

# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Transition Resource Fair Newsletter

New Holly Learning Center  
7058 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave So. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98118

March 18, 2011 9am-2pm



Karen Lane, Program Coordinator for the WorkSource Affiliate at South Seattle Community College, explains some of the resources available to a client at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Transition Resource Fair.

## *Chance for Change*

**Committed to providing our mutual clients with a variety of services and opportunities to assist their successful reintegration to the community.**



### Transition Resource Fair Work Group

- AAHAA-Sober Living
- Archdiocese of Seattle – Criminal Justice Ministry
- Downtown Emergency Center
- Federal Bureau of Prisons-Community Corrections
- Housing Consortium for Transition Services
- King County Community Corrections
- Pioneer Human Services
- Seattle Conservation Corps
- Sound Mental Health – Re-Entry & Offender Services
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle King County
- South Seattle Community College
- U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services
- U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs
- WA State DOC
  - Seattle Work Release Facilities
  - Seattle Community Justice Center Day Reporting
- WA State DSHS
  - Belltown CSO
  - Division of Child Support
  - Juvenile Rehabilitation Admin.
  - Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation
- WA State ESD-Offender Employment Service
- WA State Veteran Affairs
- YWCA - Passage Point Re-Entry



# Transition Resource Fair Newsletter

New Holly Learning Center  
7058 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave So. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98118

March 18, 2011 9am-2pm



## Introduction by Tony Fuoco

As the Chair of the Seattle Work Release Advisory Board, it has been my pleasure to work with a number of dedicated and hardworking people that put the Transition Resource Fair on.

First off, I would like to thank all of the agencies that are participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Transition Resource Fair.

Your participation is greatly appreciated and will be beneficial to all who attend.

The purpose of this Fair is to provide information to a variety of clients in need about resources that are available to them.

**Tony Fuoco, Chair of the Seattle Work Release Advisory Board**

Human Services, along with her staff.

The Organizing Committee members include: Joe Garcia of South Seattle Community College; John Taylor of the Seattle Conservation Corps; Judy Lang, Community Corrections Officer with DOC; Doug Jans, Director of Helen B. Ratcliff and Madison Inn Work Release

I want to thank the Fair Organizing Committee members, led by chairperson Gloria Baker of Pioneer

Programs; Mark Hampton of AAHAA of Sober Living; and Elaine Gunnison of Seattle University. Without their efforts and dedication to this project, this fair would not have been possible.

I want to give a special thanks to Joe Garcia for making this New Holly facility available for the Transition Fair. As they did last year, Joe and his staff did an excellent job of staging this space to accommodate the Fair participants and our guests.

I want to thank Elaine Gunnison for providing the interns to assist with the

management of the Fair events.

I also want to thank John Taylor for facilitating the "Resume Writing Training Seminar" that will be held later this morning.

As is stated on the flyer, this Fair is "committed to providing our mutual clients with a variety of services and opportunities to assist their successful reintegration back into the community.

Let's keep this event growing, and thanks again to everyone involved.

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction by Tony Fuoco</b> .....	2
<b>Walking the Walk by Daniel Rush</b> .....	3
<b>Chance for Change by Ana Johnson</b> .....	4
<b>The Community Perspective by Mark Hampton</b> .....	5
<b>Collaboration is Key to Offender Transition and Success by Judith Lang</b> .....	6
<b>The Human Resources Perspective by Wendy Gauksheim and Jaime Halterman</b> .....	6



Connie Smith, Chief U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer and Runette Mitchell, Administrator of King County Community Corrections, present a Certificate of Appreciation to Tony Fuoco for his 31-year career to the Criminal Justice Profession.



# Transition Resource Fair Newsletter

New Holly Learning Center  
7058 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave So. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98118

March 18, 2011 9am-2pm



## Walking the Walk by Daniel Rush

As I strolled around the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Transition Fair at New Holly Learning Center on March 18, 2011, I could not help but smile. What I witnessed, or better yet experienced on this day, was that we are not in this fight alone.

I began my transition back into society in 2004 after mistakes led me to a federal prison for 3 years. As I exited prison, I remember thinking that all the hard times were done. This is not the case for an individual in this particular situation. The feelings of failure still linger in the presence of family and friends who were disappointed during your incarceration. Helplessness and hopelessness overshadow any positive beliefs that still may remain.

Outcomes regarding success and achievement become more like out-of-reach dreams. Anxiety now creeps into every conversation about the past. Shame can be detected in your voice. To say the least, the stigma carried around by this population is a burden that can break any man or woman.

This stigma might be powerful, yet it is not indestructible. It can be chipped away by familial support and valuable experiential success following incarceration. In my case, I had overwhelming family support. This is not the norm amongst individuals transitioning from prison. Many times, transitioning individuals have little or no familial support due to strains from time apart or resentment due to the particular reason for incarceration. In situations like this, a supportive community and external support, such as: job and educational opportunities, food and housing assistance, counseling, treatment, and other programs to assist our transition, become even more critical. All of these external support networks were well represented at this year's Transition Fair. It was literally a "one-stop shop" for transitional resources at New Holly Learning Center. The number of individuals and community organizations represented at the fair is evidence, of just how many people we really do have in our corner.

The social capital that comes with having



Mr. Rush and seven clients of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Transition Resource Fair explore the Second Chance Employer Database while Jeffrey Robson, US Probation Officer guides them in its use.

strong and committed allies is necessary to combat such an issue. Community members must realize that rehabilitation and reeducation is not a mythical tall tale. Partnerships amongst businesses and community programs are vital. We can no longer just enjoy the **idea** of presenting individuals like me with second chance opportunities. We must also put these progressive ideas to action, as we watch community relationships blossom.

The community members and partners represented at this year's Transition Fair should be recognized and commended. The planning, organization, and execution of this year's Transition Fair should not be

overlooked, underappreciated, or taken lightly. Despite the unrelenting support of my family during my transition, I still held negative beliefs about my future. Lamenting over mistakes and squandered opportunities hindered the quality of my life. Yet on this day, I felt a wave of relief as I exited New Holly Learning Center. I now realize, I have a team of strong and powerful community members rooting for my success. Combine this with my pre-existing support systems, and the sky becomes the limit. This was the first time in a long time, I felt like my dreams and aspirations were more attainable than ever.

Thank you so much to everyone involved.



# Transition Resource Fair Newsletter

New Holly Learning Center  
7058 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave So. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98118

March 18, 2011 9am-2pm



A client leaves the table as John Taylor, Case Manager with Seattle Conservation Corps, and Ben Thorpe, Supervisor of Education with the SeaTac Federal Detention Center consult following a mock job interview.

## Chance for Change by Ana Johnson

The mission statement of the Community Partnership for Transition Services (CPTS) reads: To translate our vision and values through a series of purpose driven community venues that support successful transition for adults who have earned their return back to the community and their families. I am a proud member of CPTS for the simple fact that all those involved have a passion for the work they do. CPTS members have a strong desire in assisting those in transition and it is made evident through events such as the 2011 Transition Resource Fair on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

We kicked off the event with opening remarks from influential leaders in our community. Keith Marler, Director of Workforce Education at the South Seattle Community College; Connie Smith, Chief U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer for the Western District of Washington; King County Councilman Larry Gossett; and Seattle Work Release Advisory Board (SWAB) Lead Facilitator, Tony Fuoco.

Mr. Marler commented on the fact that the partners represented at the fair were present for the benefit of the participants. With the presence of over 30 partner agencies, I witnessed the dedication of our community members to volunteer

their time to meet and fulfill the needs of the men and women transitioning from prison and jail back to their home community.

I had the honor of introducing Chief U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer Connie Smith. For the past four years of my involvement with CPTS, Connie has been my strongest supporter and advocate in the field of Workforce Development.

King County Councilman Larry Gossett shared his experience of being involved in the criminal justice system as a young man and the importance of support for reentry services.

Tony Fuoco, Director of the Helen B. Radcliffe Work Release, participated in the last Transition Resource Fair of his 31-year career in corrections. His service was commemorated with a Certificate of Appreciation presented by his longtime colleague Joseph E. Garcia, Lead Instructor of the Workforce Education Program at South Seattle Community College and Lead Facilitator for CPTS.

Following the opening remarks, participants were free to seek  
*(cont'd on Page 5)*



DSHS, Mobile Community Service Office – a one-stop shop that visits Washington Communities.



Tony Fuoco, Director of Bishop Lewis Work Release, is joined by Doug Jans, Director of Helen B. Radcliffe and Madison Inn Work Release and Susie Leavell, WA State DOC Administrator at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Transition Resource Fair.



# Transition Resource Fair Newsletter

New Holly Learning Center  
7058 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave So. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98118

March 18, 2011 9am-2pm

*(Ana Johnson con't)*

assistance from the community partners located in the New Holly Learning Center, the Department of Social and Health Services Mobile Community Service Office, and the New Holly Gathering Hall. Services provided by the community partners included housing, support groups, financial education, resume review, mock interviewing, online job searches, education and training resources, basic needs, child support and more.

I commend the efforts of each and every partner involved in this community event and I congratulate all the participants for taking this opportunity for a "Chance for Change."



Jan Lyver and Gloria Baker, Pioneer Human Services, Lead Planners for the 2011 Transition Resource Fair.

## The Community Perspective

**By Mark Hampton**

By the very definition of the word "Community" means "any group living in the same area or having interest, in common, general public". I believe the men and women we serve today do not feel like part of the "Community". I get a sense that at times they may feel isolated, unwelcomed, and perhaps not on the same playing field as the rest of the "Community". They seem to face a variety of different challenges and obstacles when trying to compete for some of the same resources as the rest of the "Community".

However, due to special events such as the 2011 Transitional Resource Fair, I now believe that those very same men and women have gained a significant opportunity to compete for those same resources on a more individualized scale. When I got the opportunity to walk around the Resource Fair that day I noticed something...I noticed a kind of "Community" support and interaction going on that now bridges the gap for those men and women we serve. I noticed all the Partner Members actively engaged in sharing, demonstrating, discussing, tutoring, and even sharing life experiences with those very same men and women.

Then I noticed the change in the men and women. I noticed the men and women actively enjoying their time exploring those options and opportunities which for some, have now discovered those resources are available to them. Finally, I became aware of the fact that the very same men and women instead of feeling not included are now experiencing a very different dynamic. They now have a sense of the word "Community" and now feel a part of. I want to thank the CPTS Members and all those who

participated in this wonderful and extraordinary event! It has been my pleasure to serve! I am a volunteer with St. Vincent DePaul and attended the Resource Fair as an assistant to Doug Hebert a social worker and dispenser of resources.

We were at the fair for 5 hours and many people came to inquire what St. Vincent's is about. Our handout was simple and self-explanatory, so if we didn't have what they needed we would direct them to the appropriate person at another booth. There were two of us at the St. Vincent's booth and much of the time we were both needed.

I liked the layout of the fair. Many of the general services, probably 15 to 20, were in a main room. Housing support was in a separate room and the data-base of employers in the computer lab. Many booths had well thought-out displays. We learned much so our signs and hand-outs will be better next year.

One of my clients came to the fair at my suggestion and found a few of the resources he needed, for which I was grateful. It was so crowded he didn't even find the booth I was attending. One booth from the state of Washington gave me helpful tips for this client.

For myself I was happy to meet many of the other resource people and to learn more in detail what they provide. It is pleasure to help people navigate to a better life. It is also inspirational to be with good, committed people and I find that to be a motivation to me.



Wells Fargo is a co-sponsor and partner of the Annual Transition Resource Fair



# Transition Resource Fair Newsletter

New Holly Learning Center  
7058 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave So. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98118

March 18, 2011 9am-2pm

## Collaboration is Key to Offender Transition and Success by Judith Lang

Since becoming a sitting member of the Seattle Work Release Advisory Board, I have been very fortunate to build collaborations within the community to enhance offender transition and success. While my time with the Department of Corrections has been brief (seven years), I have come to appreciate the service providers willing to work with offenders in the criminal justice system in the community. In the midst of the financial crisis in this state and in our country, I continue to be impressed with the positive and hopeful attitudes of individuals such as Joe Garcia (SSCC), Gloria Baker (Pioneer) and John Taylor (Conservation Corp), to name a few. I am also thankful for the Mark Hampton's of our community who provide clean and sober housing for many convicted felons in the community.

At the Transition Resource Fair, I was able to meet many "clients" who were either in work release or in the community on supervision. Many wondered, "why is DOC here at the Transition Fair?". I am proud to say that I was "at the table" (literally and figuratively) so everyone will know that DOC, Community Corrections, is not just about "putting people in jail" but about connecting offenders with educational and employment opportunities in the community so that they realize that criminal activity is no longer an option for them.

The Transition fair was also an excellent opportunity for me to meet other valuable partners in the community. I can't thank everyone enough for a job well done. I look forward to continuing this partnership this year and for many years to come.

## The Human Resources Perspective by Wendy Gauksheim and Jamie Halterman

As HR Specialists for the U. S. District Court, Probation and Pretrial Services, interviewing is a regular part of our job. We offered to participate in mock interviews at the Transition Resource Fair in order to provide a much needed community service, and to take advantage of the opportunity to assist Probation and Pretrial Services Workforce Development team in representing the court.

Part of the mock interview process was to give each client an opportunity to practice talking about their incarceration with potential employers. The goal was to help them learn to shift the emphasis from the crime they committed to what they were doing to make positive changes in their lives.

To prepare for the Resource Fair, we were given copies of an "Incarceration Speech" and information on tax benefits for employers; the clients were expected to utilize these as part of their interview. We used this information to ask questions and try to help and direct the participant's answers. While the clients utilized some form of the incarceration speech, they still needed practice and feedback in using it.

One goal we hoped to accomplish with the participants was the importance of a first impression in the interview process. For our part, we dressed professionally, shook each person's hand and maintained eye contact, demonstrating how these small things make a strong first impression. Each client we spoke with approached the

role play seriously, which indicated to us how important this opportunity was to them. Mock interviews are difficult because questions are asked and answered out of context and with little preparation, but each person was willing to try.

They were also very open to feedback about answering the questions more appropriately, and how to better prepare and present themselves at a real interview.

We hope the participants were able to walk away from the Transition Resource Fair with a better understanding of basic interviewing skills and some ideas about how to prepare for a successful interview. It was rewarding to be able to work with the clients and help them prepare for a successful new start.



Rudy Castillo (pictured) and James Rey Saarenas of Wells Fargo support the clients and staff of the Community Partnership for Transition Services by providing Financial Literacy Workshops and representing Wells Fargo at the Annual Resource Fair.