

...making reduction in recidivism a reality...

What is "Recidivism"?

The Dictionary defines a recidivist as a convicted criminal who reoffends repeatedly. When a former inmate has been released back into society and they reoffend resulting in re-incarceration...it is called "recidivism".

It costs Tennessee taxpayers \$23,323.50 per year to incarcerate one offender (an inmate on death row costs \$34,065.45). When you consider that the State of Tennessee has 19,425 inmates currently incarcerated, it adds up to an annual tax burden of \$453,058,987.50 (that's right...over 450 million dollars each year)!

Folks wonder why it is so important for programs like the Theotherapy Project to continue providing their services in the corrections setting. Other than the obvious mandate from Jesus Christ in Matthew 25 and in Isaiah 58 to go the "least of these" and to "release the prisoner from his spiritual and emotional chains", the sheer weight of the economics should motivate us as a society to do something relevant and effective to bring about true and lasting change in the lives of these inmates. As we offer relevant and practical tools of conflict resolution and emotional healing to these men and women, it helps them become emotionally healthy spouses, parents, employees and citizens. If inmates experience real change in their lives they can break destructive family patterns...and have something to live for... healthy goals to reach for and success in life.

Our prisons can't handle much more overcrowding or loss of comprehensive programs because of the current economic crisis. Already some states are beginning to release convicted felons back into the community...not because they are rehabilitated, but because they have no other option. The Theotherapy Project is making a difference! We are making a significant impact on recidivism with only 19% of our program graduates returning to prison versus the national average of close to 70%.



Inmate of the Month

A Natural Gift of Administration

Meet Eugene, our inmate administrative assistant at Turney Center Industrial Prison Complex. For the last several years, Eugene has handled the huge task of maintaining attendance records, pulling together "to do" lists for me (I tend to be very forgetful). All of this talent with absolutely no formal training. He has a true gift from God and is not afraid to launch out with new and innovative ways to do his job better...and to challenge me to do my job better too!



Eugene has a genuine servant's heart and really watches out for the guys who tend to blend into

Department of Corrections Study Shows Decline in Disciplinary Infractions for Program Participants! Theotherapy Project Makes Impact!

In December of 2008, Richard Dixon, Director of Volunteer Services for TDOC approached us with the idea of allowing the Tennessee Department of Corrections to do an internal study on changes and trends in disciplinary infractions for inmates completing the Theotherapy Project programs since we started working in State facilities in 2006. This study is further proof that the Theotherapy Project programs work!



the woodwork, so to speak. He watches over them with diligence and concern and makes sure they get the full benefit from the program. Pray for Eugene, his family and for his ministry with the Theotherapy Project here at Turney Center. Thanks, Eugene for your hard work and dedication!

We Need You!!!

URGENT REQUEST!

This program is making significant changes in inmates' lives.

They become better inmates, better spouses, better parents and



when they get out...more productive members of society. Your faithfulness makes this possible! But we need more donors and more prayer support. Please make us part of your charitable giving!

Your donations are tax-deductible! Please help us with your monthly support by visiting our website at www.theotherapyproject.com and then click on the **Donate** tab. Now, more than ever before, your help is needed to continue this vital program!

The study includes the data from 230 inmates who have completed the program at least once:

230 total graduates from our TDOC programs.

229 documented infractions one year prior to participation in the program.

103 documented infractions during enrollment in the program which is a **drop of 56%**.

68 inmates completed or are completing the advanced facilitator training course which requires completion of the basic program at least twice plus enrollment in the facilitator training course. ***Their infractions dropped from 100 total infractions to only 4...a drop of 96%!!!!***

The most significant change for an individual inmate (female) was from 9 infractions before the program to 1 at the time of completion of her last six month program ending in December 08. The most significant change for a male inmate for the same time period was from 8 infractions to zero!!!!

Tell Your Friends About Us!

Just about everyone knows someone in prison, on probation or on parole. One in thirty one adults in the United States fit into that category. Forward this email to your friends by clicking [Forward Email](#) below or ask your friends to visit us on the web at

www.theotherapyproject.com