

Criminal Justice Chaplaincy
PRAYER LETTER FOR CJC -- January and February 2017

Praise

1. We give thanks for another year of serving clients. Mentoring, life skills classes, fatherhood initiative, community fellowship lunches and practical support such as clothing, hygiene products, bicycles and bus passes are just a few of the ways we provide support and serve returning citizens (ex-offenders) and their families. We are grateful for all volunteers, donors and prayer partners who show such grace to our clients and staff.
2. Through generous donations from supporters and volunteers, CJC was able to provide 37 bikes with bike locks to clients needing transportation in 2016 and an additional 13 bikes were repaired. Clients often have no access to transportation and bicycles provide a low-cost way for clients get to appointments, interviews, places of employment and school.
3. Praise God that the annual Christmas Store was able to bless over 134 children and their families. Over 28 clients volunteered hundreds of hours in the community to receive donated gifts for their children & teens. Remaining donations were able to bless families participating with Conquerors Support Group. We thank God for the partnership provided by area churches that generously provided these gifts.
4. We celebrated 36 years of ministry on November 10, 2016. Keynote speaker, Jeff Smith, gave a fascinating and compelling talk; a link to his TED talk is available on our website, www.cjcministry.org. We always enjoy this evening as an opportunity to share progress in the work we are doing and to visit with those who support our ministry! We are extremely thankful for the gifts that we have received following this event and at year end.
5. We are grateful that many clients have had to cancel appointments because they are working and have jobs! Pray they continue on a positive course!

Requests

1. Our Fatherhood initiative (Son to a Father) has been a blessing to the participants at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility and very well received by the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC). This program, which works with incarcerated men to teach them parenting skills and help them be the fathers their children need and God has called them to be, is transitioning to the Handlon Correctional Facility and will be focusing on men returning to Kent County. Pray this transition goes smoothly, that funding continues, that the goals are successfully met and relationships can be strengthened and restored between fathers and children.
2. We are excited about new relationships with other area agencies as we work together on grant opportunities. Pray that as God opens doors (and closes others) that we utilize our time, energy and resources in positive ways to best serve our clients. Pray for clarity and wisdom for staff as we seek the best ways to do this.
3. We have several clients who have suffered family deaths; the losses are particularly hard for these individuals to deal with without resorting to destructive coping. Pray for strength, comfort and positive coping strategies for these people.
4. Affordable housing in the Grand Rapids area is critically hard to find at this time. Please pray that those looking for safe, stable, affordable housing are able to find it especially in cold weather seasons.
5. Pray for our on-going programs. Take Charge, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Son to a Father, Community Reentry Fellowship (CRF) Reentry Lunch Gatherings, Horticultural Therapy, Mentoring, and Bicycle programs run year round and each program serves and meets specific client needs. Please pray for those who serve, volunteer and participate in these vitally important programs.
6. Please pray for mentor / mentee relationships to flourish in 2017, for healing of hurts, restoration in families and in the community. Pray for the health and family issues for mentors as well as the mentees as many deal with difficult situations.
7. Pray for the individuals who are released from prison this winter. Many of them do not have stable housing, boots and warm clothing. Pray that they stay safe and healthy in the cold weather. Pray also for individuals who struggle with addiction and mental illnesses. Pray that they have strength and protection, access to the care they need and a strong support system.
8. We at CJC know that are called by God to financial and resource responsibility in all things. As we evaluate, plan and move forward in our ministry, pray for wisdom and grace for the staff and board as we determine how best to use the gifts given to us.
9. Pray for guidance and financial resources as CJC enters its 37th year! Pray for renewed energy for the staff, Board of Directors and volunteers, for wisdom to serve well and for all transitions in 2017.

THANK YOU:

Thank you so much for praying. Without your support the work we do is not effective or long lasting. "The prayer of a righteous man (woman) is powerful and effective." James 5:16.