

Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful. ~ Joshua J. Marine

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Correctional Transition Services, Inc.
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FINDING STRENGTH

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CLIENT FOCUSED, COMMUNITY BASED

MISSION

Dedicated to providing unique community-based programming for individuals transitioning from the correctional system to society.

BELIEF

We believe that people can and will change when afforded meaningful opportunities that promote lifelong behavioral changes.

SOLUTION

CTSI takes a solutions-based approach to working with clients to break the cycle of addiction and recidivism and increase public safety.



SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

Ken Dean, a graduated CTSI client, receives a Minneapolis Police Department Life Saving Award on September 26th, 2008 for being a first responder at the scene of a drive-by shooting. Pictured left to right: Minneapolis Chief of Police Tim Dolan, Ken Dean, and CTSI Executive Director Paul Kusterman.

Have you ever wondered what you would do if you came across the victim of a drive-by shooting? Ken Dean and two other CTSI clients know what they would do.

On September 26th of 2008, these three unsung community heroes were awarded Life Saving Awards by the Minneapolis Police Chief himself. They were the first responders to the victim of a drive-by shooting in North Minneapolis last year, when they

immediately placed a call to 911 and offered first aid.

The story doesn't end there. The night before this awards ceremony, these men came across another victim of a drive-by shooting and again put themselves in potential danger by aiding the victim. In early 2009, they will receive another Life Saving Award in front of the Minneapolis City Council for making our community a safer place to live.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Note from the Director	2
Behind Bars	2
Minnesota Prisons	2
Staff Profile: Diana Petersen	3
Ways to Give	3
Friends of CTSI	3



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Helping individuals make positive life changes.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of CTSI,

It has been an incredible year at CTSI. We have grown from that unlikely little engine that could, to the little engine that does! And the organization owes its success in no small part to the herculean efforts of staff and contractors, our generous supporters, and the hundreds of clients themselves. It's hard work to affect real change in the community, but these people make it possible.

The mission that we're all tackling head on is as daunting as it is the absolute reality for our clients. The incarceration rates of men, particularly black men, are on the rise (see side bar for recent statistics). The recidivism rates are troubling, to say the least. And the Department of Justice reports that 80% of incarcerations are substance-abuse related.

Imagine then, if you will, a place where ex-offenders could seek help for successfully transitioning back into society. A place where clients receive the treatment and encouragement that they need, and are held accountable for their progress toward a healthier way of living and thriving. A clean life. And a life of strength.

What happens when a client successfully transitions into society? Well, they get jobs and they hold them. They find housing. They take classes to increase their skills. They enter into loving, supportive relationships. They take responsibility for their own community, like Mr. Dean and two other CTSI clients did as first responders to two drive-by shootings (see front page). As a result, our community is a better place to live.

As you think about how to affect change in your community, I'd invite you to learn more about the work of CTSI. I believe that you'll find our staff and clients to be inspirational. I know that they are to me.

In partnership,

Paul Kusterman, Executive Director

Pictured below: CTSI graduates of a six-week safety education class.



BEHIND BARS: THE SHOCKING TRUTH

Incarceration of men ages 18+

White men: 1 in 106

All men: 1 in 54

Black men: 1 in 15

Black men ages 20-34: 1 in 9

SOURCE: *One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008*. The Pew Center on the States.

MINNESOTA PRISONS

Minnesota's state prison population grew by 5.1% in 2007, placing it in the highest quintile of growth in the country.

SOURCE: *One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008*. The Pew Center on the States.

WORDS OF SUPPORT

What impresses me most about CTSI is their drive and ability to help individuals become "whole" people. In addition to working on the 12 steps and steps in cognitive thinking, they explore a person's past and identify issues that may be preventing them from living a sober lifestyle.

It is clear they see potential in most everyone who walks through the door; I respect how hard the entire staff works. There is a team effort to assist and support people in reaching their goals.

~ Robin Franklin, Hennepin County Probation Officer

CTSI STAFF PROFILE: DIANA PETERSEN

Diana Petersen is no ordinary woman. After more than 20 years of methamphetamine use, and several years in jail, Diana became CTSI's first client. Executive Director Paul Kusterman remembers vividly the day that he first opened the building and she walked in. Her road to change has led her to become a highly valued staff member of CTSI.

As a Chemical Dependency Technician at CTSI, Diana provides support for the chemical dependency counselors' activities. A real "Jackie" of all trades, she manages admissions and intake of clients, organizes charts and files, conducts urine analyses for women, and provides various other direct support services.

In addition to working a nearly full-time job, Diana is a wife, a mother to three children, and a student of addiction counseling at Minnesota Community Technical College. She is an example of perseverance and commitment to both clients and staff. Staff describe her as a perpetually positive person, and someone who is always



laughing and putting people at ease. A woman of great faith, her warm spirit is evident day after day.

Diana recently celebrated going "off paper." She received notice from the county that her civil rights had been restored on November 4th, just in time for her to exercise her right to vote on election day.

Life has a funny way of rewarding those with hearts as big as Diana's. After her car was vandalized she was

forced to borrow a family friend's car to manage her many responsibilities. These generous friends have since gifted her the car, relieving a tremendous burden on Diana and her family.

All of us at CTSI would like to congratulate Diana on how far she has come in just a few years. Thank you for reminding us that it is possible to change. We're proud of you!

WAYS TO GIVE

Please consider making a donation to further the mission of CTSI.

You can donate **online**. Just click on "Donate Now" at: www.ctsiservices.org

Or you can **send a check** to:
CTSI
2308 Dowling Avenue North
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Feel free to call with questions.
Tel: 612.588.7530

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Thank you for your generous support! We are grateful to have such thoughtful advocates of this cause. The community is a better place because of your gifts.