



Personal development by teaching and reinforcing Pro-social values, attitudes, thinking, and behavior through peer accountability



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Our Classroom on the 'rock'

Michael McCall, Warden
Stephen R. Claytor, Associate Warden & Program Director
N. Andy Cooper, Senior Chaplain

Established April 9, 2010



CBU Leadership Team



"I knew we were a part of something big when the prison culture at large started accepting our new model: that the one who is noticed is not the one who rages and postures like a beast, but the one who spends his life investing in the lives of others. This, to me, is the most meaningful and redemptive quality of CBU."

—Robert Johnson

Welcome

As Warden of Perry Correctional Institution, I have had the opportunity and privilege to see real, measurable change and rehabilitation occur in the lives of inmates. This is not something you see every day in maximum security prisons. The Perry Character-Based Rehabilitation Program is a remarkable program and opportunity for men in this facility to find wholeness and get their lives on track. The CBU has far exceeded my dreams and expectations.

Dr. Francis Lieber (1800-1872), a noted criminologist, wrote to Alexis de Tocqueville and defined Penology as "that branch of criminal science which occupies itself with the punishment



"The CBU Program means a chance—a chance to prove that I am somebody, and that I am worth investing in. This program has given me feeling of self-worth, and has helped restore what was lost to me when I came to prison. That is meaning and purpose in my life. This is why I feel so passionate about this program. I don't just see this change in myself. I see it in others around me. All of us, men, united to rise above the [soul-killing] prison experience. To prove that the circumstances do not define

All crime and criminal thinking stems, in one way or another, from selfishness.

Self-centeredness, a view of the world from one's own perspective without consideration for the needs or interests of others, threatens to leave us with a society—family, community, politics—that places no value on human beings and ultimately alienates us from each other. The solipsical world destroys lives, relationships, and leaves life meaningless.

The pro-social life can only be lived out in the moral world. The moral world is where moral beings connect and share in a collective (union, social) life and purpose. This is the moral nature of family, society, organizations. We all live—reverence, recognize, or relate—in the moral world when we connect or “participate” in the these things which lay outside and larger than ourselves.
[from *The Überhero* essay]

[housing and segregation from society] of the criminal.” The philosophy of the London House of Corrections (est. 1557), or Workhouse, operated on the belief that hard work and strict routine was the solution to crime. These incarcerated men and women, it was held, would turn into law-abiding citizens and away from “idleness, crime, and vice toward a life of industry and rectitude.” The brutal and barbaric penal codes of Europe were adopted in America's earliest days. Two colonies adopted a more humane and restorative approach. William Penn's Pennsylvania Colony and the West Jersey Colony applied the principle of isolated confinement. Prisoners were isolated to an exaggerated degree under the notion that this excruciating solitary would cause them to reflect, grieve, and repent of their criminal ways. This philosophy was soon rivaled by the Auburn (Sing-Sing) approach. The Auburn System emphasized no communication between prisoners; this model allowed for hard labor to be done but no social interaction.

Corrections has come a long way since then; but not far enough.

More recently, there has been a trend in Corrections across the U.S. to warehouse inmates.

Corrections can do more than warehouse prisoners. Corrections should have a two-fold objective: to secure offenders who have violated the law, thereby protecting the community, and to prepare and equip them to reenter society as law-abiding citizens. I believe we are achieving these goals, and more at Perry.

It takes surprisingly little for Security and Rehabilitation to coexist. **We have proven that security and rehabilitation are not incompatible.** They can both exist side-by-side in the same correctional setting.

how our lives should be. CBU is a place where men get the opportunity to invest in each other, to be accountable to each other, and to use this time to simply fix the things broken inside of us...

Before CBU I used to focus on all the things that I had lost in my life when I came to prison but not why I came to prison or why I wasn't the man I needed to be. Being here and being active in some of the programming has given me the time and opportunity to reevaluate and rethink a lot of the choices I made in my life and to grow from them.

I have come to realize how deeply my coming to prison hurt those closest to me and how I need to reach out and reconnect and help them heal as well. I am thankful that I have recently been given the opportunity to do just that, and have been able to use what I have learned to help this process begin.

Knowing now how messed up I was and how it affected everyone around me has been a big step. Now when I say “I'm sorry,” it's no longer a hollow apology, it means something more because it is said with sincerity and understanding of how I truly hurt that person. Or to be able to say “I understand” and for them to know I mean it and I really care is powerful. For me, the chance to be the person I used to be and to be given a second chance in the eyes and hearts of those I hurt is my motivation to keep moving forward. I only have so much time upon this earth and I don't intend upon wasting any more of it.”

—David Camp



Central Correctional Institution (CCI)



Cell Block # 1 (CCI)



**Pro-social –
"values, attitudes,
thinking, and behavior
that nurtures, promotes,**

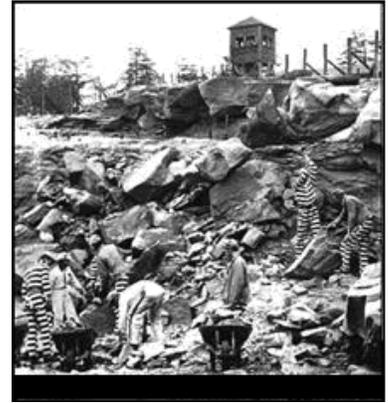
The Perry Character-Based Rehabilitation Program differs from traditional rehabilitation models in three key ways:

Hand-picked Participants

Traditional rehabilitation targets the entire population with specific emphasis on those inmates scheduled to be released within two (2) years. Under this model, success is defined by the number of inmates who do not reoffend once released. Providing rehabilitation services and resources to any and all inmates who qualify as short-term offenders has produced little success.

The CBU model operates under a philosophy that emphasizes “exhaustion and receptivity.” CBU Program participants are hand-picked from the general population only when they begin to display signs of being ‘tired’—when exhaustion slows or prevents them from relying on old anti-social values, thinking, attitudes, and behaviors. **The evidence supports that these exhausted inmates alone are receptive to an alternative pro-social way of life.** Under the CBU model, success is defined by the availability and opportunity of the CBU Program to those ready for it rather than the number of participants shuttled through its doors.

Critics are quick to point out that hand-picked “cream of the crop” inmates is not rehabilitation at all because they are already predisposed to change. The Program essentially does nothing for them that would affect recidivism. But it is clear from the 70% recidivism rate nation-wide that simply throwing rehabilitation services and resources at inmates is a waste of time and money. Why not try something new?



The Role of Faith in Character-Based

The Perry Character-Based Rehabilitation Program intentionally rejected an emphasis on “faith.” Faith, it was believed can be faked or distorted by prison “hyper-spirituality.” The notion of “jail-house religion” is a universally accepted term of disparagement because so many prisoners have hidden behind a cloak of faith. Religion and faith can also be a justification or authority to hurt, manipulate, or exploit others, as well as to shirk

and encourages the whole community."



At Perry we have invested in those who have already distinguished themselves in the prison culture as promising or reformed, to give them the support they need and deserve. **We are no longer comfortable with knowing that there are inmates who are ready and desperately want change in their lives but do not have the opportunity to develop or pursue it.** As a result, we have seen real, measurable change in the lives of inmates.

What's more, hand-picked "receptive" inmates still need emotional literacy —pro-social skills and personal development in their values, attitudes, thinking, and behavior—to navigate and cope with life in the free world. The Perry CBU Rehabilitation Program provides this and much more.

Pro-social Values

Traditional rehabilitation emphasizes vocational training and skills. The notion that crime and criminal thinking can be prevented if perpetrators have job skills that support and busy them has fueled this emphasis. Also, vocational skills and training is the easiest and most predictable resource/service Correctional Agencies can provide inmates. But job skills and employability does not a pro-social citizen make.

Corrections and rehabilitation are in the same boat as many of today's school teachers: you cannot begin to teach academics if the student has behavioral issues. Behavioral problems in the classroom create distraction and disturbances for everyone and interfere with a child's ability to learn. The CBU Rehabilitation Program operates under the assumption that **inmates cannot expect to succeed at reentry or life if their character and personalities are not fully developed**, no matter how

accountability. After all, if someone gets a calling or direction from the Almighty, who can contend or dispute with them?

"Character" on the other hand, cannot be faked. You either have it or you don't. Character says "there is no higher calling or authority that will justify or cause me to hurt or exploit another human being." Character claims the same thing any legitimate "faith" does—the value and inviolability of others—without the possibility of appeal to any authority, mystery, special vision or revelation that permits causing harm to others.

All genuine faiths include "character." Any faith which allows for the unwarranted abuse, victimization, manipulation, or exploitation of other human beings is not genuine faith at all.

The CBU Rehabilitation Program promotes and provides the individual opportunity for spiritual formation, which is an essential part of personal development and pro-social values. All faiths are recognized, no faith can be overbearing or forced on anyone, and none can claim religious sanction in order to violate the Social Contract. In the CBU we believe even the Almighty honors the Social Contract.

"I'm aware that any and all of the glory for this goes to the Lord. I also like to think the "C" in CBU stands for Christ.



Under the CBU model, **success is defined by the availability and opportunity of the CBU Program to those ready for it** rather than the number of participants shuttled through its doors.

much vocational training they receive. Although employment readiness and job training is a priority, they are not the primary emphasis of the Perry CBU. **The CBU Rehabilitation Program emphasizes the development of pro-social values, attitudes, thinking, and behavior above everything else.**

Any good character traits I exhibit come from the relationship I now have with Jesus. This is not a faith-based unit; it is character-based, but what better character to have your life built around than Jesus Christ?"

—Joel Carter

Peer Accountability

The most noticeable feature of the Perry CBU is the use of peer accountability. **Peer accountability can do what no Correctional agency or program can:** reinforce rehabilitation every minute of every day in a social setting. All program participants are under Social Contract and it falls to each participant to both reinforce this contract by holding the next man accountable to it and by submitting to accountability themselves. **We have discovered that peer accountability—or the reinforcement of a standard or norm by one’s own peers—is essential to modifying behavior and shaping attitudes, values, and thinking.** Peer accountability is also essential to create the meaningful relationships necessary to sustain the Program.

The Perry *Character-Based Rehabilitation* Program provides the opportunity for promising and reformed inmates who have proven themselves the place and space to “live as free men.” And this is a rehabilitation emphasis I can live with.

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Inmate Coordinators

About Us

The Perry *Character-Based Living Unit* (CBU) is a rehabilitative residential clustering program dedicated and designed as an educational, pro-social environment. The Perry CBU provides much more than special housing to accommodate programming. As a program itself the Perry CBU provides the environment and opportunity for a host of other programming modules.

CBU is a stand-alone Rehabilitation Program that teaches and reinforces the pro-social values necessary to live in society and avoid criminal attitudes, thinking, and behavior. As both a housing unit and a Program, CBU teaches and requires participants to learn pro-social values, attitudes, thinking, behavior, and life skills through peer-to-peer accountability and a structured educational environment. Rehabilitation, or the application of pro-social values and life skills relative to living in community, is reinforced continually in the participant's living environment.

Administrative review of each program participant is conducted quarterly to determine if participants meet requirements for continued participation. Participants must be gainfully employed, and engaged in some type of positive programming, activities, or otherwise contributing to the community. Ten respect-based rules are detailed in a "social contract" and provide the foundation for accountability and rehabilitation. Participants must learn and apply pro-social values, skills, attitudes, thinking, and behaviors. Inmates who fail to show evidence of such participation are removed from the Character-Based Living Unit.

This character-based model is an

"Character has been defined in many ways, but ultimately it is 'the pattern of attitudes, thinking, values, and behaviors one regularly or typically displays.' A 'character' is one who is distinguished by a certain way he lives or behaves. He can be a positive character or a bad character—prison is full of 'Characters.'

In the CBU we use the terms 'Pro-social' and 'collective mindset' to refer to the type of character or attitudes, values, thinking, and behaviors that make one fit for society."

—John Tinsley

"CBU has made a drastic difference in my life by allowing me to be set apart from the common prison mind-set. Since I can place more focus on living like a grown man and less focus on my pathetic surrounding. I now know and analyze my decision making process with a stern eye that keeps me both beneficial and productive. I truly appreciate the CBU experience and my prayer is that the Lord allows programs just like ours to grow and continue to develop throughout our struggling corrections system."

—Jeremy Phillips



"CBU has allowed me to invest in men at a meaningful and significant level...It has allowed me to continue my CIU training to counsel men towards wholeness, coordinate projects and programs and foster leadership...It has further confirmed God's role for me in partaking of the redemption of 'the least of these..."

CBU has allowed me to be a part of a community where 192 residents are actively growing, changing, and pursuing something better for their lives.

One of the things I like about CBU is that the accountability structure causes the individual to develop a social consciousness, something lacking in the criminal mentality."

—Terrence Hunt



"CBU has been integral in my personal growth. It has pushed me beyond my comfort zone to the point of trusting in others, which in turn has

“The CBU has been an instrument in the development of my maturity level as well as my social skills. It has peaked my interest in furthering my education and has improved my work ethic. It has brought out the leadership skills that have been in me all along. It has taught me that investing in others is vital to my own personal development. I have learned from this Program to be comfortable with who I am and to put all I have in everything I do.”

—David Coward,
Program Participant

innovation on similar programs as a result of its reliance on all the latest pro-social research and on inmate peer review. Inmate peer-to-peer review is a central feature of this program. The use of peer review and inmate coordinators, or moral leaders, ensures that programming requirements for each participant are met and that real, measurable change occurs in the attitude, thinking, and behavior of each man. This inmate-driven program provides a level of peer accountability and pressure that is absent from many Agency-driven models.

The Perry CBU promotes positivity, rehabilitation, and morality, and it reinforces pro-social living. It provides inmates who genuinely seek to rehabilitate and pursue positive and moral lives with the environment, opportunity, atmosphere, support, and the resources necessary to achieve their goals.

From the perspective of society, this program provides effective, measurable rehabilitation and change. From the perspective of corrections, this program model provides an invaluable management tool.

allowed me to build a remarkable support system. CBU has helped me to develop the life skills and tools to deal with past and present hurts, pains, abandonment issues and disappointment in my life in a healthy and positive way instead of resorting back to drugs, alcohol, and violence as a means of coping.

We set goals for ourselves all the time, some out of necessity, and others for the challenge. CBU exploits the potential, strengths, and values each resident embodies in order to encourage and assist one another in reaching our goals.

We are also firm believers that no-one is more cherished than those who lighten the burdens of others. Our hearts are definitely geared toward giving back and outreach to those in need, which is evident by the outreach already taking place here at Perry.”

—Earl Thivener

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“The Perry CBU Program is about vision. It is a community of men with a common vision of improving our future and the lives of others. A society of men with a shared desire and aspiration to reform, amend, and correct our criminal and unlawful thinking and ways.”

—Charles Connor

Mission Statement

The Perry CBU is dedicated and committed to the restoration of the lives—offenders, their families, and society—of those impacted by crime and anti-social and destructive values. The CBU promotes the personal development of offenders by teaching and reinforcing pro-social values, thinking, attitudes, and behaviors through peer accountability. The ultimate vision and goal of Perry’s CBU is to contribute to the quality of life for South Carolinians everywhere.

How it all began

As a relatively rural southern state, South Carolina experiences cultural change much slower than other parts of the country. As early as 2000 the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) began experiencing many of the institutional disturbances like gang violence and lockdowns with which other states had been plagued for decades. The Agency was hard pressed to adapt and respond to the new developments.

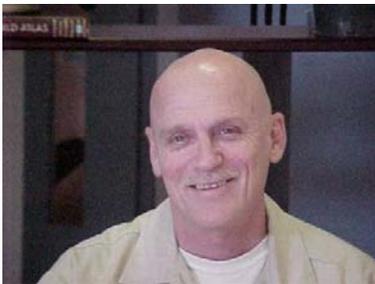
In 2009 six prisoners at Perry Correctional Institute, (one of the state’s maximum security level three facilities located in the upstate), approached the Warden and administrators with a proposal. These inmates had distinguished themselves in the prison culture as “Moral Leaders”—men serving and investing in the lives of others and leading other prisoners to wholeness through an emphasis on pro-social values. They had a vision to engage and change the prison culture from within. In the eyes of the prison culture and administration these men were “Agents of Change for the Good” who had earned the necessary respect of the prison population to be able to lead a movement.

The inmate Moral Leaders requested



“CBU has enabled me to do something positive while serving my time. I am learning to change not only my distorted views on life but I’m also learning to value others needs before my own.”

—Tim Stahlnecker



“The peer review, the accountability it promotes, respect for others, community, and authority, and the educational opportunities the CBU provides are just some of the ways in which the CBU Program is unique.

I’ve had the privilege and honor to be a part of CBU right from the start. Every day I’m amazed by the changes I see in the men I live with, the staff at Perry, and the general population. I’m so grateful for the daily opportunities that have become available to us here. We are all challenged mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, day in and day out. We have been living this out together now for over a year. April 9,



“Long before CBU, we were students of cultures and prison sub-culture, and we were asking ourselves, how is a culture changed?”

2012 will be our second anniversary...

I have to add that I'm aware that any and all the glory for this goes to the Lord. I also like to think the "C" in CBU stands for Christ. Any good character traits I exhibit come from the relationship I now have with Jesus. This is not a faith-based unit; it is character-based, but what better character to have your life built around than Jesus Christ?"

—Joel Carter

the help, support, assistance, and partnership of the Administration to take the cultural engagement project to "change the culture" to the next level. In this one facility there was a convergence of a host of unique people, staff and inmates alike. Regular discussions among the senior Chaplain, Warden, and his associates about the benefits and advantages of a pro-social approach and "what-works" correctional philosophy turned into collaboration for a comprehensive restorative justice rehabilitation Project at Perry. The partnership proposed by the Moral Leaders would include these Administrators and a number of equally caring and concerned staff and volunteers.

The Moral Leaders proposed to inspire, mobilize, and lead hundreds of other prisoners into a living unit dedicated and designed as an educational, rehabilitative, pro-social environment. They had reached as many men as they could without being housed together and increased (authorized) access to the population. They would use their cultural influence and credibility gained through countless hours of interaction, engagement, and relationship building with the population to create this community.

This "residential clustering" rehabilitation program would teach pro-social values and life skills relative to living in Community. It would promote positivity, rehabilitation, morality, and it would reinforce pro-social living. This living unit would provide inmates who genuinely seek to rehabilitate and pursue positive and moral lives with the environment, atmosphere, support, and the resources necessary to achieve their goals. It would create the respect-based culture that is necessary for rehabilitation. It would utilize peer-to-peer review and rely on inmate coordinators, or moral leaders, to ensure that programming requirements for each participant are met and that real,

What we discovered allowed us to use cultural engagement projects and the CBU to affect and change the entire prison culture in the institution. What we learned about changing cultures also showed us how to effect real, measurable change in the lives of incarcerated men. Rehabilitation and pro-social values in general, needs peer or social reinforcement. At the end of the day what the CBU Rehabilitation Program ultimately does is provide an opportunity for participants to develop a value for pro-social living and experiences as a result of their CBU experience. In most cases it is an opportunity for the individual to develop an entire new identity and way of life.

The current catch phrases in corrections, penology, and rehabilitation emphasizes 'What works,' 'inmate outcomes,' and 'measurable results.' We have developed the Perry CBU Rehabilitation Program around all these notions and used our own prison-life experiences as a laboratory to test it. Warden McCall has given us unprecedented opportunities to build on what many of us knew from our prison experience was true: countless incarcerated men and women have learned from their experiences and want desperately to redeem themselves and get a second chance at life. What they need—the only thing correctional agencies can really give them—is an environment, resources, and the opportunity to work toward their personal development.

The secret to the success of the CBU is that it instills pro-social values, attitudes, thinking, and behavior through peer accountability. The CBU offers men the opportunity to personally develop by learning and applying pro-social values, attitudes, thinking, and behavior to every experience imaginable. It provides a nurturing environment—which most offenders have never experienced—



"I was inspired by the challenge of becoming a better man. As an individual, I knew I could stand with any community. I wanted to be able to affect the community in an intelligent, pragmatic, and non-criminal way. CBU offers me this and much

more.

In short CBU has allowed me to embrace a pro-social ideology that has been around for centuries: community, culture, education, responsibility, and rehabilitation of and for one's self. In the CBU we put a vested interest in each other to be better human beings. Every man can leave CBU a contributor to his community instead of a consumer."

—Barry Williams

measurable change occurred in the attitudes, thinking, and behavior of the men. These men would live together under a "social contract" detailed in ten basic, respect-based rules, and commit to cooperate with and contribute to an "intentional community." This inmate-driven program would provide a level of peer accountability absent from many Agency-driven models.

Warden Michael McCall had his own notion of the type of rehabilitation project he wanted for his Institution. He was determined to keep order and security in his facility, and his genuine desire to see men's lives transformed was evident in the risk he was willing to take by thinking outside the box. The same week that the Moral Leaders met with the Warden to present their proposal SCDC Director Jon Ozmint, Supreme Court Justice E.C. Burnett (retired), several prominent legislators, and ministry organizations were flying to Florida on the State plane to tour the State's faith-based facility. The Director returned from his trip determined to introduce faith-and character-based facilities into his Agency. The Moral Leaders envisioned Perry as "incarcerated university."

On April 9th, 2010 the Character-Based Unit (CBU) Rehabilitation Program at Perry was established in one wing with ninety-six men and plans to expand into every housing unit. A Character-based model that applies all the latest pro-social research and is held together by inmate peer review is an innovation on similar programs. In fact, the Perry CBU provides much more than special housing to accommodate programming. It is a stand-alone Rehabilitation Program that teaches and reinforces the pro-social values necessary to live in society and avoid criminal attitudes, thinking, and behavior. With continued dedication, Perry's CBU Program could become the trend for corrections.

that teaches crime-hardened men that there is an alternative way to live."

—John Tinsley



Character First



Our ever-expanding Library

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CBU Arts & Humanities Project

“The CBU and the outreach we’re involved in has made an amazing positive impact on the entire population. The culture is changing right before our eyes and it’s only going to get better as we continue to promote personal growth, rehabilitation and pro-social values.”

—Earl Thivener

“Volunteering in SMU has been a humbling experience. It touches me by the positive feed-back we get from the residents about the care and devotion of keeping their living clean and in order. It makes for a more positive environment and hopefully leaves an impact to better one’s self no matter what your surroundings.”

—Tim Barrett,
Program Participant

ALU Outreach Project

“As a man of faith this has helped me share with others and grow in confidence and compassion for my fellow man, often through just the simple act of listening. When I attend church services I am often greeted with ‘When are you coming back to visit our dorm.’ Through this program

Projects & Initiatives

The CBU provides a home base and staging ground for other projects and initiatives in the prison culture and beyond.

CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

CBU Mental Health Mentoring/Outreach

This project is designed to provide mental health inmates assigned to Perry’s general population with therapeutic, constructive, and positive interaction, associations, and reinforcement with CBU inmate mentors. Time outside the dorm allows participants to vent, ask for guidance and help to address problems they face in the prison population, and receive positive regard, relationship, and affirmation from their peers. This project has been deemed successful by staff and residents at Perry.

CBU ‘At-risk & SMU Reentry Project’

The first of its kind, this project is designed to prepare at-risk and solitary confinement inmates for re-entry. No program existed to address these individuals who would be released within 6-12 months. Warden McCall and his executive staff took personal interest in making sure these individuals do not step out of their facility into society with no preparation.

CBU mentors visit solitary confinement to counsel, socially stimulate, and do reentry homework with these reentry inmates. CBU inmate coordinators developed and implemented a reentry project for at-risk inmates in the general population. Classes and activities are held weekly in the CBU.

Going back into society can be a scary and traumatic event for the offender and those in the community. Often these individuals have little to no life skills and or means of emotional and physical support. Our Program is designed to assist individuals in finding resources in their respected communities to ease the search and therefore make for an



Beekeeping/Apiary Project

CBU REENTRY PROJECT

CORE CURRICULUM

- Career Exploration
- Employment Readiness
- OSHA Jobsite Safety Orientation
- Small Business & Non-Profit Startups

TRAINING MODULES

- Bee Keeping
- Gardening/Horticulture/Lawn Care
- Green Technology Workshops
- Construction/Modern Carpentry/ Renovations/Commercial Debris Removal
- Brick Masonry
- Food Service
- Cabinetry
- Barbering
- Floor Maintenance/Janitorial Services
- Office/Clerical/Computer Specialist
- Basic Residential Electrical
- Residential/Commercial Painting
- Hospice/Palliative Care/PCA



ALU Outreach

I have learned to invest in others.”

—Tim Barrett,
Program Participant

“CBU me esta ayudando a moldear mi temperamento y mirar la vida de distinta manera por lo estricto de su estructuración.

Me ha brindado la oportunidad de adquirir cierto conocimiento basico en el área de carpinteria, albañileria y apicultura.

Estas cosas deberan ser la meta principal de la rehabilitación.

Compartimos nuestras experiencias y conocimiento el uno con el otro.

Cuando regresemos a la sociedad seremos mejores ciudadanos de lo que fuimos una vez, y tendremos algunas habilidades de trabajo para ganarnos el sustento de forma honrada.”

[CBU is helping me to shape my temperament and see life in a different way because of the strict structure. It has offered me the opportunity to obtain some basic knowledge in the area of carpentry, bee keeping, and brick masonry. These things should be the main goal of rehabilitation.

We share our experiences and knowledge with one another.

When we return to society we will be better citizens that we use to be and we will have some work skills to make a living in an honest way.]

—Enrique Quintana,
Program Participant

“CBU has taught me to stand and go hard for what I want and not just

easier transition to life and its ever-changing circumstances.

Assisted Living Unit Outreach Project

The CBU Outreach Project to ALU is designed to break the monotony of being isolated from the general population for the men housed in ALU. Once a week, CBU coordinators accompany ALU residents to Q1. Wheel chairs are taken for those who need assistance. Once in Q1, CBU residents interact with ALU visitors, play card games, checkers, and read magazines. These outings are constructive as well as therapeutic for the ALU inmates. They look forward to these visits.

Twice each month, CBU residents form a volunteer room cleaning team that serves ALU residents. This too, along with routine visitation to ALU by CBU Coordinators provides therapy, socialization, and quality of life to Perry’s most vulnerable residents.

Hip-Hop Workshop

This project is designed to reach the “at-risk” youth and the hip-hop sub-culture in the general population. The weekly workshops provide the participants with an opportunity to explore, discuss, and learn about the impact of Hip-Hop lyrics, music, the power of education, developmental stages of maturation, and the philosophies of life that influences culture and society.

It also challenges lyricists to use their lyrics and skills to influence their communities with positivity, character, and a pro-social mind-set. Through meaningful and caring relationships it provides an opportunity for participants to be mentored by mature men of character who have the credibility in the prison culture to gain their respect.

Hip Hop Workshop also encourages those who have been influenced by the culture to examine, and interrogate the various images and representations of hip hop promoted by the mainstream media. One of the purposes of this examination is to challenge the participants’, critical thinking skills, along with their

“The Character-Based Unit gives every individual the opportunity to develop personal growth and learning by providing an educational program to help individuals obtain their GED, and a Reentry class to teach social skills and life traits. A person has everything they need to become a better person by being a member of CBU.”

—Scott Griffin
Program Participant

“Being involved in the CBU program has redefined “Character” for me. I always thought having character was based upon how others viewed my actions. Now I know that character means doing those same things when no one but myself is looking.”

—David Camp



be a dreamer.”

—Aaron Williams,
Program Participant

creativity. Through this they produce lyrics that not only give an artistic commentary to their own life experiences and social conditions, but also take responsibility for the impact their lyrics have on the culture.



Sustainable Garden Project



Learning to keep Bees

Mental Health Outreach Project
CBU Service/Therapy Dog Project
CBU Art & Humanities Project
Medium Custody Mentoring
Man-To-Man Project
Agents of Change Leadership Development
IRC ‘Character Committee’
‘Positive’ Sports/Board Games Tournaments
CBU Institutional Improvement Crew
Islamic/Christian Conferences

OTHER EXCITING INITIATIVES AT PERRY

Bee Keeping/Apiary Project
Sustainable Garden Project
Edible Landscape Project

[coming soon]

CBU Service/Therapy Dog Project
Parole-A-Dog Humane Society Project

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Restorative Justice Philosophy

A Restorative Philosophy of Justice recognizes that the consequences of an offender's crime can and does positively affect and influence their lives.

Though life-reform does not occur in the lives of the majority of incarcerated offenders, the refreshing news is that under a restorative philosophy of justice (which operates under the expectation and desire to see restoration result from the tragic effects of crime), the system that witnesses so much devastation can find light at the end of an otherwise dismal and dirty business.



Life skill essentials for rehabilitation



Volunteer Programming

A Restorative Philosophy of Justice seeks for, identifies, and recognizes that redemption and transformation can spring and result from the most tragic and devastating consequences of crime. This anticipation and commitment to the restoration of lives affected by crime underpins the philosophy of Restorative Justice. Imagine a philosophy that has us critically looking for the good and the promising to emerge from tragedy, and actively working to restore those lives.

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Rehabilitation

Pro-social:
“values, attitudes,
thinking, and
behavior
that nurtures,
promotes,
and encourages the
whole community.”

“CBU has made a big difference in my life by allowing me to participate in a number of programs. My spiritual life has changed for the better and my approach in dealing with people has changed in a positive way.”

—Tony Morris,
Program Participant

“The CBU Rehabilitation Program is one of the best projects I’ve seen in the Department of Corrections. It covers everything from getting your driver’s license, looking for employment, getting a place to stay, and also deals with the mental preparation it takes to reenter society. It gives me great pleasure to share my knowledge with people who want to live a productive life and it makes me want to be a better person.”

—Michael Freeman,
Program Participant

Coping with Homicide & Violent Crime

This GROUP structure is

The CBU provides an educational, rehabilitative, and nurturing environment where a host of other programs are held.

- **Quest for Authentic Manhood**
(Chaplain Bill Kaib)
- **Basic Writing**
(Richard Patterson)
- **Emrys Writer’s Workshop**
(Ms. Gallagher /Ms. Freeland)
- **Creative Writing**
(Paul Barra)
- **OSHA Safety Orientation Certification**
(Steve Sellars/John Taylor)
- **Sexual Deviancy Disclosure Group**
(Tinsley/Stahlnecker/Greta Huygen)
- **Global Economics**
(Mr. Vincent Huygen)
- **History of Western Philosophy**
(John Tinsley)
- **Coping With Homicide & Violent Crime**
(Charles Connor)
- **Intro to Qur’anic Science & Theology**
(Robert Johnson)
- **Financial Literacy**
(Jerry Blassingame)
- **Small Business & Non-Profit Startups**
(Jerry Blassingame)
- **Political Science**
(Robert Johnson)
- **Modern Carpentry**
(Ramsey/Edwards/Carpentry Instructor C. Bell)
- **Military History**
(Patterson/Camp/Watson)

“The best rehabilitation society can hope for is to make opportunities available for those who want to develop and grow.”

—John Tinsley

CBU GED Graduates 2010-2011

80% of all Graduates at Perry

Jonathan Bridges
Brian Griffin
Aaron Williams
Riverton O’Conner
Harold Newton
Chad Williams
Sean Simpkins
Jose Salas
Raymond Carter
Charles Croom
Billy Caldwell
Phillip Mitchell
Ethan Mack
Donquez Hood
David Coward
John Metz
Bobby Hill
Denver Simmons
Andrew Richards
Charles Stokes
William Lambert
Donnie Dooley
Loyce Petty



designed to address offenders of violent crime. The goal is to teach pro-social values and life skills by living ACCOUNTABLE and restored lives through critical thinking, transparency, and disclosure. The primary goal is to accept responsibility of ones crime and identify temptations, thinking and behavior that promote re-offending.

"I will be released in 2012. Through the CBU I have acquired the necessary skills and rehabilitative ethics to further my chances of becoming a successful citizen in today's society. All of this is has been possible because of men coming together as a whole and using their life's trials and experiences to help their fellow brother to become a better man. That's what CBU is all about."

—Jody Garceau,
Program Participant



Programming in Progress

- **JumpStart Faith-based Reentry**
(Tim Terry/Thivener/Stahlnecker/Hunt/Tinsley)
- **Anger Management**
(Joel Carter/Kurt Anthony)
- **Everyday Spanish**
(Carrisal/Rios/Garcia/Salas)
- **Comparative Religions**
(James Bradley)
- **Public Speaking & Debate**
(Anthony Guffey)
- **Art Instruction Class**
(Alexander/Carrisal/Askari)
- **Bee Keeping**
(Chitwood/Ramsey/Sipes/Mr. Bell)
- **Horticulture Class**
(David Camp)
- **Organic Horticulture**
(David Camp)
- **Fitness & Nutrition**
Chitwood/Mike Coffin
- **Financial Intelligence** [Reentry Project]
(Buggs/Mash)
- **Employment Readiness** [Reentry Project]
(Clark/Salas)
- **Independent Living** [Reentry Project]
(Connor)
- **Computer Literacy**
(Tinsley)
- **Pre-GED Class**
(Mash/ Lockridge/MacPhee/Petty)
- **Substance Abuse and the Drug Culture**
(Jones/ Fuller/ Babb/Metz)

Volunteer Programming

"I will be released in one year [December 2012]. This is my third time coming to prison and my biggest fear is that I'll get out only to come back. I don't believe they'll ever let me out again if I come back. It's not drugs that keeps bringing me to prison or that I'm an evil man at heart. CBU is very important to me because it has helped me see that the drugs were merely a side effect of a much larger problem that has not been addressed before now.

My perception of my role in society and my inability to handle stress properly is the problem. The CBU addresses these deficiencies in my life in such a way that I can see the progress I'm making and can measure it against my past behaviors. I live with these men in community, treat them as family and grow with them daily. I've come to realize that people in a community succeed or fail not in ones or twos but as a whole.

As I am admonished and counseled by my peers, teach learn, grow, and see those around me grow, I am becoming more confident in my ability to make it out there in this, perhaps my last shot at freedom. While members of the community I am soon to be a part of come in here to offer love, hope, and support, I grow stronger in my convictions.

When I am down, the guys in the CBU not only ask 'What's wrong,?' but also 'What can we do to help?' I feel genuinely a part of a community. There are no 'have-nots' here. We look out for each other and hold ourselves to a

(James)

- **Sign Language Course** (Lockridge)
- **CBU CORE Rehabilitation Curriculum**
- **Criminal Thinking & Neurotic Responses: Pro-social Values and Personal Development Course**

standard of living we can be proud of. I strive to be a better man not only for myself but for the men around me who I depend on and who depend on me. I am learning to submit to authority as well as becoming a leader, enjoying a level of accountability I have never willingly subjected myself to. When I think about CBU I don't think about rules or programming but of the men around me, my community.

CBU has taught me to naturally think of the impact of my decisions on others—'collective mindset' we call it. To me, CBU is about men offering hope and guidance to one another, **making changes starting at the most basic levels.** I am a country boy and don't understand all the psychological reasons this thing has for working but I'm evidence that it does.”

— Anthony Guffey,
Program Participant

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CBU Service & Therapy Dog Project

What's Ahead

When it comes to dreams for the future, CBU Program participants believe the sky is the limit. They hope to see a number of new and exciting projects launched from the CBU.

Some of these projects include:

- Service/Therapy Dog Training Program
- Parenting and Family Development Visitation Project
- Juvenile Offender Outreach Project (JOOP)
- Volunteer/CBU Mentoring Project
- Victim/Offender Reconciliation Project
- “At-risk Family and Community Development Initiative”
- Liberal Arts Music Project [Music Theory & Instruction]

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“Twenty-five years ago I began serving what was to be a 30 years to life sentence....

For the next 23 or so years I managed to stay out of trouble with relative ease, maintaining a job as my health permitted; however, during that time I lacked real direction and focus which allowed my emotional and spiritual growth to become static and stagnant. Simply staying out of trouble did nothing to actually improve my life...

CBU has become my emotional and spiritual family and my road to increased self- confidence. Every inmate in this prison system should be as fortunate to have the opportunity to experience such positive and life-altering changes and possibilities that make up the CBU at Perry.”

—Stephen Shirley,
Program Participant

Contact Us

“When we began the CBU, my main focus was the peer-accountability/ character-building aspect of the program. My second focus, which was no less important, was the educational benefits. I enjoy spending my free time helping others. Whether it’s teaching Military History or Basic Writing/Grammar, assisting Creative Writing or the Emry’s Writers Workshop, or mentoring in a time of need, I feel good about myself when I can help others feel good about themselves.

The CBU program brought out the best in the worst of us... And we will continue to dedicate ourselves to doing better.”

—Richard K. Patterson

Associate Warden Stephen R. Claytor,
Program Director

Claytor.Stephen@doc.sc.gov

Perry Correctional Institution
c/o CBU Program
430 Oaklawn Road
Pelzer, South Carolina
29669

How You Can Get Involved

- Volunteer to teach a class, lead or sponsor a program
- Financial underwriting

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“The CBU is, and has been, a huge influence in my personal growth of being a better person and also is helping me to realize what the real downfalls in my life were. Through Jump Start, I found that macho pride was my worst enemy. It is the reason I let anger consume and control the actions that put me in prison. I now know pride for what it is, and it can’t sneak up on me and cause things it has before.

I know that pride will rob you of your life; you’ll never be able to fully open your heart and mind through pride. You’ll never through pride have the strength to humble yourself. I believe that, in one way or another, pride was a factor in why most people are in prison, and I’m grateful to CBU for helping me realize my problem and for being the kind of environment that helps me deal with it.”

—Steve Sellers,
Program Participant

Recommended Reading

The CBU Experience

“As a veteran of over 37 years of incarceration in the SCDC, and having endured all the dangerous business of just surviving the many maximum security prisons, including 15 years of the old Central Correctional Institution (CCI), the CBU of Perry C.I. is an oasis in the stressful desert of wasteland penal colonies.

Though I have witnessed and participated in prison education and social programs throughout my prison years, there is no comparison to CBU. I’ve seen the philosophical pendulum swing back and forth from “Lock’em up and throw away the key” to genuine rehabilitation efforts, that although well intended, were sadly not well applied. The result has been the same; the prison population exploding and the recidivism rate higher than ever.

One year ago, January 12, 2011, I had the opportunity to join the CBU at Perry. At first I was somewhat reluctant to buy into the whole concept of accountability, responsibility, and commitment to assisting others by encouraging them to honor the agreement, or social contract, of CBU. Within weeks, I began to see fruits of this endeavor. I witnessed, both in others and myself, a change in attitude and behavior. It was “okay” to speak to everyone around you, it was “okay” to encourage your roommate to be sure he made his character class on time, as we are receptive to this encouragement.

We know this accountability is done in the spirit of helping and contributing to the betterment of all. To feel my stress level drop from 10 to almost nothing because my days are no longer consumed by distrust, fear, or angst over potential threats from the ones

[coming soon]

[Upstate Warden Bucks Trend Garden Article, Greenville News](#)

Video & Documentaries

[Clemson Tigers visit](#)

“After spending over 11 years incarcerated, CBU is the first program that makes it possible for me to expand my desire to grow and be a better man. Before I came to the CBU I had decided to change the way I think, act, live, and ultimately love. This was first accomplished through Christ. But the CBU has many opportunities for a man who wants to do the right thing. For me, CBU re-enforces the ability to think in a positive, pro-social, atmosphere. Here, men can re-learn how to be men, first by rehabilitating themselves. This is a place where, despite the adversities of incarceration, men can STOP overestimating their fault and STOP underestimating their virtues. For over 20 years of my life, I was a part of an organization called Folk Nation. I was a confused and chaotic kind of guy. Even in the midst of that type of life I recognized the better part of myself, so I have to say that the “CBU” was in me before I became a part of the CBU. Overall, I can truly say that this is the best thing within the Department of Corrections. I have learned so many things through the different programs. I can actually look in the mirror on any given day and smile to myself and say ‘John, you learned something positive Today!’ ”

—John Robinson,
Program Participant

who surround me each day, is tremendously calming. I can focus on my passion now, which is learning and teaching.

In the peaceful and very productive year that I have lived in the CBU, I have found so many personal strengths and opportunities for growth, that my day is now filled with growing and gaining knowledge.

I begin each day with spiritual meditation in our quiet environment that is so conducive to growth. Two hours of G.E.D. tutoring is followed by two hours of study. I instruct a Public Speaking class and much time is devoted to preparation for instructing. I also instruct in the Adult Education programs in which we provide tutoring for all levels, from basic education to G.E.D. completion. I participate in classes such as Basic Writing, Comparative Religion, and Financial Literacy. My day is filled with challenge— the challenge to assist others in, and gain as much, knowledge as the day will allow.”

—Jimmy MacPhee,
Program Participant

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Victim/Witness Support

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Perry Beekeeping/Apiary Project

Discovering Life Lessons in Nature



About this Project

Almost three years ago Warden Michael McCall of Perry Correctional Institution, located in Southern Greenville County, decided to turn an abandoned softball field into an acre and a half vegetable garden. Initially, his vision would provide restless inmates a constructive way to spend their days.

Inmates tilled the rocky top soil, seeded the rows, and in a matter of months the garden yielded a small harvest of cabbage, squash, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cantaloupe/melons, and variety of greens to be used in recipes by the prison's kitchen staff under senior supervisor Bob Olsen.

Warden McCall's vision had become a reality but it wasn't yet complete. He proposed an idea to Cal Bell, Perry's Vocational Carpentry Instructor, and shortly thereafter Mack Flake, an avid sidelining beekeeper from Chapin, S.C., donated two hives to be placed in the pavilion at PCI's outer perimeter.

In addition, Mr. Bell began teaching an Introduction to Beekeeping Basics for inmates selected from the horticulture department and vocational carpentry program. The 16-week class offered the fundamentals of beekeeping and theoretical colony management, and provided a platform for Mr. Bell to mentor inmates James Chitwood, Christopher Ramsey, and Maxwell Sipes.

Fortunately for them, one of the outer perimeter hives lost its queen. The two hives needed to be combined and kept under close supervision, thus began what became known as the Perry Apiary.

Incidentally, the combined hive survived, and





Mr. Flake brought two more, which made a total of three for Mr. Bell and his pupils to care for.

That April, when his original hive swarmed, the queen and half the colony were gone, so Mr. Bell showed his students an on-the-spot method of queen rearing called “Notching.” He instructed Mr. Ramsey to press his hive tool – a small metal bar used to pry frames out of the hive body – into the drawn comb just below a row of recently laid worker eggs- He noted that the bees would instinctually draw the comb downward to form queen cells.



Three to four weeks later, after the virgin queen had taken her mating voyage from the hive, there was a laying queen again.

The early summer garden harvest was three-fold since the summer past, and the hard work was celebrated by collecting 31/2 gallons of honey from hive frames using Mr. Bell’s honey extractor.



Between the months of September and January, Mr. Flake commissioned inmates in Mr. Bell’s Vocational Carpentry class to make complete hive bodies, some which were used to increase Perry’s 3 hives to 12 colonies total.

With cooperation from Warden McCall, Associate Warden Stephen Claytor, and support from Mr. Bell and Mr. Flake, Chitwood, Ramsey and Sipes offered the Introduction to Beekeeping Basics to inmates in the *Character-Based Unit (CBU)*.



Late in 2011, Dr. Mike Hood, head entomologist from Clemson University, visited to observe and test these three inmates on what they have learned for the purposes of certifying them with the South Carolina Beekeeper’s Association.

Since then, the Palmetto United School District has taken notice of Warden McCall’s vision and students whom successfully complete the CBU Beekeeping Class. They now have the opportunity to be granted certification through Mr. Bell’s new class, as well as hands-on experience working with the bees. This year there are 16 men enrolled in the PUSD Beekeeping Program.

Warden McCall’s Beekeeping and Re-entry Program has encouraged environmental responsibility, promoted sustainability in a prison culture accustomed to over expenditures, and has provided an exciting and viable experience



prisoners can take back to society upon their release.

Follow our [Bee Blog](#).

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Perry Sustainable Garden Project

Meaning & Fulfillment Through Subsistence



Working the land with your hands, being able to see plants mature from seed, gives a sense of pride and accomplishment. Working outside the dorm in a non-oppressive environment gives a sense of freedom within the fences. Job skills learned can be transferred to a career upon release- horticulturist, botanist, and landscape designer, etc.



Prior to creating our own garden, our Institution was ordering some of the largest amounts of food from Headquarters. We now order the least. The four acres of vegetables and herbs at Perry provide inmates with healthier food and eases the economic burden on the Agency and taxpayers.



The quality and taste of our fresh vegetables has been a benefit from the yard to lock-up, and the herbs greatly enhance the flavor of each meal.



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Perry Edible Landscape Project



[coming soon]

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