



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'

Larry Cartledge, *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

Perry is home to real, measurable change and rehabilitation in the lives of inmates. This is not something you see every day in maximum security prisons. The Perry *Character-Based Unit 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 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 [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



"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

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]



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. The CBU is 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.

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

the circumstances do not define 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, and encourages the whole community."

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.

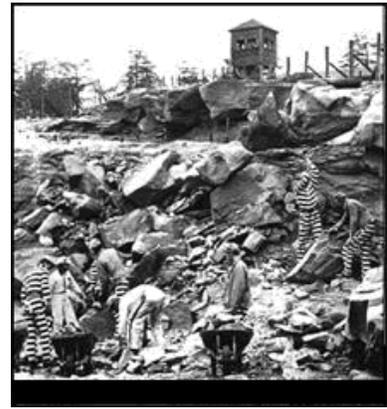
Critics are quick to point out that hand-picked "cream of the crop" inmates is not rehabilitation at all because they are already predisposed to change. The Program essentially does nothing for them that would affect recidivism. But it is clear from the 70% recidivism rate nation-wide that simply throwing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

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, real, measurable change can be seen 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



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 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.



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 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.**

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."

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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. 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



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.



expanding one's world



Discipleship volunteer



volunteer support



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Inmate Coordinators



“ By the grace of God, CBU has given me the opportunity to contribute to the lives of others in multiple ways; teaching a re-entry program to men month before reentering society, being a mentor in a shadow program where a couple of young men follow me everywhere I go (Job

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



Town hall Ceremony

“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

site, meetings, classes, recreation, volunteer projects, etc.) to demonstrate and dialogue with them about what it means and looks like to be a "Whole man", discipling men on how to be a Christ-like influence wherever they find themselves, creating effective & productive community development models, formulating curricula for programs, to partner with ex-con's like Time Terry to facilitate the Jumpstart program, to partner with a local church to build bunk beds for the homeless in the Appalachian Mountains and give art to those struggling in Haiti, to aid the mentally ill inmates, counseling small groups on how we can be more of a godly father, husband, family man, and community member during and after incarceration .

CBU is the place where I can invest in others at the level that many have invested in me, that the prayers of my parents and son, the academic opportunities of Columbia International University (see Columbia International University Prison Initiative), the dicipling of my Christian mentors, and the forgiveness granted to me by my victim's family, will not be in vain.

God has been using CBU to allow me to spend the remainder of my days encouraging and equipping others to redeem their lives, emphasizing to the young people that you don't have to wait until you get old to be the change you want to see, and to the incarcerated, you don't have to wait until you become free to be the change you want to see.

For many of us in CBU, to serve at this capacity is our opportunity to leave a legacy that our son's and the sons' of the next generation to be proud of and God be glorified for."

—Terrence Hunt

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 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.

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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 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 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



"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 Character-Based Unit has allowed me to develop skills, relationships, and desires that I once did not want. I was raised right, but didn't want to act like it. So I tried to justify it by saying everyone else was wrong and I was right. I knew how to act like a man but it seemed I never wanted to be responsible for my mistakes, even the smallest things, like getting a driving ticket. I would say the heck with it and throw everything I have earned and worked for away because I didn't feel I could work



“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, 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



“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,

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 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

through the minor problems and stand firm at the same time.

I got locked up at a young age so the CBU has allowed me to mature, develop, and learn to make decisions as a man. I have been able to work on areas I lacked. Now I can show and lead others to what a man is suppose to act like, how to treat others, and how to be responsible to their families.

I never knew I would allow my heart to open to Jesus Christ until 3 months ago. That’s another thing that has worked well on the behalf of CBU. The Lord has allowed me to love others and treat them as my family. It has taken me 7 years to come to this point. CBU takes a lot of burden off my family because I am always exposed to a learning environment and material. When I am released I can provide for myself, even through I have an awesome family.”

—Marty McClure,
Program Participant



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

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



"This Program has helped me to develop all aspects of my life: educational, vocational, emotional, spiritual, and social. This growth has given me a confidence I've never had before in my ability to re-enter society and contribute. I am proud, honored and humbled to be a part of CBU."

—Anthony Guffey

"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

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, 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.

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

—John Tinsley



Our ever-expanding Library

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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



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



Beekeeping/Apiary Project

CBU REENTRY PROJECT

CORE CURRICULUM

Career Exploration

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

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 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

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
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

“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

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 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 carpintería, albañilería 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 be a dreamer.”

—Aaron Williams,
Program Participant



Sustainable Garden Project

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 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.

- CBU Service/Therapy Dog Project***
- CBU Art & Humanities Project***
- Medium Custody Mentoring***
- Man-To-Man Project***
- Parole-A-Dog Project***
- Leadership Development***
- IRC ‘Character Committee’***
- CBU Institutional Improvement Crew***
- Islamic/Christian Conferences***
- Non-Parallel Partnerships***
- FBCS Missions Partnership***
- FBCS Arts for Haiti Project***

OTHER EXCITING INITIATIVES AT PERRY

see www.doc.sc.gov/institutions/PerryWeb.pdf

- Bee Keeping/Apiary Project***
- Sustainable Garden Project***
- Edible Landscape Project***
- Beautification Project***
- Culinary Arts Project***
- SMU Renovations Project***
- Ovarian Cancer Drive***
- Mural Project***

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“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



Edible Landscape Project



Learning to keep Bees



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



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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.



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.



Volunteer Programming

"I am most excited about the Reentry Program. I'm an instructor of the Substance Abuse class for the Reentry Program. As an ex-drug addict myself, this program gives me a chance to help others overcome their addictions with a testimony of how drugs ruined my life and I ended I prison. It also helped me to face my fears and deal with my negative way of life. Now I have self-esteem and a positive outlook. This class gives all the guys an opportunity to face the issues in their life that could cause them to fall back into addiction. These guys are willing to do whatever it takes to overcome their addictions when temptation comes and to become better men and respectful citizens."

—Richard Fuller,
Program Participant



essentials for rehabilitation

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Rehabilitation

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)

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

—John Tinsley



CBU Program Director, A/W Claytor

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

**CBU GED Graduates 2010-2012
80% of all Graduates at Perry**

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

with people has changed in a positive way.”

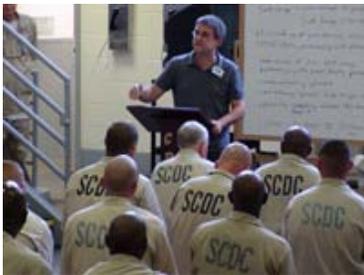
—Tony Morris,
Program Participant

“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 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

- **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)
- **JumpStart Faith-based Reentry**
(Tim Terry/Thivener/Stahlnecker/Hunt/Tinsley)
- **Anger Management**
(Joel Carter/Kurt Anthony)
- **Everyday Spanish**
(Martinez/Rios/Garcia/Salas/Quintana/Villfureta)
- **Comparative Religions**
(James Bradley)
- **Public Speaking & Debate**
(Anthony Guffey/James MacPhee/Scott Griffin)
- **Art Instruction Class**
(Alexander/Carrisal/Garcia/Dooley)
- **Bee Keeping**
(Chitwood/Ramsey/Sheahan/Mr. Bell)
- **Horticulture Class**
(David Camp)
- **Organic Horticulture**
(David Camp)
- **Fitness & Nutrition**



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 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

(James Chitwood/Mike Coffin)

- **Financial Intelligence** [Reentry Project]
(Buggs/Mash)
- **Employment Readiness** [Reentry Project]
(Clark/Salas)
- **Independent Living** [Reentry Project]
(Connor)
- **Computer Literacy** [Reentry Project]
(Tinsley)
- **Pre-GED Class**
(Mash/ Lockridge/MacPhee/Petty)
- **Residential Electrical & Wiring**
(Taylor/Hathaway/Elliot)
- **Substance Abuse and the Drug Culture**
(Jones/ Fuller)
- **Sign Language Course**
(Clint Lockridge/SamuelRicketts)
- **Basic Life Support/First Aid**
(Charles Croom)
- **"I CAN" with Financial Intelligence**
(Stephan Sharar)
- **CBU CORE Rehabilitation Curriculum**
- **Criminal Thinking & Neurotic Responses: Pro-social Values and Personal Development Course**



*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 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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What's Ahead



CBU Service & Therapy Dog Project

"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

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



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“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
Program Participant

Associate Warden Stephen R. Claytor,
Program Director

www.Claytor.Stephen@doc.sc.gov

Perry Correctional Institution
ATTEN: Associate Warden Claytor
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

“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

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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

Recommended Reading

[coming soon]

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

Video & Documentaries

[Clemson Tigers visit Perry](#)

<<CLICK to show in Browser>>

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[Tragic Narratives: from prison to praise](#)

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<<CLICK to Download>>

[Ring the Bell: forces that shape the student's](#)

"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

life

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 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

A program participant's mother writes:

"I thank God for the *Character-Based Unit* A lot of people describe their time behind bars as a 'life interruption' but you guys have proved that that's only true if you want it to be... every night for helping [my son] to discover and experience his potential for himself.

You are learning how to take control of your emotions, decisions, actions, and essentially your life. Thus maturing into the men your families knew you could be... We see so many positive things in our son and we want to emulate them...[We live on the outside but] You make us want to be better people.

As parents we let our emotions guide us but you are letting common sense and just doing the 'right thing' guide you. You could lie around all day but instead you're taking responsibility for helping to build a town. You all see a need and work to find a solution. You all find ways for people to use their talents and skills and encourage each other to use those characteristics for the good. You are learning how to be a positive role model, even when no one is looking...

Since being in the CBU, I have watched my son take constructive criticism the way it was intended and use it as a 'learning tool.' You have taken everything negative and turned it into a positive. When know that having the support of your friends and 'community' around you is a life line and I thank God for the men of the CBU you call 'family.'

The way you guys found a way to tithe [the CBU benevolence/hygiene fund] means more than you will ever know. Tithing is a show of obedience and the funds are used, in part, for mission work. This is an essential part of any community. Town hall meetings are important for any community also because EVERYONE is important and has something important to contribute. The fact that you encourage this is wonderful....

It takes a village to raise a child and I thank God for your 'village.' "

—Mrs. Cindy Coward

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

"The CBU has helped me address and change my negative motivations and emotions. ...Since I separated myself from gangs I was able to obtain my GED and countless other opportunities that will allow me to flourish once I'm released in three more summers everyday my addiction to the dope-boy life style is washing away through the positive programs CBU has offered."

—Aaron Williams,
Program Participant



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Victim/Witness Support



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Non-parallel Partnerships



Non-parallel partnerships are business and relationships associations between two parties who work together to achieve related but different goals and objectives while helping the other achieve theirs. The CBU is proud to partner with organizations, ministries, and individuals to achieve similar goals.



FBCS Bunk House Project

FBCS gave the men of the CBU the opportunity to use skills acquired through the CBU Carpentry Class to design, propose, and build twnety-four bunk beds to serve volunteers who use the bunk-house while they serve local people in Appalachia, Lee County, Virginia.



FBCS provided the lumber and materials and men from the CBU provided the labor. Twelve



men from the CBU participated in this project and twenty-four bunk beds were ready for pick up in less than three days.



The vision of FBCS was that not only could the men of the CBU provide a valuable service to this ministry but they could gain fulfillment in knowing that they have a part in a vibrant mission that reaches and cares for the needs of others on the outside.



The pride and satisfaction of having participated in this project can be seen on the participants faces on the day the beds were handed over.



FBCS Arts for Haiti Project

FBCS has developed a Haiti orphanage mission. When given the opportunity to help, the men of the CBU volunteered to do arts and crafts that could be sold or auctioned off by FBCS. Funds raised from this art could then be used to support this mission in Haiti.

pictures of donated art and more, coming soon!

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Service & Therapy Dog Project



About this Project

The *CBU Service & Therapy Dog Project* has developed a model for the use and care of service and therapy dogs in a correctional setting. Rescued dogs from South Carolina organizations are housed, socialized, housetrained, and receive basic obedience training to prepare them for adoption. This is when the project gets exciting. Abused and discarded animals who have become an inconvenience for their owners, or those no one wants get a second chance at life. The Perry CBU is proud to partner with community organizations to provide this service and see neglected animals adopted into caring homes and hearts.



Elvis



Dogs in this Project give more than they receive. Until they are adopted, the dogs provide the CBU with character, compassion, education, a meaningful way to serve others, give back to the community, and a powerful



Sophia taking a break during obedience training



Shepp



First delivery of supplies to Warden's Office from *The Good Bowl*



tool to reach and culturally engage the prison population.

These dogs live with the men in the CBU housing unit and receive 24 hour love and care. Their presence in the living environment promotes unity, creates a therapeutic climate, and inspires staff, visitors, and volunteers. Outside the Unit these dogs are used as tools for cultural engagement. Studies show that the presence of therapy dogs reduce anxiety, aggression, depression, and foster empathy. In the prison setting, these therapy dogs help crime-hardened men feel and reconnect to their humanity.

CBU therapy dogs do visitation throughout the Institution. Perry's mental health inmates, at-risk medium custody inmates, assisted living unit (ALU) inmates, staff on post, and families and friends in the visitation room receive regular visits from these dogs and their handlers.

Although these rescued dogs receive housing, care, and preparation for adoption, it is the men at Perry Correctional Institution that are getting a second chance at life.

Follow [Elvis on his Blog](#) as he shares the adventure of the CBU Dog Project at Perry, the tragic stories of rescued dogs, and how in partnership with [HealingSpecies.org](#) and *other* organizations, they get a second chance to be adopted under Perry's [Parole-A-Dog Project](#).

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Sophia on her first day at Perry



Early morning training with a handler



The Handler team and Mr. Claytor

HealingSpecies.org



Perry Parole-A-Dog Project

Second Chances for Dogs and Men



Another Project of the CBU

About Elvis' Blog



Elvis was the first dog to enter Perry Correctional Institution. Back then, he was only visiting; we were hosting an exploratory meeting with HealingSpecies.org. We asked for and received permission to ask them to bring one dog with them. They brought Elvis. This bandit fit right in and stole our hearts. We felt that it was fitting for this blog to be Elvis' since he was the pioneer for

the CBU Service & Therapy Dog Project.

Follow Elvis as he chronicles this Project inside a maximum security prison, shares the adventure of the CBU Dog Project at Perry, the tragic stories of rescued dogs, how this partnership with HealingSpecies.org will pioneer new and exciting territory, introduce you to the dogs and their stories when they first come to us, and their remarkable progress toward a second chance. Who knows, maybe you or someone you know will want to be a part of their parole stories?

To apply for adoption, download *The Healing Species* [Application](#).

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The Beginning



Much time and work went in to the preparation of Perry and the CBU for the Dog Project. The arrival of the first CBU Service/Therapy Dog to Perry had all the Handlers anxious and excited. The day finally came.

August 8th, 2012--The Handlers anxiously await the arrival of Sophia just inside the security gates of the prison.



The first CBU canine resident entering the institution through the last main security checkpoint.

The maximum security environment has Sophia a little shakey.



Associate Warden Claytor, CBU Program Director, taking the reins of Sophia.

Ms. Cheri Thompson and Ms. Marie Milhouse, Director and Project Manager of *The Healing Species*, with Sophia.



Sophia's handler meets and greets her for the first time.



The Dog Project team meet and get to know Sophia.



Sophia and *The Healing Species* tours the prison and accommodations.



CBU's first therapy dog handler takes charge of Sophia's care.



The anticipation among the men in the CBU has been building. A view from a cell window in the CBU as Sophia makes her maiden trip across the 'yard' and into the CBU.



Sophia entering the CBU A-wing for the first time.



Elvis' Blog— August 9, 2012



Meet Sophia. Sophia, and her sister Angelina, were dumped out at The Healing Species on one of the coldest nights of the year. At twelve weeks old, they were wrapped in a wet towel, undernourished and afraid of people.

The Healing Species raised Sophia. When she arrived at Perry she was in excellent health, spayed, and all her vaccinations are up to date.

The handlers will spend the next few weeks acclimating Sophia to the prison environment, socializing her, and working on her house and obedience training. She will get lots of love, affirmation, and care from the handlers and be readied to start touring the Institution providing therapy to inmates and staff alike.

For more information or to adopt Sophia, contact HealingSpecies.org. To download the adoption [APPLICATION](#).



Elvis' Blog— August 10, 2012



The CBU welcomed Shepp as the second Therapy dog just one day after Sophia arrived. Shepp was rescued from a puppy mill with several other dogs which were all in pretty poor health, undernourished, and infected with many parasites, as well as, infections in his body.

The Healing Species nursed Shepp back to health and now he is in excellent shape, neutered and all his vaccinations are up to date.

Shepp came to us ready to socialize. He will get the love, attention, and obedience training he needs and then start providing therapy within the Institution.

For more information or to adopt Shepp, contact HealingSpecies.org. To download the adoption [APPLICATION](#).



Elvis' Blog— September 15, 2012



Sophia and Shepp have given me a new improved quality of life. Through them I have built relationships with men whom use to be only casual greetings. I have seen measurable change in the atmosphere at Perry with inmates and staff alike.

These animals have put a little pep in these old bones and renewed faith in the human heart. Hearing grown men baby-talk and let down walls of hurt lets me know we are on the right track to healing and self-rehabilitation.

—Charles Connor, Handler



Elvis' Blog— September 28, 2012



Shepp has affected my life in the short time he has been here with me at Perry. My responsibilities have changed. I'm more aware than ever that with God nothing is impossible. I've always loved dogs, so I take this stewardship very seriously. In this short time Shepp and I have bonded. I've been allowed to see a lot of these men undergo some amazing transformations in his presence. Shepp has opened the way for some very deep and emotional conversations. As a Christian, I see Shepp as a God send and a valuable resource that will enable me to witness to a larger number of men to the love and faithfulness of God through Jesus Christ.

The guys in ALU have really been affected by Shepp's presence. The guys in the mental health unit are showing a great interest in him also. So the possibilities are endless. Any of you who pray, please pray for God to give me the wisdom, and the understanding I will need to fulfill my duties in a godly manner. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way.

—Joel Carter, Handler



The Perry **Parole-A-Dog Project** is a partnership between the CBU and *The Healing Species* and is intended to provide a platform to promote and encourage the adoption of rescued dogs that have been through the CBU Service & Therapy Dog Project. Dogs are "parolable" only after meeting preestablished criteria: they must be successfully socialized and temperament-tested, housetrained, and complete basic obedience training.

To participate or help in the Parole-A-Dog Project contact HealingSpecies.org. To download the adoption [APPLICATION](#).

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