

LUZERNE COUNTY

Luzerne County Judge Donates Neckties to Reentrants

By Karen Collins, GEO Care Strategic Marketing

Reentrants at the Luzerne County RSC were grateful to receive a special gift from the Honorable Jennifer L. Rogers, Family Court Judge in Luzerne County. The judge donated a bag full of men’s neckties for male reentrants to use for court appearances, job interviews, and special occasions.

“This was a very thoughtful gesture on behalf of Judge Rogers, and we are very appreciative,” said Stacey Velez, Program Manager at the Luzerne RSC. “The men were honored by this gesture, it was a boost for their self-esteem and it brought hope for a better future for the reentrants working towards a new start in life.”

GEO Reentry Services provides evidence-based reentry programming at the Luzerne County RSC. Amongst the services is an Employment Readiness class, which prepares reentrants to seek employment to help establish successful reentry to the community. In the class, reentrants are taught to tie a necktie as part of the preparation for interviewing and presenting their best self for employment.

“Four reentrants never knew how to tie a necktie, so they were shown by GEO male staff,” continued Ms. Velez. “All were extremely proud of their newly acquired skill. Being able to tie your tie was a rite of passage some had never experienced. This gift was beneficial, ensuring commitment to programming and a desire to live a positive life. One individual said he never even owned a tie.”

The reentrants were so impressed they presented Judge Rogers with a framed photo of the group sporting their new ties. One member of the group plans to wear his new tie to his upcoming court date when he sees the Judge.



Individuals who secure employment are less likely to reoffend, reducing the rate of recidivism. The Luzerne County RSC offers a non-residential program of reentry services for those referred from the criminal justice system, providing services for substance abuse treatment, life skills, educational, and vocational preparation. Its goal is to return individuals to society as productive citizens and reduce recidivism. Many respond positively to the reentry programming, turn their lives around, and stand proudly in jacket and tie, ready to begin a new and positive life.

CAMBRIA COUNTY

Community Connections: Good Nutrition on a Budget

In December 2018, Cambria County RSC worked with the Penn State Extension Co-operative to start a series of nutrition education classes for reentrants. Reentrants have the opportunity to learn how to purchase better, nutritional food on a budget. They learn how to prepare different foods using items like a hot plate and electric skillet. Reentrants prepare food items while in group to try different recipes and also attend four group sessions to complete the nutrition group series. After completing the series, each reentrant will receive a reusable shopping bag full of goodies.

PENNSYLVANIA REENTRY SERVICE CENTERS

RSC - Cambria County	499 Manor Drive	Ebensburg, PA 15931	T: 814.471.1801	F: 814.472.4699
RSC - Dauphin County	2151 Greenwood Street	Harrisburg, PA 17104	T: 717-561-9600	F: 717-561-9620
RSC - Franklin County	550 W Loudon Street	Chambersburg, PA 17201	T: 717.263.0450	F: 727.263.3016
RSC - Lancaster County	439 E King Street	Lancaster, PA 17601	T: 717.391.8202	F: 717.291.8206
RSC - Luzerne County	125 N Wilkes-Barre Blvd, Suite 4	Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	T: 570.208.4858	F: 570.208.4874
RSC - Lycoming County	330 Pine Street	Williamsport, PA 17701	T: 570.323.1274	F: 570.323.1659
RSC - York County	1 E Market Street, Suite 301-204	York, PA 17401	T: 717-848-4448	F: 717-848-5448
RSC - Reading ADAPPT	400 Washington Street, Suite 1202	Reading, PA 19601	T: 610.478.8800	F: 610.478.8800
RSC - Philadelphia Erie	3768 L Street	Philadelphia, PA 19124	T: 215.744.9601	F: 215.743.7230

If you have questions about any of the information contained in this newsletter, please contact the facility staff.



Pennsylvania Update

WINTER 2019

WELCOME

Welcome to the Winter 2019 issue of the *Pennsylvania Update*, a publication of GEO Reentry Service Centers (RSC) throughout the state. In this issue you learn how RSCs are celebrating the success of reentrants, engaging reentrants in pro-social ways, and creating inviting, creative environments to encourage success.

Thanks for your support and at any time, let me know if you have questions.

Regards, John Hogan, Area Manager, Pennsylvania

ADAPPT REENTRY SERVICE CENTER

Check Out the New ADAPPT Reentry Service Center!

In September 2018, ADAPPT Outpatient program was rebranded to ADAPPT Reentry Service Center and moved its operations to a suite across the hall to better accommodate the growing reentrant population, and provide space to better service Day Reporting, Workforce Development, Cognitive Behavioral Intervention, and Batterers Intervention referrals. The new facility has two groups rooms, individual offices for counselors, a waiting room, and a computer lab. It’s decorated with new GEO Reentry Services signs and motivational posters. Feedback from reentrants and guests has been very positive.

Another new addition to the ADAPPT RSC is Yasiris Martinez. Ms. Martinez joined our team in November 2018 and instantly showed her value through great reentrant engagement, focus on training, and applying her previous employment skills to her new position. She has many years of experience working with the mental health population, as well as managing administrative projects and tasks. She is a valuable employee and we are happy to have her on our team!



YORK COUNTY

Meeting Basic Needs in York: Identification

Reentering the community from prison is a stressful transition. Reentrants enrolled in the York RSC make plans on how to succeed while still incarcerated, but quickly hit roadblocks or barriers. During the development of a Behavior Change Plan (BCP) or Individual Employment Plan (IEP), Case Managers work with reentrants to understand barriers they may face and how to overcome them. A primary barrier is lack of identification.

When looking for employment or applying for medical assistance or TANF, identification is needed. In 2018, the York RSC alleviated this barrier by assisting in paying for 19 state

ID cards and six birth certificates. Case Managers assisted 14 reentrants to complete the SS-5 form and obtain a bus pass for transportation to Social Security to apply for a card.

All reentrants who were helped were required to maintain above 90% attendance and progress in Moral Reconation Therapy® (MRT) or Job Readiness through Step 3. Engagement remained consistent throughout the program and 84% of individuals who received financial assistance from the RSC to pay for a birth certificate or state ID obtained a positive discharge from the program.



DAUPHIN COUNTY

Dauphin County RSC Graduates 35 Reentrants

By Jacqueline Schap, Program Manager

On November 13, 2018, staff and reentrants of the Dauphin County RSC gathered with members of Parole and Probation as well as loved ones to celebrate the achievements of reentrants who completed programming. The graduates were in Cognitive Behavioral Interventions, Day Reporting, and Workforce Development programs. This event was the fourth graduation of the RSC and spoke to the level of commitment to change each reentrant took in their respective journey through the program.

At the RSC, the goal of the staff is to be an agent of change for each reentrant who walks through our doors. Furthermore, the RSC staff strives to help each person develop new ways of thinking allowing them to enhance their overall quality of life.

As the graduates were presented with certificates, each was also awarded a calendar, a bag of Hershey sweets, and a coffee mug with the motivational words, "Be Strong, Be Brave, Be Fearless. You are Never Alone."



Highlighting the event was keynote speaker, Mr. James O’Berry, an alumni of the RSC. He started his speech with the purpose of MRT and how beginning with honesty and trust laid the ground work for him to know how to build and rebuild positive relationships, starting with his family. As he told his story, he read from his MRT book, saying he still carries it with him even though he has long completed the program. Concluding his speech, he challenged the current graduating class with the question, “What is your next step?”

LYCOMING COUNTY

Reentry Service Center Celebrates 8th Transition Celebration

The Lycoming County RSC held its eighth Transition Celebration on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at the Community Theatre League. Thirty successful reentrants were recognized at this event.

The ceremony began with opening remarks by Program Manager Michael Boughton. Among the guest speakers were Mr. John Stahl, Adult Probation Officer Supervisor; Mr. Jason Yorks of the Lycoming County Landfill, and Reentry alumni Mr. Seth Fredericks and Ms Stephanie Rolley.

Mr. Yorks commented on the partnership between the Lycoming County Landfill and the RSC, who work together to create employment opportunities for reentrants. Mr. Stahl highlighted the importance of the program in assisting reentrants in becoming productive members of society. Alumni Mr. Fredericks and Ms Rolley shared how the program can help reentrants succeed and give back to the community.

Several RSC graduates spoke about their history of addiction and the effect the reentry program had on their lives. All graduates were announced and presented with a certificate of completion and a small gift for successfully completing the program.

After the ceremony, everyone was welcomed at the RSC in the Executive Plaza for a light lunch, refreshments, and an open house. Several members of the alumni group and the community participated in the open house to help celebrate the graduates.



LANCASTER COUNTY

Lancaster’s Friendly Welcome to a New Life

By Kimberly Reichenbach, Program Manager

The Lancaster County RSC celebrated its fifth anniversary in February 2019. After five busy years helping reentrants change behaviors for a new life, it was time for the facility to have some new life as well!

RSC Client Services Specialist, Alecia Vandyke, was happy to re-purpose an accent wall in the lobby. She understood the importance of the treatment alliance and incorporated it into a *Get to Know the Staff* board. Included for each staff member is a favorite quote and what they love about working in Reentry Services. The theme centers around the TV show, *Friends*, and features the infamous yellow frame as a constant friendly reminder that our staff are here to help and support all with whom we come into contact.

Other improvements to the lobby help reentrants identify thinking errors and counter-tapes with a theme from the board game *Life*. Thinking errors like, “It’s so unfair,” or, “I don’t need this program,” are common during initial phases of treatment. The life-size game board gives reentrants tangible examples of common thinking errors and alternative, more positive statements which can help them emotionally regulate and move toward life goals.

Reentry Service Centers are a hub for great risk reduction treatment services. Staff work hard to engage, motivate, and align with every reentrant who walks through the doors. With these creative and multi-generationally relevant tools, our reentrants can start working toward success the second they come in.



ERIE OUTPATIENT RSC



Pro-social Seasonal Celebration

On Thursday, December 20, 2018, Erie Outpatient staff and reentrants enjoyed the second annual seasonal celebration. There was plenty of food, fun, games, and music. The reentrants were proud and grateful to be a part of this festive pro-social event.

The purpose of the event was to enhance outcomes for reentrants. We strive to develop positive relationships with reentrants. Pro-social activities help them connect with staff members outside the structure of the day-to-day programming, allowing them to practice learned behavioral skills in a safe and comfortable setting.

The celebration was a success, with shared laughs and pro-social memories for our reentrants.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Supporting Self-Efficacy in Franklin County

For over 10 years, the Franklin County RSC has provided services to individuals with high-risk, high-need areas in group and individual case management sessions tailored to fit each individual. There is no greater reward for staff than seeing a reentrant making progress and lowering risk/need areas. Such successes come with supporting the self-efficacy of each reentrant.

On February 1, 2019, the RSC had the privilege of hosting a transition ceremony for two graduates. Each entered the program homeless and unemployed with minimal to no coping skills. Over several months, the reentrants attended groups such as Drug and Alcohol, MRT, Life Skills, and Job Readiness. Each had an initial LSI-R score in the 30s. Due to hard work and dedication, both scores were lowered to the 20s. Both worked on gaining coping skills, securing employment, and moving into their own apartments!

