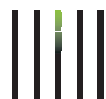


TURN AROUND TIMES

Quarterly Newsletter of 180 Degrees

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JEFFREY SHORBA — VICE-CHAIR 180 DEGREES BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jeff Shorba brings a practical and professional approach to the work of the 180 Degrees Board of Directors. Jeff is deeply committed to helping ex-offenders and young people at risk to find ways to succeed in life. He believes that each person deserves a chance to make the right choices to turn their lives in a positive direction. Promoting individual success is what Jeff Shorba is all about.

Jeff is a graduate of Carleton College in Northfield MN where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. He graduated magna cum laude in recognition of his academic excellence. Jeff then went on to earn his Juris Doctorate degree at Harvard Law School. Jeff firmly believes in the value of education not only for himself but the clients of 180 Degrees. (Jeffrey Shorba...Continued to page 2)

180 DEGREES BOYS AND GIRLS RESILIENCY MENTORING PROGRAM

180 Degrees Boys and Girls Resiliency Mentoring program works with youth ages 9-17 that are currently involved with Ramsey County Human Service and/or Criminal Justice systems. This means that the youth are under supervision and have been referred from one or more of the following units; juvenile probation, children's mental health, or child protection. The referring case managers typically refer the youth for individual mentoring, group mentoring, or both. Participation can be voluntary or mandatory depending on the youth's situation.

Program staff pair the youth with a mentor

after completing an intake process. The mentor will then work with that youth one to one in the community. Each of the youth has an individual case plan/goal sheet that he/she work on with the mentor. These goals are usually accomplished through positive activities that the mentor and youth plan together and can include cultural and recreational activities, finding a job, doing homework etc. They meet on a weekly basis for 2-3 hours per week for three months. After the three month commitment has ended, the youth has the option to continue working with the mentor.

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WHAT IT TAKES TO TURN A LIFE AROUND “180 Graduate Back on Track”

A casual observer of 32 year old Derrick Lawrence would conclude he works hard, has specialty skills and, perhaps, a pretty cool job. Derrick lifts ocean shipping containers – from Africa, China, South America – off trailers at Portable Storage of Minnesota and Boyd Trailer Rental in New Brighton. He then cleans, sterilizes and paints the containers and installs locks, preparing them for reuse as storage rentals. Like his colleagues at work, Derrick has a forklift operator’s license, full medical and dental benefits, a decent wage and a future.

But Derrick has a different past. He is an ex-offender currently on intensive supervised release, and, a graduate of 180 Degrees. While at 180, Derrick, through the Wilder Foundation, participated in Goodwill’s reentry work program, learning forklift skills. He was a model participant – so much so that he has been invited back to Goodwill to share his story with new classes. Derrick knows what it takes to succeed. “You have to develop a good work ethic,” he said. “Be on time every day, get along with others, have a good attitude.”

And, as importantly, Derrick adds, be “given a chance.” Derrick is grateful for his opportunity and, thus far, has made the most of it. He is “on my business. And it’s wonderful. Being free.....it’s love.” Derrick is soon to go on straight curfew from 6AM to 10PM. ISR Agent Bart Hollaren commends Derrick for remaining accountable, communicating and earning a level of trust.

Derrick intends to stay positive, continue to grow spiritually and give back to others with his words and deeds. Derrick is a genuine example of the mission at 180 Degrees to “turn lives around.” Best of luck for continued success, Derrick!

MY MCA EXPERIENCE by Heather Cochran

I had the opportunity to attend the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) annual conference in St. Cloud, MN from October 17 through October 19. Typically this conference is held in Duluth, MN, so attending the conference in St. Cloud was somewhat of a different experience. Both locations, however, host a resource fair and an array of interesting trainings in the city convention center. The resource fair is a great way to network with other professionals within the field of corrections and to obtain information on various programs and services available to clients. For example, a few of my co-workers and I had the opportunity to socialize with personnel from Clarinda Academy and Woodward Academy. These are two juvenile offender placements used by JDU.

The trainings cover a wide variety of topics all pertaining to the field of corrections and social services. The trainings I attended included the following: Hispanic Gangs, Marked For Life, Cult and Compound Dwellers, Homicidal Behavior, and Domestic Violence Awareness. The training on Hispanic gangs covered the history and characteristics of different Hispanic gangs present in today’s society. Crystal Woodman Miller, a victim of the 1999 Columbine High School Shooting, described her life changing experience in Marked for Life. The trainings on Cult and Compound Dwellers and Homicidal Behavior graphically explained the personalities, behavioral characteristics, and offenses committed by offenders living in compounds, cults, and/or who have homicidal behavioral patterns. Denise Brown, the sister of Nicole Brown Simpson, presented the Domestic Violence Awareness training, and described the warning signs and prevention tactics of domestic violence. Overall, the trainings I attended were very good and served to educate me on information applicable to the field I work in.

The MCA training institute committee did an excellent job of accommodating and entertaining attendees, as well as arranging valuable educational trainings. I had a terrific experience and hope to attend another MCA conference in the future and would encourage those who are interested in taking advantage of this great opportunity.

SPOTLIGHT ON 180 DEGREE EMPLOYEE..... SARA UMBREIT

A participant in the Boys & Girls Resiliency Mentoring Program once told her that she “was one of the nicest white ladies she had ever met.” Another participant told her that she was “amazed that she actually got paid for what she does.” Receiving statements like these are one of the reasons that Sara Umbreit loves her job as the Mentoring Coordinator for 180 Degrees’ Boys & Girls Resiliency Mentoring Program. While the job can be challenging at times, it is also very rewarding.

One of the most rewarding things is watching the girls and boys as they grow and change and start making better choices and doing things well. Sara also likes the variety of her job and being able to talk to people and relate to them. Some of her favorite times are when girls come to her office just to talk to her. She has had conversations that have lasted hours, some of them beginning with girls in tears but ending with a smile, and the relief that someone cares about them and is willing to listen. According to Sara, “that is when you know you’re doing something good, when they trust you enough to call you or come see you on their own, just to say how they’re doing.”

Sara began her career with 180 Degrees as an intern in January of 2004. She started out working partly with the mentoring program and partly with probation. After completing her internship in May of 2004, she continued to work part time as a family support worker at the Lewis House in Hastings, which is a domestic violence shelter for women and children. She also worked for Marshalls. In April of 2005, 180 Degrees’ Mentoring program received a Ramsey County Contract for two years, resulting in Sara being recruited for the job as Program Coordinator. Sara was the first person they thought of for the job, as she had done such a great job interning the year before. Officially, Sara has been a 180 employee since May of 2005.

When she’s not working, Sara loves to bake and spend time outdoors, getting together with family and friends. She has been very busy the last year and a half, as she got married in July of 2006 and bought a house with her husband. Recently, she has been occupied with a new addition to her family who weighs less than 10 pounds, but snores very loudly and loves to lick faces. It’s her new puppy, Lily, a Boston Terrier. Sara loves the new member of her family, and has been busy spoiling her.

Not only is Sara a wonderful employee of 180 Degrees, she is also a wonderful person. She is very warm and open, and loves to talk with people, so if you haven’t met her or had a chance to talk with her for a while, give her a call at 651-772-5562 – especially if you want to volunteer as a mentor or know of someone who would like to!

Jeffrey Shorba ... (Continued from page 1)

Jeff has included a number of opportunities to help others through both public and private service. Jeff has worked as a law clerk for the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, an associate in private practice with the law firm of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd in Washington, D.C., a consultant with the National Institute of Corrections and an adjunct professor at the American University.

Most recently, Jeff served as the Associate General Counsel for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Washington, D.C. before moving to Minnesota. In Minnesota, he held the position of Assistant Commissioner/Legal Counsel for the Minnesota Department of Corrections and currently works as the Deputy State Court Administrator for the Minnesota Judicial Branch. Jeff brings the same commitment he has shown in his career to his work with the 180 Degrees Board of Directors.

Jeff was motivated to begin his work in corrections for many reasons. It allowed him to use his legal experience, to affect broad public policies and to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those interacting with the criminal justice system. As Jeff looks to the future of 180 Degrees he sees an organization committed to promoting public safety by helping offenders and juveniles at risk improve their lives through safe housing and effective programming.

180 Degrees ... (Continued from page 1)

Because the program relies heavily on volunteers, recruiting is an integral part of the program. Program staff network with college service learning offices and staff, make presentations at various college classes, attend job and community fairs at college campuses and post volunteer opportunities on free job banks and websites. Mentors are also encouraged to recruit their friends to become mentors.

If you are interested in volunteering as a mentor or know of someone who would like to mentor with 180 Degrees Boys and Girls Resiliency Program - please call Sara Umbreit at 651-772-5562 or email her at Sara@180degrees.org.

TURN AROUND TIMES

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