

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE CHAPLAINCY
PRAYER LETTER
FOR CJC – May & June 2017**

PRAISES:

1. Praise for the excellent attendance, networking opportunities and fellowship that we have experienced at our Community Reentry Lunch Gatherings which are being renamed: **Reentry Networking Lunch**. This lunch will take place once a month at Oakdale Park CRC and helps everyone attending by providing resources, support to returning citizens, connection opportunities with mentors, members from local churches and other local service agencies, and with a good, solid meal!
2. CJC's 37th Annual Dinner will be Thursday, November 9, 2017. We are excited to bring River City Improv to this event. Performed by Calvin College alumni, River city Improv delivers clean, clever comedy made up on the spot. Save the date!
3. We are grateful that so many of our clients have been able to find employment. Pray for their continued success!
4. We are blessed to have partnering individuals, businesses, churches and agencies that help support CJC's ministry. From financial support & offerings, clothing donations, hygiene products and bicycles, mentors, prayer ministries, and the gift of using facilities, it is a huge encouragement and blessing to CJC staff and those we serve.
5. We are truly blessed by our CJC Staff, Board of Directors and volunteers– for their dedication, caring and heart for those CJC serves.

REQUESTS:

1. Several CJC volunteers are currently dealing with serious health issues or are caring for a loved one in those situations. Please pray for strength, healing and provision for these caring individuals.
2. On May 4, the Take Charge Program launches its Spring/Summer Schedule. Pray for the women and their children who attend, that they might grow and learn from the topics offered and for the speakers that their presentations will engage the listeners. We are grateful for good volunteers!
3. Remember to lift up in prayer the children of the incarcerated. Pray for safe and stable home environments and loving Christian mentors for these kids, especially teen children, as they struggle with these difficult realities. During the summer months pray for the parents of these children as they find ways to keep their children busy in constructive ways often as they juggle their own work schedules, appointments and needs.
4. Safe, affordable housing in the Grand Rapids area is extremely difficult to obtain currently. Pray that those who are in this situation can find suitable housing.
5. Our Summer Camp program helps qualifying children of our clients attend summer camp on scholarships. Pray that parents get their kids signed up on time. Pray these children, some of whom will be attending camp for the first time, will have all positive experiences. Pray also that volunteer drivers will step forward to help transport these children to and from camp.
6. Bicycle requests for transportation needs reach a peak during summer months. Please pray (or answer the prayer!) for adult bicycle donations, especially large frame men's bikes for big & tall clients.
7. Pray for God's intervention on a systemic level for the needs of our clients to be considered and met as Grand Rapids' Transit Authority, The Rapid, makes changes in how their bus passes are handled.
8. CJC in partnership with CLEAR, a group mentoring program facilitated with two GR Police Officers, has recently developed and launched "Long Timers." This program focuses specifically on men who were incarcerated for more than ten years. These men face added challenges upon release with changing technology, soft skills, dealing with authority, feeling overwhelmed with the fast pace of life, etc. Please pray that participants benefit, grow and succeed and that funding for this new program is made available.
9. Please pray for our mentoring program. CJC's mentoring program is consistently viewed as a model in the community and as more probation & parole officers and agency professionals learn of the benefits and success associated with mentoring, the more interest and referrals we are receiving. Pray that the Holy Spirit moves churches & potential mentors step forward to meet the growing demand. Mentor training and support groups meet regularly; contact Reuben at reubencjc@att.net for information.
10. Reentry issues can be very challenging for churches; CJC has training & assistance available. Pray for success for all involved in these situations.
11. Potential partnerships & programs are under consideration; please pray for wisdom & God's guidance in these options.
12. Please pray for support & financial resources for our ministry and clarity & focus for each staff member and program. Pray for God's continued leading and blessing on Criminal Justice Chaplaincy, now and into all future plans!

THANK YOU:

Thank you so much for your prayers. 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.