

TURN AROUND TIMES

Quarterly Newsletter of 180 Degrees

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Summer 2008



SONIC PROGRAM

180 Degrees received a 2 year grant to fund the SONIC (Skills Offenders Need in the Community) Program which offers support to ex-offenders who have barriers to employment, housing, effective life skills, and retention. Located at 515 W. Lake St in Minneapolis, SONIC provides a safe and friendly environment for ex-offenders to use appropriate employment and housing web sites, make professional calls, produce resumes and cover letters, and to meet with partners in the community.

SONIC seeks to develop partnerships with employers in the community by providing a number of benefits:

Free Screening of Applicants

A well-screened pool of productive, disciplined workers can become an immediate asset to your business.

Careful Matching of Employer Needs with Applicant Abilities

SONIC carefully screens and assesses applicants to find the best skills-to-job match.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Sonics experienced coordinator provides ongoing consultation and support to both employees and employers - at no cost to you.

Tax Credits

Employers hiring job-seekers with barriers to employment can take advantage of a variety of tax incentives.

SONIC recently entered into a partnership with an employer who has agreed to provide part-time employment (passing out flyers and landscaping) up to 20 hours per week at \$8.00 per hour to help build job experience and promote a strong work ethic, while participants continue to seek full-time employment. After participants acquire full-time employment, they will be replaced with other SONIC participants. Currently, there are 3 SONIC participants employed with this new partner. For more information about Federal and State Tax Incentives for employers go to www.taxcreditservices.com

SONIC Coordinator, Stan Hill can be reached at 612-767-3443 or at stanh@180degrees.org

180 EVOLVES

A lot is going on with 180 Degrees these days, not the least of which are plans underway to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the opening of 180 Degrees. 180 Degrees has changed and grown over the last 35 years and 180 Degrees is continuing to grow and evolve, securing a reputation for providing quality services to both juveniles and adults.

Sarah Walker, previously our Director of Programming is now 180 Degree's Chief Operating Officer and oversees both the Juvenile and Adult Services Programs and provides support and guidance to the Residential Operations Manager, the new manager of the Adult Case Managers as well as the new JDU Manager. In addition, the Residential Operations Manager now has additional duties previously assigned to a director. The creation of these new management roles and responsibilities not only provides opportu-

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PRESIDENT/CEO OF 180 DEGREES APPOINTED TO CHAIR JJAC

On January 25th, 2008, Governor Tim Pawlenty appointed Richard Gardell, President and CEO of 180 Degrees to a three year term as Chair of the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC), comprised of representatives from private non-profits, practitioners in the juvenile justice system, and government officials and administrators, is charged, under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, with providing advice and recommendations to the Governor and the State Legislature on issues, trends and practices of the state's juvenile justice system. In addition, Mr. Gardell is Minnesota's representative to the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ), which advises the

President, Congress, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on Juvenile Justice issues facing the Nation. He was recently elected Vice Chair of the FACJJ. JJAC works to create an overarching view of the juvenile justice system in order to spotlight emerging juvenile needs, best practices in juvenile programming and a user friendly and effective governmental system. In addition, JJAC oversees the grants administered under the JJDPA act which flow to direct service providers in Minnesota.

JJAC continues to work with leaders across the State of Minnesota to address issues such as the appropriate treatment of Status Offenders, and Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System.

WHAT IT TAKES TO TURN A LIFE AROUND

By Jake Nowack

Tony Brazelton arrived at 180 the morning of October 23, 2007. Unlike most of our clients, Tony applied for and was approved to participate in the work release program while he was still in prison. Because of this, he was still considered to be incarcerated while a client of 180. Taking initiative was what made Tony's stay at 180 unique.

Although he had a few instances of minor violations, Tony excelled at fulfilling the primary requirements of the program. He secured employment, obtained housing, remained accountable and was at all times respectful towards staff and other clients. When Tony was asked

what his major accomplishment was – it was gaining custody of his daughter.

Tony graduated from 180 on April 22, 2008 and serves as a role model for other residents. He is no longer an inmate of the DOC but is now an ex-offender under supervision by his county of commitment.

If his post-release track record is an indicator, we are sure that Tony will enjoy a safe and successful future as he continues his transition back into his community. We wish him well.

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nities for development and growth of individuals within the organization, but more importantly, allows managers to focus on their core competencies of specific programs.

On the program front, 180 received funding from the Suburban Collaborative and from Ramsey County to support a number of new school-based initiatives for juveniles. The North Suburban Collaborative provides intensive case management to at risk youth who are referred by school social workers in Districts 621, 622, 623 and 624. The case plan targets areas that the students may be experiencing difficulties with such as family, health activities, drug use or mental health needs.

The On Track Program is a collaboration between 180, Ramsey County and the St. Paul Public Schools to provide onsite case management and intervention services to high-risk high need youth in an effort to improve school atten-

dance and performance. Two case managers are located on site and work with students throughout the school day. Additional foundation funding has also been received to continue to provide a range of reentry services to juveniles coming out of Red Wing.

On the adult side, a two year grant was received to fund the SONIC Program described in this issue. The program is currently averaging 75 contacts a day.

180 Degrees, Inc.'s success is owed to the dedicated employees who, each day, bring their passion and drive to their work. With greater management support for all employees, 180 Degrees hopes to continue our long tradition of internal promotion and expanded career opportunity as we continue to pursue our mission of "turning lives around to ensure safer communities.



SPOTLIGHT ON BOB DUSTIN



Bob Dustin

Those of you who are old enough to remember – remember Bob Dustin as a star forward playing for the U. of M. Gophers Hockey Team from 1992-1996. He made it to two Frozen Four Hockey Tournaments during his tenure at the University (be sure and see a picture of Bob, one of Roseville's Hometown Heroes, in full gear on the wall at the Roseville Applebees). Although he toyed with the idea of playing with the pro's, Bob chose a different path...that fortunately led him to 180 Degrees. For the past 8 years Bob has worked at 180 - first as a Shift Coordinator, then as a House Manager and finally as a Residential Case Manager. He recently took a job as a Probation Officer with the Hennepin County Intensive Supervised Release Program but still puts in one day a week working at 180 Degrees.

Bob and his wife Andrea have two boys ages 2 and 4 that keep them pretty busy. For fun, Bob plays with the Wright Homes Roller Hockey Team (once a hockey player always a hockey player). They just recently won the 5th National Championship with the Senior Men's Team

which is made up of former college players.

Not only was Bob a superb team player on the Gopher Hockey Team but he's been an outstanding player on 180 Degree's team. He is one of the reasons why 180 Degrees is able to boast of the quality re-entry services that it provides. We're grateful for his long term committed service and hope that we will continue to enjoy having him here at 236 Clifton Ave. *Thanks for a job well done, Bob. We appreciate it.*

CAREER CHANGE FOR 180 DEGREE EMPLOYEE ANDREW SOUTHWORTH

Andrew Southworth started working for 180 Degrees in January, 2004 after graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. He started as a Monitoring Technician then worked as a NAP Case Manager, Work Release Phase 1 and for the CCC before becoming a JDU case manager. Most recently Andrew served as the Acting Manager of the JDU Program. The job he loved most was working directly with youth.



In his spare time, Andrew (when he is not helping to take care of his newborn son) is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys basketball, golf and biking. He also finds time to teach tennis and on a more academic front - takes Russian classes.

Andrew's new career path will allow him to work even more closely with greater number of kids. He has been accepted into a joint program between the St. Paul Schools and Hamline University called the St. Paul Teaching Fellows. This program will allow him to work towards his master's degree and earn his license while teaching. He will be teaching Math in the St. Paul Public Schools starting this summer.

We like to think that working for 180 Degrees has well equipped Andrew for his new job and we would like to extend our very best wishes as he pursues his new career path.

180 Celebrates 35th Anniversary

180 Degrees will celebrate 35 years of serving ex offenders beginning with the opening of our half way house in 1973. A reception will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2008 from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Women's Club located at 410 Oak Street in Minneapolis. During this reception you will have an opportunity to tour our facility at 236 Clifton Ave. We will be remembering wonderful memories from our past and looking forward to a great future. There will be entertainment, photos, stories, good food and great people. Please mark your calendars for this event ! We will be sending you more information. Also, if you are an alumni or know of anyone who is an alumni of 180 Degrees, please contact Kevin Byker, Chair of the Alumni Search Committee. He can be reached at 612-813-5059 Ext 217 or email him at kevin@180degrees.org

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“Be The Change You Want To See In
the World”

Gandi

We're on the Web!
www.180degrees.org

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- 1 in 17 African American males will be incarcerated across the nation before reaching the age of 18. For Latino males, the rate is 1 in 45 and for White males, 1 in 91 (Juvenile Justice Coalition, 2001).
- 18.6% of Minnesota's juvenile institutional population is American Indian, 17.7% is African American and 4.7% Latino. However, American Indians make up 1.1% of the state's youth population, the African American juvenile population is 3.5% that of Minnesota, and Latinos comprise 2.9% of the state's youth population. (Council on Crime and Justice, 2006)
- Adolescents who live most of their lives with both biological parents in the same home had a 63.6% chance of re-offending, whereas those who lived with only one or neither biological parent had a 82.9% chance of re-offending (Benda et al. 2001).
- 52% of institutionalized youth had at least one parent who had served time in prison or jail (Beck et al. 1998).

The importance of addressing racial disparities within the justice system becomes further evident when examining Minnesota's population growth trends. For instance, since 1980 communities of color increased by over 200% in Minnesota, while Whites were the only race to experience a decrease in population growth. When examining population growth among youth this pattern is similarly evident, suggesting that Minnesota will continue to experience a significant growth in people of color. (State Demographer)

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DEGREES INC.
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