



ISSUE NO. 33

NOVEMBER 2020

THE DRUM

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UPCOMING EVENTS

PROJECT REENTRY WORKSHOP WITH DETROIT COMMUNITY WEALTH FOUNDATION

Sunday, November 8th
2:00-4:00pm
Executive Director of DCWF, Margo Dalal, and her colleague B. Anthony will present on cooperative businesses and share opportunities available now for returning citizens. This is a free event open to the community.
Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8236895388>

U OF M GINSBERG CENTER- ENTERING, ENGAGING, AND EXITING COMMUNITIES RESPECTFULLY

Thursday, November 5th
4:00-5:15pm
This interactive virtual workshop introduces principles and practices for thoughtfully engaging with communities, including motivations, impact of social identities, and strategies for engaging in reciprocal, ethical, and respectful ways.

Registration Link:
<https://events.umich.edu/event/75348>

VISUALIZING ABOLITION

Tuesday, November 17th
4pm-5:30pm
visual and cultural theorists Nicole Fleetwood, Herman Gray and Nicholas Mirzoeff to consider the roles of visual culture in normalizing mass incarceration and the racist brutalities of policing within the social landscape and political vision of America.

Registration Link:
https://ucsc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_k_0T9SAzQN2jssCO0woZg

PAYING IT FORWARD: DAWUD CLARK

A little less than 2 years ago, Mr. Clark was granted parole after serving 30 years on a life sentence. Prior to prison, he ran a successful food truck business and served the community as an EMT. He has always been a person who strives to help others and give back to his community. When he first got out he was met with many challenges because of the discrimination against people formerly incarcerated. Although motivated and ready to restart his life and accomplish new career goals, he couldn't get approved for housing in Wayne County and had to live in a hotel for several months while working full time. But he did not give up and his hard work paid off.

He was recognized by Crain business and offered an opportunity by Dream of Detroit to repair and manage a house to be used as a home for people getting out of prison. Mr. Clark titled the project, "Project Homecoming". Although transitional housing, also known as halfway houses, aren't novel to prisoner reentry, Project Homecoming is special because it will be managed by Mr. Clark, a returned citizen who cares and knows first-hand what life is like after prison. Mr. Clark will be sure to provide his residents with a true homecoming, as he did this month with SADO Reentry. Mr. Clark greeted Chris on his third day home with a bag full of donuts and told him "call me anytime, even if it's the middle of the night, you are not alone". *From left to right; Chris, Mr. Clark,, and SADO Reentry specialist Jose Burgos.*



POETRY: BY TAYWON WILLIAMS

What is a mind when you can't share what's inside?

What is a dream when people like me have the same qualifications but fail to meet the standards of equal?

What is a voice when no one lends an ear to listen?

Freedom-what is the true definition?

What is the true reason for television, distorting minds by controlling what's seen believing it is when it isn't?

What's free?

-Mr. Taywon Williams

Do you have a message you'd like to send to the community? We would love to share it! Please send any written pieces, artwork or images to reentry@sado.org to be featured in an upcoming Drum!

MASTERS ESSAY: A SERIES *Submission By Timothy Greer*

PROLOGUE

It is widely accepted in criminal justice studies that the prison population boom of the 1980s and 1990s is largely responsible for the current huge influx of ex-prisoners into communities across the United States (Petersilia, 2003; Maruna & Immerglieu, 2004; Travis, 2005). This prison and jail population boom has resulted in the incarceration of over two million individuals. In his seminal work on prisoner reentry, *But They All Come Back: Facing the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry*, Travis (2005) states: "Beginning in 1973..., the imprisonment rate in America started to increase at about 6 percent each year.... [It] has increased every year, for 30 years...." (p. 22). This conclusion adversely affected sentencing and parole policies, stiffened because of the apparent "crime wave" that had struck America. The author also indicated that besides the rising crime rates, there were other factors that led to the growth in this country's prison population. They included: shifts in sentencing policy (returning to determinate sentences, as well as enacting mandatory minimum sentences and "three strikes" laws); new approaches to drug enforcement (targeting young Black males in the so-called "war on drugs"); and tougher policies regarding supervision following release from prison (revoking paroles more often for technical rules) (pp. 26-52). Finally, Travis pointed out that in 2002 more than 630,000 people were released from America's prisons, or 1,700 ex-prisoners per day (p. xvii). With those startling figures in mind, coupled with the fact that approximately 95 percent of America's estimated two million prison and jail inmates will eventually be released at some point, in this Essay I seek to answer the following question: Faced with issues involving acquiring housing, securing employment, obtaining public benefits, and family reunification, is there a need for free and more comprehensive legal services for persons released from prison?

***Stay tuned for more of Timothy Greer's enlightening essay on prison reentry and criminal justice reform. If you would like the full essay mailed or emailed, please reach out to SADO Reentry by emailing reentry@sado.org.**

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: HERE TO HELP



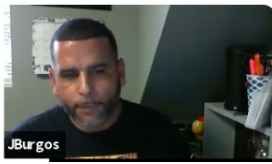
Here to Help is a foundation assisting Wayne and Oakland county residents with rent, furniture, clothing, utility payments, and more. The foundation is led by Bob Schwartz, who works tirelessly to help community members in need. In the month of October alone, Here to Help's program "Returning Hope to Returning Citizens", provided 123 grants to returning citizens giving 79 Walmart gift cards (\$300 value) to grantees; helped furnish seven apartments/homes; provided two car repairs, and purchased seven used vehicles to help employed individuals get to and from work. Here to Help is accessible and has few limits when it comes to helping people in need. When I first met Bob, I asked all the questions... I wanted to know what the catch was because the program sounded too good to be true, but I didn't find one. Bob explained how simple it was and has since followed through and assisted many SADO clients. Thank you Here to Help! If in need of services visit www.heretohelpfoundation.org and submit a short application form. If you need assistance filling out the application, reach out to Project Reentry.

REQUEST HELP: www.heretohelpfoundation.org

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*Thank
you!*

THANK YOU U OF M TAX PAYER CLINIC!



Last week U of M Taxpayer Clinic gave a workshop on the Stimulus Cares Act, which recently changed making people incarcerated eligible to receive \$1,200.

What you need to know:

If you are or were incarcerated in jail or prison at any point on or after March 27th, 2020, you should apply for the stimulus check.

To apply online: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here>

Deadline to apply online: November 21st, 2020

*Those with loved ones incarcerated may apply online on behalf of loved ones incarcerated.

Deadline to apply with paper 1040 form: November 4th, 2020

*The paper form must have the applicant's signature and should be postmarked by November 4th, 2020. If Michigan resident, paper forms should be mailed to the following address:

**Department of Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Fresno, CA 93888-0002**

NEED HELP FILING? CALL U OF M TAX CLINIC AT 734-936-3535

YOUTH JUSTICE FUND AND 555 ARTS- MENTAL HEALTH FOR RETURNING CITIZENS



Youth Justice Fund is a nonprofit based in Ypsilanti, MI lead by executive director Aaron Kinzel. Their mission is to assist returning citizens, sentenced as youth to a term of imprisonment, with services and resources necessary to ensure human dignity and full participation in their communities. Youth Justice Fund has assisted many “Juvenile Lifers” and other participants with initial funds for rent, transportation, and essential items when first home from prison. For eligible State Appellate Defender clients who leave the Michigan Department of Corrections with little to no support on the outside, YJF has been there to welcome them home and fill service gaps. This summer YJF hosted a trauma informed summer camp where participants, most whom spent decades in prison, were able to safely get together and spend a weekend reflecting, relaxing, and having fun. Recognizing the need to provide more mental health services for returning citizens, YJF also hosted “Metal Health” workshops with community partner 555 Arts, a nonprofit in Detroit. Participants were invited to Metal Health workshops by Jay Elias, the Director of Veterans programming and owner of Evolution Art Studios. Jay is passionate about creating art and providing community spaces for creation, as an outlet and prescription for healing. Jay shared how metal art has been instrumental to healing in his journey, and wanted to share that with others, especially with people who have never worked with metal as an art medium. Both YJF and 555 Arts have found unique ways to provide mental health services for returning citizens. Summer camp and metal molding workshops may not be the first things you think of when considering mental health programming options...but maybe they should be!

COMING SOON...



The Alba Project is a student-run organization based at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor that aims to empower returning citizens with an awareness of their own mental health, create support networks that aid them through the re-entry process, and create relationships between university students and recently released peers. Through facilitated workshops, a pen pal system, community bonding events, and speaker panels, the project aims to create a safe space around reentry in this country. **The Alba project is looking for an external advisor or any contacts that can provide them with support in these goals. They can be contacted by email: albaproject@umich.edu**



CONGRATS TO JOSE BURGOS AND KATHERINE ROOT!



Katherine Root, SADO Mitigation Attorney and Project Reentry intern supervisor, was recently elected Chair of the SBM Prisons & Corrections Section Council. Jose Burgos, SADO Reentry Specialist, was elected as a Council member. The P&C Council is an influential group with a diverse array of stakeholders, including defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, corrections administrators, the Ombudsman, formerly incarcerated individuals, prisoner advocates, social workers, and others.

SBM | Prisons and Corrections Section
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

TAYLOR BONNER:

PROJECT REENTRY ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT



Project Reentry is excited to announce Taylor Bonner, Project Reentry alum, was hired as Detroit's Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) Job Coach and Retention Specialist. Prior to joining CEO, Taylor was a reentry team member at SADO and worked with clients on reentry planning. We want to congratulate Taylor on her continued journey and efforts to help returning citizens. CEO provides immediate, effective, and comprehensive employment services exclusively to individuals who have recently returned home from incarceration. Project Reentry is glad to be able to continue to work with Taylor and her team at CEO.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND FUNDRAISING EVENT



To all survivors of domestic violence, and to everyone one who has lost a love one to domestic violence, we stand with you and send love your way. To honor domestic violence survivors SADO Project Reentry is organizing a turkey trot 5K run or walk event. All proceeds will go to organizations servicing those impacted by domestic violence. Stay tuned on social media for event date and details.

If you would like to help orgainze email Project Reentry at reentry@sado.org

If you or someone you know needs help call the National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

THE CLEAN SLATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE IN ACTION

- Creates a mechanism to automatically clear two felonies or up to four misdemeanors from someone's public criminal record after 10 years, if all of the offenses are non-assaultive. HB 4980, Rep. Eric Leutheuser (R-Hillsdale)
- Makes most traffic offenses eligible for expungement, HB 4981, Rep. Pauline Wendzel (R-Watervliet)
- Creates a process to set aside marijuana sentences for conduct that would have been legal after the 2018 referendum legalizing recreational marijuana. HB 4982, Rep. Luke Meerman (R-Coopersville)
- Reduces the misdemeanor waiting period to three years and permits petitions to expunge two felonies to be filed after seven years. HB 4983, Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor)
- Expands the amount of offenses eligible to be set aside from the current limit of one felony and two misdemeanors to two felonies or up to four misdemeanors, and more if none of the convictions are assaultive. House Bill 4984 , Rep. David LaGrand (D-Grand Rapids)
- Allows multiple convictions for certain offenses that happened during "one bad night" to become eligible for expungement as a single offense. HB 4985, Rep. Sherry Day-Dagnogo (D-Detroit)

***INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY**

Safe & Just
Michigan

THANK YOU!

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hiring immediately, felony friendly no matter the convictions, parole eligibility flexible. Transportation to work site from central location.

Contact SADO Reentry or email Ashely Blake at ablake@ceoworks.org

7310 Woodward Ave #701b
Detroit, MI 48202

MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF DETROIT

Hiring immediately for multiple paid apprenticeship programs designed to lead employees to high paying, sustainable careers.

Contact SADO Reentry to connect or call Chief Talent Officer Melody Magee at 313-779-1666 or 313-341-7661 Ext. 203

14801 West 8 Mile Rd.
Detroit, MI 48235

ABOVE AND BEYOND STAFFING SOLUTIONS

On the spot interviews, multiple positions available

Open 7:00am-3:00pm

4270 High St.
Ecorse, MI 48229
Contact: 313-451-8510

GOOD WILL FLIP THE SCRIPT

Flip the Script partners with many organizations throughout the community. Together they developed this mentoring and job training program. Flip the Script offers services to help men and women find work. Many of these men are referred to Goodwill from the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Contact: Michael Bradshaw, Flip the Script Program Administrator 313-557-4823

AMAZON WAREHOUSE

Immediate openings available now. Start as soon as 7 days. No resume or previous work experience required.

Job opportunities vary by location. .Hourly pay rate: \$15.00/hr min pay rate – \$18.85/hr max pay rate. visit link below to apply and filter job search by location.

<https://search.amazondelivers.jobs/job/romulus/warehouse-team-member/3413/17649392>

MINUTE MEN

provides short-term, long-term and permanent light industrial staffing services for Dearborn and metro Detroit.

13240 Michigan Avenue Dearborn, MI 48126
Contact: 313-849-3555
dearborn@minutemeninc.com

FOR ASSISTANCE APPLYING TO JOBS OR TO BE CONNECTED TO EVENTS AND RESOURCES IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE REACH OUT TO PROJECT REENTRY.

PROJECT REENTRY NOVEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL WORKSHOP



PROJECT REENTRY WORKSHOP: STARTING A BUSINESS THROUGH A CO-OP

Sunday November 8, 2020 | 2-4pm

Have you dreamed of starting a business? Discover if a co-op is the right model for your idea and learn about the resources Detroit Community Wealth Foundation has for returning citizens. Join us for a virtual workshop to learn about cooperative business opportunities for returning citizens in Detroit, MI. Margo Dalal, Executive Director of DCWF, and her colleague B. Anthony, DCWF Education and Communications Manager, will present on the basics of co-ops and available pathways to getting a loan.



JOIN BY ZOOM:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82368953887](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82368953887)

OR JOIN BY PHONE: 1-646-558-8656

MEETING ID: 823 689 53887

Contact Mari at mdavid@sado.org | 313-670-0309 with questions

To see past versions of The Drum,
visit www.sado.org/go/drum
Follow SADO on Facebook and
Twitter!@sadowich

Have QUESTIONS OR something to
contribute?

Email reentry@sado.org