dollars I've got in my shoe!"*

**So . . .  
You Say You Are Busy**

It's usually someone else, the high-profile executive, not the small "in the trenches" line staff, who receive the honor and accolades. But there a host of people we work with who are deserving recognition for their significant impact and dedication to community corrections. MCCA has been presenting the Robbie Robinson Excellence Award for more than 20 years. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge excellence and outstanding achievement.

In a world of constantly increasing demands, there are dedicated people who "go the extra mile," formulate the methods necessary to make community corrections the best it can possibly be, and move a big, lumbering corrections industry forward one client at a time. Take a moment to consider who those people are. You might be one yourself. Unless we take a moment to think about who they are and take the time to acknowledge them, they will continue to silently work their wonders (just as you probably are).

Please take a moment to identify a coworker who deserves recognition for their actions. We know it's a bit early, but we also know how terribly busy you are! An MCCA Robert H. Robinson Service Award Nomination Form is included in this newsletter. Pull that little "hammer" out, take a gander at it, and begin your consideration. We are hopeful you take the time to recognize someone and submit their name(s) to us. One of your coworkers may be considering you right now. Wouldn't that be nice?

If you are interested in nominating someone, please contact Steve Bisch: [sbisch@rseden.org](mailto:sbisch@rseden.org). Thanks.

# CAMP MCCA 2005

## What You Need to Know!



Join us at Camp Ripley February 17<sup>th</sup> and for a half day on the 18th for intense training and intriguing presentations to further your community corrections career!

- DUE TO SECURITY AT CAMP RIPLEY, ADVANCE REGISTRATION & PAYMENT IS REQUIRED FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE.
- ALL REGISTRATIONS & PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 4, 2005.
- EACH REGISTRANT MUST FILL OUT AN INDIVIDUAL FORM.
- **EXPERIENCE MILITARY LIVING! (private single room w/maid service)**  
\$23 PER NIGHT PAYABLE AT CAMP RIPLEY, RESERVE A ROOM: WED 2/16 \_\_\_\_ THUR 2/17 \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE ONLY (includes breakfast and lunch both days)	
\$50	\$ _____
MCCA MEMBERSHIP (all conference participants must be current members)	
\$20	\$ _____
STUDENT CONFERENCE FEE & MEMBERSHIP \$30	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Vegetarian meals preferred \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/Mastercard Accepted. Card Type \_\_\_\_ Acc't # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

**\*PLEASE NO PURCHASE ORDERS**

Make checks payable to Minnesota Community Corrections Association. Send completed form and payment to:  
Bridget Letnes (MCCA) 236 Clifton Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55403

THIS FORM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.MNMCCA.COM](http://WWW.MNMCCA.COM). CONTACT BRIDGET LETNES AT 612-813-5017 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

***Let me tell ya . . .***

- Once I had multiple personalities, but now we are feeling well.
- I don't suffer from insanity, I enjoy every minute.
- I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- The best thing about being schizophrenic is that I'm never alone.
- Just because you are paranoid doesn't mean people aren't out to get you.
- Hypochondria is the only illness I don't have.
- I've always been a hypochondriac. As a little boy, I'd eat my M&M's one by one with a glass of water.

***The Copy Machine***

*The new employee stood before the paper shredder looking confused. "Need some help?" a secretary, walking by, asked.*

*"Yes," he replied, "how does this thing work?"*

*"Simple," she said, taking the fat report from his hand and feeding it into the shredder.*

*"Thanks, but where do the copies come out?"*

Minnesota Community Corrections Association  
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St. Paul, MN 55102