

JUST of DuPage

P.O. Box 1253
Wheaton, IL
60187

PHONE:
(630) 407-2201

E-MAIL:
office@justofdupage.org

www.justofdupage.org

Email us!

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Electronic communication helps save money!

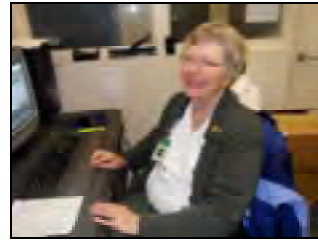
Someone You Should Know

We are grateful for all of the 135 volunteers who serve with JUST. We'd like to introduce you to one of them...

Barbara Garlinger has been involved with JUST now for 10 years. She says she first began volunteering with JUST because of Jesus' words in Matthew 25, "I was in prison, and you visited me." Barbara also knew then-Executive Director

Judy Grote from her church and says, "I couldn't look her in the eye until I volunteered."

Barbara comes every Monday night for "Talk Time," serving as a compassionate listener and prayer partner with women in the jail. In the years of Barbara's service, one can only imagine the impact that she has had on women inmates.



Recently, Barbara has expanded her volunteer role by assisting Sarah in the JUST office, and we greatly appreciate her work.

Thank you, Barbara, for all the ways you serve! You are someone we're glad to know.

Take Note!

- The jail is no longer accepting second-hand books or magazines to be given to inmates. All books coming into the jail must come straight from the publisher or an online bookseller. Second-hand books can be dropped off in the visitation lobby for inmates' families.
- The jail is no longer permitting any hardbound books.
- We are in need of donated TV's and DVD players or VCR's. Please call our office if you'd like to donate one.
- We can always use Forever stamps to save on mailing costs.
- Mark your calendars! On **Saturday, Feb. 6**, JUST will display the "Freedom Beyond Bars" exhibit (see Page 3) and hold a silent jewelry auction at Immanuel Presbyterian in Warrenville. Come support JUST and do your Valentine's Day shopping all at once!

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JUST News

A Publication of JUST of DuPage

December 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3

Why We're Here by Annie Rose

"Why are you here?" That's the question I got from two deputies my third or fourth week on the job. "I know it's not the environment, so what is it?"

At first, I thought the deputies might be asking about the motivation behind JUST as an organization, and I was prepared to start rattling off aspects of our mission. But when they clarified that they were asking about my personal reason for being here, I realized I had the exact same answer. "The people," I responded.

"You mean the inmates? They're *criminals!*"

"I know," I said. "But they're still people."

These two men who had worked for years in the jail as law enforcement could not imagine why a young

woman would choose to spend her 40+ hours a week inside a jail.

There have been a few conversations like this since I came to JUST that have reminded me of how countercultural and even counterintuitive our work is. In a world where self-preservation is often the highest good, it can be confusing to some why we come here day in and day out with the hope of giving men and women—"inmates"—a chance to turn things around.

Our mission can sound very "Pollyanna" to outsiders. Even the idea that a person can actually change is nonsense to many. But for those of us who have seen the reality of transformation—from rebel to true believer, from addiction to recovery—it makes good sense to reach out to people during

their time of incarceration.

We work to eliminate the obstacles to a new, healthy life, restored relationships, and a safer community.

Thank you for your part in delivering a message of hope in the DuPage County Jail! As we move forward in our mission and seek to improve our services, we will need your support more and more. (You'll read more about that on Page 2.)

Please consider giving a special gift to JUST this holiday season. Or think about giving to JUST on a monthly basis. We don't want finances to limit our ability to serve the men and women in the DuPage County Jail. Your investment in JUST will make a difference in the lives of others!

Our Mission:

JUST of DuPage shares God's love and supports the spiritual journeys of inmates of the DuPage County Jail by providing chaplaincy, educational programs, addiction recovery, increased employability, and social services in order that inmates may make positive changes in their lives.

Board of Directors:

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Jack O'Neil
Sara Robertson
Jeanne Rotert
Mike Wilson
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Sarah Buki
Rev. Henocho Fuentes
Jim Meier
Annie Rose, Executive Director

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From the Director: A Check-up and a Challenge

Every once in a while, it's good to do a check-up to see how things are going. In terms of JUST's finances, it's a mixed bag. We have overcome tremendous financial challenges in the last couple of years, but we have further to go.

It's ideal for a nonprofit organization to draw on multiple funding sources. This year, JUST was largely dependent on three major funders. If even one of those funding sources had been lost, we would not have been able

to meet our budget. In fact, less than 50% of our income in the last fiscal year came from individuals and churches.

What does this mean? At this point, JUST is dependent on funding sources which can come and go from year to year. If we had a more stable donor base, we would be able to build a more reliable budget. Then grants could be used to expand our staff in response to inmate needs.

You may think that you'd need to make a large gift

to make a difference, but consider this:

If every person who received this newsletter increased their giving by only \$10 a month, and if every church that received this newsletter increased their giving by \$75 a month, we would be able to meet our budget and to use grant monies to expand our paid staff.

How about a challenge? Let's see if we can make this happen in the next 12 months. Will you join us? The need is expanding; let's expand our response!

The Year in Review

As those who support JUST's work, you have a right to know how we're spending our time and resources. Here is a snapshot of what we've been up to:

- Between January and September, 131 inmates professed faith in Christ.
- In the last fiscal year, we provided 57,203 service hours in the jail.

- 67% of those hours were contributed by volunteers.
- Total (duplicated*) attendance to all JUST programs was 38,638.
- Attendance* for Bible studies and Christian worship services was 13,549.
- Attendance* for substance abuse programs was 12,934.

- Attendance* for educational and employability programs was 5,805.

Not everybody is a numbers person. For some qualitative reflections on our services, please see Page 3, where we have included comments from inmates we've served. I hope you agree that your investment in JUST has a real impact!

JUST Receives New Computer Equipment

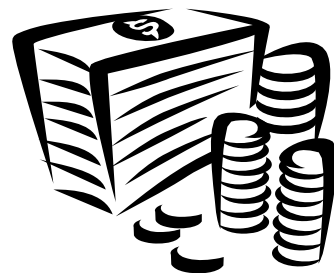
In September, JUST was blessed to receive a donation of 21 newer computers for our two computer labs in the jail. This came as a gift from the Kane County Department of Employment and

Education.

This generous gift enabled us to replace aging computers in both men's and women's computer labs. As we worked at setting up the labs, inmates who walked by were excited to see sharp-

looking, new computers. We knew that KCDEE's donation would mean better computers for our classes, but we could not have anticipated how meaningful they would be to the inmates.

Thanks, KCDEE!



If every person who received this newsletter gave an additional \$10 monthly gift to JUST, we would be in a position to expand our paid staff.



“Freedom Beyond Bars” Exhibits Inmates’ Creativity

In late August, we invited local church leaders to join us at Gary United Methodist Church in Wheaton to see an art gallery entitled “Freedom Beyond Bars.” This collection of inmate artwork was the brainchild of JUST volunteer Ellen Meuch and powerfully communicates the

humanity and creativity of inmates.

Fourteen churches were represented at the event which gave church leaders the opportunity to learn about JUST's work in the jail. Special thanks to Gary Church for hosting the event!

If you'd like to see this beautiful inmate art exhibit, join us for a special event on **Saturday, February 6** from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Warrenville (See Page 4). We'll also have a silent jewelry auction you won't want to miss! Be sure to invite your friends along!

Christmas in the Jail: Area Churches Reach out through JUST

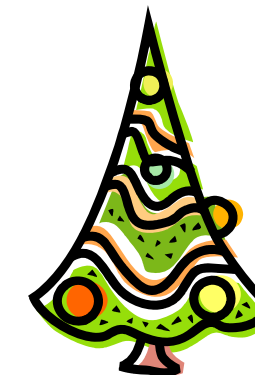
At JUST, we relish the partnerships we have with area churches in bringing hope into the DuPage County Jail. We especially appreciate the participation of several area churches in helping us bring Christmas into the jail. Each year, a group of JUST staff and volunteers takes one evening to go Christmas caroling throughout the facility. As we go, we hand out bags of candy and

stamped Christmas cards for the inmates to send to their loved ones. For 2009, the following churches have helped prepare candy and stamps for this special night:

- Christian Church of Clarendon Hills
- Community United Methodist Church, Naperville
- First Assembly of God, Wheaton

- Gary United Methodist Church, Wheaton
- Hope Covenant Church, Orland Park
- Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Warrenville
- Our Savior Lutheran Church, Carol Stream
- Wheaton Wesleyan Church

We depend on area churches to partner with us in our mission. Thanks to all the churches that join us in reaching out to



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From Those We Serve Expressions of Gratitude from Inmates

“Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I'd learn valuable life lessons while incarcerated... this time away has become one of the most productive periods of my adult life.”

“Being in jail... I really got the chance to know myself.”

“I've already begun to apply some of these acquired skills to different

areas of my personal life.”

“The information and insight I took out of Jim Meier's group was invaluable, and your whole program is a blessing for those sincere enough to actually want to change themselves. Thank you.”

“I am always going to remember all you have done. May God continue to bless you.”

“[Rev. Henocho Fuentes' class] has let me know that even though I am a convicted felon that there is still hope out there for me.”

“Thank you for the Bible given to me. The Word of God is what we need in a place like this.”

“It means a lot that you're willing to help those of us on the other side of the cell doors here.”