

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE CHAPLAINCY  
PRAYER LETTER  
FOR CJC – July and August 2017**

**PRAISES:**

1. We are grateful for collaborative partnerships working with other area agencies and organizations such as Goodwill, Hope Network, Women's Resource Center, Arbor Circle, Grand Rapids Police Dept, and others. We are blessed to live in a community rich in resources, agencies and volunteers who work to make our home a better place for all.
2. We are grateful that so many of our clients have been able to find employment. Pray for their continued success!
3. We have opportunities to work with two additional agencies serving those returning from incarceration. Pray for wisdom and leading as we explore these new ventures.
4. Our Summer Camp program helps qualifying children of our clients attend summer camp on scholarships. We have seven children attending this year; some of whom will be attending camp for the first time. We are grateful all transportation needs for these kids have been met! Pray all will have all positive experiences.
5. Praise God for the startup of a women's group for parolees headed by a woman police officer. We were able to recommend several women former offenders, who are doing well now and can be peer support for that group.
6. CJC's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner will be Thursday, November 9, 2017. We are thrilled to welcome RiverCity Improv. Performed by Calvin College alumni, RCI delivers clean, clever comedy made up on the spot. Save the date!
7. We are truly blessed by our CJC Staff, Board of Directors, supporters, donors and volunteers– for their dedication, caring and heart for those CJC serves.

**REQUESTS:**

1. With great sadness we announce that for personal reasons, CJC's Executive Director, Dee Obrecht, resigned in June. CJC is currently under the direction of Interim Executive Director, Jim Tuinstra, retired CEO of Hope Network. Please pray for Criminal Justice Chaplaincy and all affected by this transition as we continue to move forward doing the work God has laid before us; we have great opportunities ahead!
2. Pray for sufficient resources for our Ministry. Non-profit agencies such as CJC have steady needs and constant client flow, but financial donations often trickle in during summer months. Please pray for generous donations and financial opportunities throughout the months ahead.
3. CJC's Mentoring Program with its orientation, training, and follow up is viewed in the community as a strong, model program. CJC has current programs and future opportunities to increase mentoring. The need for Mentors is ongoing! The commitment is for one hour per week for six months. Pray that God's calling is heard and more mentors step forward.
4. 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.
5. We continue to have clients who struggle to find affordable housing and are living in all kinds of unsafe situations as a result. Pray that affordable housing will open for those in need.
6. Pray for clients who have relapsed into destructive behaviors or have additional charges pending. Pray they will persevere in making necessary, healthy changes and that they along with supporting family members, mentors and others working to help will not be discouraged.
7. Reentry issues can be very challenging for churches; CJC has training & assistance available. Pray for success for all involved in these situations.
8. Continue to pray for the Community Reentry Fellowship Lunch program which has been renamed: Reentry Networking Lunch. Pray that the returning citizens who need fellowship might be able to come to the meetings and that church communities and support agencies will be represented there to embrace them.
9. Due to funding issues, our Horticultural Therapy program is currently on hold. Please pray all will quickly come together to continue this wonderful, important program.
10. Pray for favor with grant reviewers on a federal grant which would fund services for men leaving the county jail for which we, along with several other agencies, applied.
11. 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.

**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.