



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH PRE-RELEASE AND REENTRY SERVICES

Thank you for your interest in Pre-Release and Reentry Services (PRRS)! PRRS provides residential and non-residential reentry services to convicted and sentenced individuals who are within 12 months of release and who have been incarcerated in Montgomery County's correctional system. Additionally, the Division is contracted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons to serve prisoners in federal custody who are within six months of release and who are returning to Montgomery County and the Greater Washington Metropolitan area.

Opportunities abound based on our diverse population and needs.

Career Resource Center (CRC) tutoring: We are looking for volunteers to cover shifts assisting residents navigate online employment opportunities, accessing and signing up for social services (including the new healthcare act) and other reentry-related online applications. Volunteers with particular workforce development skills are also needed to facilitate job readiness workshops.

Workforce Academy Speakers: PRRS uses the term Workforce Academy as the umbrella term for all of our workshops and programs related to employment. As part of that, we offer workshops on "What Employers Want." We are always recruiting employers, managers, HR professionals and others who can speak on this subject to contribute one hour, once a year to talk about their business, how to enter and advance in the field, and what employers are looking for in those they hire and promote.

Walking/Jogging Club: Our Nurse and I have been brainstorming on how to increase exercise among our residents. We know the incredible value of exercise on preventing and managing a multitude of physical health problems, and there is substantial research showing the benefits on mental health, helping maintain sobriety, and recovery from addiction as well. We are looking to recruit a group of volunteers to start a simple walking and jogging program with our residents. I recently posted a **Couch to 5K** poster to inspire folks to take that first step, but a program that would get them off-site around our area (we are located behind White Flint Mall), would offer a kick-start and build peer motivation among each other. I believe we are missing a vital piece in building a healthy return to the community without making exercise a part of that.

Prisoner Reentry Tax Education Program: The Baltimore IRS division has provided PRRS materials on facilitating a "Get Right with your Taxes!" program. We are eager to have a volunteer present a weekly workshop that includes a 15 minute video, pamphlet and brief Q&A and FAQ's after the video. We have all the materials, we just need you!

On-line Learning Coaching: The internet has opened up a whole new world of methods of learning opportunities. Today, anyone can excel in classes on almost any subject over the internet. Many PRRS residents need to improve their basic skills to pass apprenticeship, GED, or college placement tests and there are a multitude of options to boost their skills. Volunteers are needed to coach Residents on how to access and register for on-line learning; also to provide tutorial coaching and trouble-shooting, if necessary.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH PRE-RELEASE AND REENTRY SERVICES

Driver's License Study Group: Help residents study for their Driver's License! We are seeking to start and sustain a study group to go through the different sections of the manual to prepare residents to pass the test on the first try. This could be done in a group, or individually depending on the need.

Maryland: <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/drivers/maryland-drivers-manual.htm>

District of Columbia: <http://dmv.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dmv/publication/attachments/dltest.pdf>

Virginia: <http://www.dmv.state.va.us/webdoc/pdf/dmv39.pdf>

Welcome Home Program (WHP) Mentor: Mentors help prevent returning citizens from falling back to previous mistakes by helping them find and follow a path to a new career. We do this by creating a support network centered around volunteer mentors who work closely with returning citizens. Together, we help overcome big and small obstacle on route to finding a job, a safe place to live, and a community of support.

**For more information on Mentoring in Montgomery County, contact:
PRRS WHP Reentry Coordinator
Phone: (240) 773-4211**

<http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/WelcomeHome>

Administrative Support: Unsure about working directly with our residents? We could always use assistance in administrative support:

- Designing creative and informative bulletin boards (I have the vision of "February is Heart Health Month!", "September is Recovery Month", a variety of monthly observations)
- Records and filing assistance
- Cross-checking program attendance for unexcused absences
- Data entry of assessments, timesheets, AA/NA attendance, etc

If one of these opportunities interests you, please let us know and we'll send along a packet of materials to get you started. Please include a resume outlining how your skills and experience would match this position. A cover letter of interest would be helpful, too.

Additional information about PRRS may be found at the following links:

- Facility Presentation:
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COR/Resources/Files/PDF/prrs_presentation_1_9_13.pdf
- Resident Guidebook:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COR/Resources/Files/PRCGuidebook.pdf>

Shannon Murphy, Deputy Chief of Programs and Services/ Intern and Volunteer Coordinator

Phone 240.773.4242 Facsimile 301.468.4384

Email: Shannon.Murphy2@montgomerycountymd.gov