



# 2010 Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative RESOURCE MANUAL



**A project of Fusion Partnership Inc.**

**Supported in part by a grant from the Open  
Society Institute - Baltimore**



## **The Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative – Resource Manual.**

For those most impacted by incarceration, we hope that this reference manual of advocates and services providers will help you in your search for assistance and connection on your journey returning home. The Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative is dedicated to advocating, organizing and creating change in Maryland’s criminal justice system to support release and services to those serving long term and life sentences. We are doing this work by advocating for policy and legislative change, especially removing the Governor from the Parole process for life sentences, and to organize and support family members with public education and information on the issues. We also support and advocate for programs on the inside, as well as organizing resources on the outside that will support returning citizens.

In solidarity,

Polly Riddims  
Secretary  
Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative  
Fusion Partnerships, Inc.

## RESOURCE MANUAL

**ACLU of Maryland**  
3600 Clipper Mill Rd, Suite 350  
Baltimore, MD 21211  
**Phone:** 410-889-8555  
[www.aclu-md.org](http://www.aclu-md.org)

The Maryland ACLU works to ensure that all people in the state of Maryland are free to think and speak as they choose and can lead their lives free from discrimination and unwarranted government intrusion.

**AFSC- Maryland Peace with Justice Program**  
4806 York Rd., Baltimore, MD 21212  
**Phone:** 410-323-7200  
[www.afsc.org/midatlantic](http://www.afsc.org/midatlantic)

Maryland Peace with Justice fosters the peaceful resolution of conflict and promotes reconciliation and healing inside the criminal justice system of Maryland.

-Dominique Stevenson, Director

**Alternative Directions, Inc.**  
2505 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218  
**Phone:** 410-889-5072  
[www.alternativedirectionsinc.org](http://www.alternativedirectionsinc.org)

ADI helps incarcerated woman resolve *pro se* civil legal problems, and provides vital information about services available to them and their families after they are released.

-Ms. Michelle Kelly, Executive Director;

[michellekelly.adi@verizon.net](mailto:michellekelly.adi@verizon.net)

-Ms. Rasheeda Alford, Director-Out for Justice; [rasheeda1980@msn.com](mailto:rasheeda1980@msn.com)

**American Rescue Workers**  
2441 West Baltimore St.  
Baltimore, MD 21223  
**Phone:** 410-566-3300

Provides a faith-based 12 step residential program that provides up to 120 days of continuous shelter for men; also provide temporary shelter, soup kitchen, and thrift store.

**Male only, Ages 18-65**

**Baltimore City Council**  
100 North Holiday St, Suite 400  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
**Phone:** 410-396-4804  
[www.baltimorecitycouncil.com](http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com)

**Baltimore Office of the Mayor**  
City Hall, Room 250, 100 N. Holiday St.  
Baltimore, MD, 21202  
**Phone:** 410-396-3835  
[www.baltimorecity.gov/mayor](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/mayor)

**Baltimore Works One-Stop Career Center**  
1100 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, MD 21201  
**Phone:** 410-767-2148

Full service career center that provides opportunities for job search, referrals to employment, literacy skills, GED classes, and occupational training.

**Ages 18 and older**

**Beans and Bread**  
402 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD 21231  
**Phone:** 410-732-1892

Meals served M, Tues, Thurs, F, Sat from 10:15am-12:45pm. Learning center provides adults basic education and computer instruction; Drop-in center available with case workers; Transitional housing program for men.

**Caroline Center**  
900 Somerset St., Baltimore, MD 21202  
**Phone:** 410-563-1301

Three phase education/job training program designed to help women acquire discipline and skills necessary to obtain fulfilling work that pays a living wage; Includes career counseling, individual instruction, computer training, and job search assistance.

**Female Only, Ages 20 and older**

***Carrington House***

3500 Clifton Ave., Baltimore, MD 21216

**Phone:** 410-947-7900

A residential substance abuse program for homeless men who have been clean for 28 days; (must provide documentation that you are homeless and clean) – Also provides case management to individuals.

**Male only**

***Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents (CCIP)***

P.O. Box 41-286, Eagle Rock, CA 90041

**Phone:** 616-449-2470

<http://e-ccip.org/index.html>

***The Center for Urban Families***

3002 Druid Park Dr., Baltimore, MD 21215

**Phone:** 410-367-5691

[www.cfuf.org](http://www.cfuf.org)

Family Services, Workforce Development, Responsible Fatherhood, Program Planning, and Evaluation.

-Ms. Andrennae Speaks; [aspeaks@cfuf.org](mailto:aspeaks@cfuf.org)

***CFWD-STRIVE/Men's Services***

3002 Druid Park Dr., Baltimore, MD 21215

**Phone:** 410-675-2125

Provides a 3 week job readiness/employment training and placement service. Emphasis is on job seeking skills, job readiness, workplace behavior, appearance and attitude. Promotes responsible fatherhood through parenting classes, case management.

**Male only, Ages 18-40**

***Children Having Incarcerated Parents (CHIP)***

1109 W. Lanvale St., Baltimore, MD 21217

**Phone:** 410-255-3693

***Christopher Place Employment Academy***

709 E. Eager St., Baltimore, MD 21202

**Phone:** 410-576-0066

Provides a 6 month employment and transitional housing program for homeless men who are committed to improving their situations.

***Community Conferencing Center***

2300 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218

**Phone:** 410-889-7400

[www.communityconferencing.org](http://www.communityconferencing.org)

Conflict transformation and community justice organization that provides ways for people to safely, collectively, and effectively prevent and resolve conflicts and crime.

-Lauren Abramson, Executive Director

***Damascus Career Center***

806 Cherryhill Rd., Baltimore, MD 21225

**Phone:** 410-354-7507

Provides career counseling and job training including computer training, resume writing, job search/placement, and adult literacy instruction. GED program available.

**Ages 18 and older**

***Department of Social Services***

1510 Guilford Ave., Baltimore, MD 21202

**Public Information:** 443-423-4500

**Homeless Unit:** 410-361-4637

443-423-6000

**Mental Health Crisis:** 410-752-2272

**Emergency:** 410-361-2172

***Druid Hills Transitional Housing***

128 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, MD 21201

**Phone:** 410-669-3670

Transitional housing program where all clients must participate in mandatory workshop that deals with parenting, employment, interviewing techniques, budget management, stress management, and nutrition.

**Must be homeless family with custody of children.**



***ECSM-Jericho Re-Entry Program***

901 N. Milton Avenue, 5th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21213

**Phone:** 410-522-3293

[www.escm.org](http://www.escm.org)

Jericho is a workforce development program which assists male ex-offenders who are returning to the community and are motivated to participate in job training and placement.

-Ms. Bonnie Ariano; [bariano@ecsm.org](mailto:bariano@ecsm.org)

-Mr. Greg Carpenter, Trainer and Mentor Coordinator; [gcarpenter@ecsm.org](mailto:gcarpenter@ecsm.org)

***Ex-Offender Resource Guide***

Publication of Baltimore City Mayor's Office

[www.oedworks.com/exoffender/resource\\_guide.pdf](http://www.oedworks.com/exoffender/resource_guide.pdf)

Agencies and Organizations that may be of assistance in providing job related and legal services, answering questions arising from having a criminal record, offering referrals to other useful organizations.

***F.A.C.E.-Freedom Advocates Celebrating Ex-Offenders***

1500 Druid Hill Ave., Baltimore, MD 21217

**Phone:** 410-523-FACE (3223)

[www.facebaltimore.org](http://www.facebaltimore.org)

Through faith-based support, re-entry prison ministries, treatment, and employment training referrals, FACE provides both the setting and the tools to help people who are about to be released.

-Mr. Marlo A. Hargrove, Sr., Director/Co-Founder of F.A.C.E.; [worshiper217@aol.com](mailto:worshiper217@aol.com)

***First Step: Community Counseling & Resource Center***

8303 Liberty Rd., Baltimore, MD 21244

**Phone:** 410-521-4141

Treatment services include: individual, family, and group counseling, relapse prevention, case management, adult support groups, adolescent recovery groups. Educational services include: youth employment with GED program, parenting education, student help.

***Frederick Ozanam House***

400 St. Bond St., Baltimore, MD 21231

**Phone:** 410-732-1892

Transitional housing for homeless men.

**Ages 18 and older**

***Fusion Partnerships, Inc.***

1601 Guilford Avenue, 2 South

Baltimore, MD 21202

**Phone:** 410-889-4700

[www.fusiongroup.org](http://www.fusiongroup.org)

Providing programs that build community for social change in schools, organizations, and communities; Serving as an incubator and fiscal sponsor for grassroots community based programs and projects.

Polly Riddims, Managing Partner

***Health Care for the Homeless***

111 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201

**Phone:** 410-837-5533

Community health clinic for the homeless.

Services include primary health care, HIV testing/counseling, substance abuse assessment and referral, limited case management services, information, and referrals.

***Homeless Persons Representation Project***

1800 N. Charles St., Suite 206

Baltimore, MD 21201-5920

**Phone:** 410-685-6589

[www.hprplaw.org](http://www.hprplaw.org)

Provides legal services and systematic advocacy on behalf of the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

-Ms. Antonia K. Fasanelli;

[afasanelli@hprplaw.org](mailto:afasanelli@hprplaw.org)

***Ingoma Foundation, a Program of Fusion Partnerships, Inc.***

2367 Sundew Terr., Baltimore, MD 21209

**Phone:** 443-794-1688

[www.collectivecry.com](http://www.collectivecry.com)

Mr. Paul Harris, Director

***Job Opportunities Task Force***

231 E. Baltimore St., Suite 1102  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**Phone:** 410-234-8040

[www.jotf.org](http://www.jotf.org)

The mission of JOTF is to develop and advocate policies and programs to increase the skills, job opportunities, and incomes of low-skill, low-income workers and job seekers.

-Mr. Jason Perkins-Cohen, Executive Director

[Jason@jotf.org](mailto:Jason@jotf.org)

-Ms. Melissa Chalmers Broome, Senior Policy Advocate; [Melissa@jotf.org](mailto:Melissa@jotf.org)

***Justice Policy Institute***

1003 K Street NW #500  
Washington, D.C. 20001

**Phone:** 202-558-7974

[www.justicepolicy.org](http://www.justicepolicy.org)

The mission of the Justice Policy Institute is to promote effective solutions to social problems and to be dedicated to ending society's reliance on incarceration.

-Ms. Tracy Velazquez, Executive Director

***Legal Aid Bureau***

500 E. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21202

**Phone:** 410-539-5340

Provides free legal assistance to eligible persons; helps with most civil legal problems.

***Living Classrooms Foundation***

802 S. Caroline St., Baltimore, MD 21231

**Phone:** 410-685-0295

[www.livingclassrooms.org](http://www.livingclassrooms.org)

-Mr. Howard Wicker;

[hwicker@livingclassrooms.org](mailto:hwicker@livingclassrooms.org)

***Marian House***

949 Gorsuch Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218

**Phone:** 410-467-4121

[www.marianhouse.org](http://www.marianhouse.org)

Transitional housing for women; Rehabilitation counseling; addiction recovery; support services; educational advancement; employment assistance; life skills training; family reunification.

-Ms. Katie Allston, Executive Director;

[kallston@marianhouse.org](mailto:kallston@marianhouse.org)

***Martha's Place***

1928 Pennsylvania Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21217

**Phone:** 410-728-8402

Transitional shelter for women with substance abuse histories and female ex-offenders.

***Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL)***

[www.mdcsf.org](http://www.mdcsf.org)

Link to services, program information, maps, and directions

***Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services***

300 East Joppa Rd., Suite 1000

Towson, MD 21286

**Phone:** 410-339-5000

[www.dpscs.state.md.us](http://www.dpscs.state.md.us)

**Link to directory:**

[www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/22dpscs/html/dpscs.html](http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/22dpscs/html/dpscs.html)

-Mr. Gary Maynard, Secretary

-Mr. Mark Vernarelli

***Maryland New Directions***

611 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201

**Phone:** 410-230-0630

[www.mdnewdirections.org](http://www.mdnewdirections.org)

Career Counseling and job training

**Ages 16-75**

-Mr. Stephen B. Thomas

[sthomas@mdnewdirections.org](mailto:sthomas@mdnewdirections.org)

***Maryland Office of the Attorney General***

200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202

**Phone:** 410-567-6300 or 1-888-743-0023

[www.oag.state.md.us](http://www.oag.state.md.us)

***Maryland Parole Commission***

6776 Reisterstown Rd., Suite 307

Baltimore, MD 21215

**Phone:** 410-585-3200

[www.dpscs.state.md.us](http://www.dpscs.state.md.us)

**Maryland Peace with Justice Program,  
American Friends Service Committee**  
4806 York Rd., Baltimore, MD 21212  
**Phone:** 410-323-7200

-Ms. Dominique Stevenson;  
dstevenson@afsc.org

**Maryland's People Law Library**  
[www.peoples-law.info](http://www.peoples-law.info)

Law-related, self-help information for  
Marylanders

**Maryland Re-Entry Program**  
301 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202  
**Phone:** 410-752-3200

To help prepare inmates for their transition from  
prison to their communities, i.e. housing,  
substance abuse, etc.

**Ages 18 and older**

**Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative**  
P.O. Box 33313, Baltimore, MD 21218  
**Phone:** 443-413-6076

[www.mandelaenterprise.org](http://www.mandelaenterprise.org)

Our mission is to promote humane and sensible  
criminal justice policies for those incarcerated  
long term in Maryland's prisons.

Walter Lomax, Director

**NAACP, Baltimore City Branch**  
8 W. 26<sup>th</sup> St., Baltimore, MD 21218

**Phone:** 410-366-3300  
Provides information, referral, advocacy, and  
counseling in the areas of race relations,  
discrimination, education, job loss, health care  
and economic development in the African-  
American Community.

**National Women's Prison Project**  
1701 Madison Ave., Suite 505  
Baltimore, MD 21217

**Phone:** 410-233-3385

[www.nwpp-inc.com](http://www.nwpp-inc.com)

natwomensprisonprojectinc@yahoo.com  
Services to women both inside or released from  
correctional facilities.

-Ms. Alfreda A. Robinson-Dawkins

**Nehemiah House**  
8720 Philadelphia Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21237

**Phone:** 410-682-6333

A transitional shelter for homeless single men  
who are drug and alcohol free. There are 49 beds  
available and clients can stay up to 3 months.  
Physically able men must seek employment.  
Proof of disability is required for those not able  
to work.

**Male only, Ages 18 and up.**

**Office for Civil Rights, Office of the Attorney  
General**

200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202

-Mr. Carl O. Snowden

**Open Society Institute of Baltimore**  
201 N. Charles St., Suite 1300  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**Phone:** 410-234-1091

[www.soros.org/initiatives/baltimore](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/baltimore)

OSI-Baltimore focuses on three intertwined  
problems: untreated drug addiction, overreliance  
on incarceration, and obstacles that impede  
youth from succeeding inside and outside the  
classroom. OSI-Baltimore also supports the  
Community Fellows, a corps of social  
innovators who work to revitalize underserved  
communities.

-Ms. Diana Morris, Director

-Ms. Monique Dixon, Director of Criminal and  
Juvenile Justice Program; mdixon@sorosny.org

**Out for Justice**

2505 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218

**Phone:** 410-889-5072

[www.out4justice.org](http://www.out4justice.org)

Out for Justice organizes former prisoners,  
families of prisoners, and supporters of criminal  
justice reform to change unjust and counter-  
productive policies affecting incarcerated  
individuals and their families.

***Paca House***

116 N. Paca Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

**Phone:** 410-837-7222

Provides single adult men and women with furnished single room occupancy housing; Offers community living environment; Mental health coordinators develop structured programs for residents.

**Ages 18 and older**

***Paul's Place***

1118 Ward St., Baltimore, MD 21230

**Phone:** 410-625-0775

Provides a hot lunch, clothing, tutoring, and recreation services for residents of zip code 21230 and 21223, offers support groups for men and women, NA and AA meetings.

***People Encouraging People***

4201 Primrose Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215

**Phone:** 410-764-8560

[www.peponline.org](http://www.peponline.org)

Psychiatric Group Practice; Psychiatric Rehabilitation; Residential Rehabilitation Services; Supported Living Services; Transitional Age Youth Program; Assertive Community Treatment; Homeless Services

**Ages 14 and older**

-Mr. Achike Oranye; achikeo@peponline.org

***Power/Excel Project***

644 S. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21230

**Phone:** 410-752-3437

Assisting individuals to acquire important social and life skills with the ultimate goal of obtaining sustainable employment and personal success. Also assists incarcerated individuals by preparing them for successful re-entry.

***Power Inside***

325 E. 25<sup>th</sup> St., Baltimore, MD 21218

**Phone:** 410-889-8333

[www.powerinside.org](http://www.powerinside.org)

A multidisciplinary program that is committed to building self-sufficiency and preventing incarceration among women and families in Baltimore through direct client services, advocacy, leadership development, and public education. **Female only**

Jacqueline Robarge, Director

***Prisoners Aid Association of Maryland***

204 E. 25<sup>th</sup> St., Baltimore, MD 21218

**Phone:** 410-662-0353

[www.prisonersaid.com](http://www.prisonersaid.com)

Helping inmates, ex-offenders, and homeless individuals in need of food, shelter, employment training or other social services.

**Ages 18 and older**

-Ms. Clara Cuffie, Deputy Executive Director

-Ms. Andrea Harrison: Female Transitional Housing-Case Manager

-Mr. Michael Brown, Executive Director;

[Michael\\_brown204@hotmail.com](mailto:Michael_brown204@hotmail.com)

***Pro Bono Resource Center- Maryland***

520 W. Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201

**Phone:** 410-837-9379; 800-396-1274

[www.probonomd.org](http://www.probonomd.org)

Coordinator of pro bono legal services

***Project Garrison-Weed and Seed***

3400 Garrison Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21215

**Phone:** 410-664-4300

Re-entry program for ex-offenders. Reverend Issace James attempts to place them in jobs; Computer technology classes, teach workshops and regular classes on computer programs.

***Public Defenders Office***

6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

**Phone:** 410-333-4900; 1-877-430-5187

[www.opd.state.md.us](http://www.opd.state.md.us)

Legal services to eligible individuals

***Public Justice Center***

1 N. Charles St., Suite 200

Baltimore, MD 21201

**Phone:** 410-625-9409

[www.publicjustice.org](http://www.publicjustice.org)

Legal advocacy organization; Current projects focus on tenants, workers, immigrants, prisoners, homeless children, families needing medical assistance and creating a right to counsel in civil cases.

-Ms. Wendy Hess, Staff

Attorney;hessw@publicjustice.org



***Salvation Army, Booth House***

*1114 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202*

**Phone:** 410-685-8878

Women and children, 78-bed shelter with 24 rooms for a 30 day minimum stay. Offers case management to assist with DSS benefits. SSI, job applications, resumes and rental applications.

**Female only, Ages 18 and older**

***Second Chance***

*2901 Druid Park Dr., Baltimore, MD*

**Phone:** 410-669-3200

Provides services for ex-offenders; Assist with getting Maryland State Issued I.D.'s, employment, transitional housing, job readiness, information & referral, mental health, and health.

***Second Genesis—Admissions Department***

*8611 Second Ave. Suite 300*

*Silver Spring, MD 20910*

**Phone:** 1-866-563-6527/301-563-6527

Inpatient and outpatient substance abuse addiction treatment for adults and women with children; dual-diagnosis treatment for incarcerated individuals.

***Senator Lisa Gladden***

*4811 Liberty Heights Avenue*

*Baltimore, MD 21207*

**Phone:** 410-367-5811

***St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center***

*321 E. 25<sup>th</sup> St., Baltimore, MD 21218*

**Phone:** 410-235-5770

Number of programs, including home-sharing program, home-ownership counseling, rentals, legal services, etc.

***St. Jude's Employment Center***

*Samaritan Center*

*19 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, MD 21201*

**Phone:** 410-659-4023

Provides low-income, homeless, and disadvantaged persons with a graduated transition back into the workforce, addressing barriers to employment, skills development and employment assistance.

***St. Vincent de Paul Society of Baltimore, Inc.***

*320 Cathedral St., Suite #622*

*Baltimore, MD 21201*

**Phone:** 410-547-5475

Number of programs that provide the following services: meals, food distribution, clothing, housing, homeless outreach, counseling and referral, case management, domestic violence prevention, employment training and job referrals, adult literacy.

***The Family Information Center***

[www.thefamilyinformationcenter.com](http://www.thefamilyinformationcenter.com)

Provides resources and information for issues that can help your family, regardless of your circumstances or lifestyles. There is a whole section for families of the incarcerated on their website.

***The Sentencing Project***

*514 10<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 1000*

*Washington, D.C. 20004*

**Phone:** 202-628-0871

[www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org)

National organization working for a fair and effective criminal justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing law and practice, and alternatives to incarceration.

-Mr. Marc Mauer, Executive Director

***STRIVE Baltimore***

*3002 Druid Park Dr., Baltimore, MD 21215*

**Phone:** 410-367-5691

Extensive job-readiness and placement services.

***United Workers Organization***

*P.O. Box 41547, Baltimore, MD 21203*

**Phone:** 410-230-1998

[www.unitedworkers.org](http://www.unitedworkers.org)

Human rights organization led by low-wage workers and focused on leadership development through education, reflection, and action.

-Mr. Todd Cherkis, Leadership Organizer;

[tcherkis@hotmail.com](mailto:tcherkis@hotmail.com)

-Ms. Veronica Dorsey

**University of Baltimore School of Law**

1420 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**Phone:** 410-837-4468

Students provide the full range of representation to individual clients with low income. Clinics include interviewing, counseling, planning case strategy, and appearing in court or administrative agencies.

**University of Baltimore School of Social Work**

525 W. Redwood St., Baltimore, MD 21201

**Phone:** 410-706-1882

**Volunteers of America Chesapeake**

7901 Annapolis Rd., Lanham, MD 20706

**Phone:** 301-459-2020

[www.voaches.org](http://www.voaches.org)

Programs that serve the homeless, mentally ill, intellectually disabled, ex-offenders, substance abusers, the elderly, and the children.

-Mr. Gilbert Miller; [gmliller@voaches.org](mailto:gmliller@voaches.org)

**YWCA of the Greater Baltimore Avenue**

128 W. Franklin Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

**Phone:** 410-685-1460

Offers parent education, GED preparation, and an employment readiness program. Also offers 70 bed shelter for women, women with children, and men with children.

**Male only, Ages 18 and older**

**John Mello**

**Green Projects Director**

**Baltimore Civic Works**

2701 St. Lo Drive

Baltimore, MD 21213

**Phone:** 410-366-8533 ext. 223

[mello@cavtel.net](mailto:mello@cavtel.net)

**Rev. Horace Smith**

**President and CEO Group Ministries**

708 Glen Allen Dr., Baltimore, MD 21229

**Phone:** 410-945-1700 **M:** 443-621-4530

[anointedservices@verizon.net](mailto:anointedservices@verizon.net)

**Mr. John Galley, Assistant  
Commissioner of Cumberland**  
18601 Roxbury Rd.

Hagerstown, MD 21746

**Mr. James Peguese, Assistant  
Commissioner of Jessup**

6776 Reisterstown Rd.

Baltimore, MD 21215

**Ms. Betty G. Robinson**

2113 Dobler Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21218

**Phone:** 410-245-2868

[bgrobinson@verizon.net](mailto:bgrobinson@verizon.net)

# **MRJI4Phase Initiative**

## **Mission Statement**

The Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative is a four phase initiative. Our mission is to promote humane and sensible criminal justice policies for those incarcerated long term in Maryland's prisons. By implementing policies of restoration, redemption and reconciliation, we can create long-term systemic change.

The purpose of this initiative is to establish a database of supporters who advocate on behalf of those serving long term sentences so these men and women have a meaningful opportunity to regain their freedom and contribute to the communities from which they came. The initiative began in 1995 when policies changed in the Maryland Division of Correction for persons serving long term incarceration such that parole for this group was effectively reduced to a trickle. Since then concerned citizens have attempted to change this policy but so far to little avail.

In May 1999 the first ever all day Seminar to bring members from the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary branches of Maryland State Government together was scheduled. The purpose was to establish policies, and if necessary, change law in this area. However a lock down of the institution where it was to be held caused the event to be canceled. It was again scheduled for December 2001, but the event instead changed into a photo op and general discussion by DOC officials.

The Seminar was rescheduled to take place in September 2006, but the tragic death of a correctional officer at the Maryland House of Correction, and its subsequent closing, canceled the event once again. Finally, in 2008, sponsors, partners, family members, and friends decided to host the event on the outside, and Phase I took place May 14, 2008 at the Cork Gallery, hosted by Ms. Polly Riddims, Director of the Fusion Group. Phase II of

the initiative was held on September 20 at Morgan State University in cooperation with the Social Work Department, chaired by Dr. Anna McPhatter.

We hosted Phase III January 10, 2009. This event was also partnered with Dr. Anna McPhatter and the Social Work Department. We listed this event as a 'Town Hall' meeting. The objective was to consolidate the support system, inform family members, friends and the general public of legislation to be introduced in the up coming general assembly session, and discuss the issue of long-term incarceration on family members. Phase IV began with our having legislation introduced, Senate Bill 900 in 2009, and SB-901 and HB-940 in 2010. Although the Bills did not pass, our efforts will continue and we need your support.

Sincerely,

*Walter Lomax*, Director

Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative

[mrji4phases@yahoo.com](mailto:mrji4phases@yahoo.com)

443-413-6076

Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative

P.O. Box 33313

Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative