

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

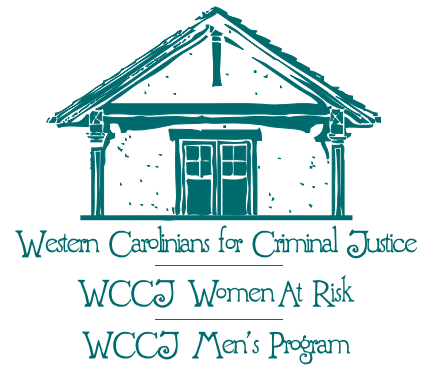
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WCCJ Men's Program
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October 2010

Dear Friends,

I'm here every day even when we don't have a meeting--we'll be here sitting on the porch--because we feel like this is our safe place. They can save your life.
~Karen, Women At Risk client

A safe place. A life-saving place. Powerful words from a woman who knows that how she deals with her addiction is a matter of life and death. Thank you for being part of saving lives through your contributions to Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice.

Karen's voice adds urgency to the words of WCCJ's new mission statement: *WCCJ is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocacy and comprehensive mental health and substance abuse treatment as an alternative to costly incarceration.*

As we ask again for your financial support, we want you to know what this statement means to the clients, volunteers, staff and board of WCCJ.

Advocacy: From the beginning, we have advocated for the individuals in our programs as well as for a more effective and humane criminal justice system. This fall, for example, advocacy at WCCJ encompasses a statewide partnership with children's action groups to raise the juvenile age to 18. (North Carolina is the only state in the nation that prosecutes 16- and 17-year-olds in the adult criminal justice system, regardless of the severity of their alleged crimes.)

Comprehensive mental health and substance abuse treatment:

Caring for clients continues to be the core of our work. *I've been in a lot of treatment centers before, but I've never talked like I do here, because*



it's so warm and they make me feel like I'm somebody. I graduated, but this is just the beginning for me. ~Sarah, Women At Risk client

We ground the hospitality our clients experience in premier quality treatment, case management and court advocacy. Every WCCJ clinician is a Masters level provider and three of our case-managers have substance abuse certification. Last year, the Women At Risk Program received the highest level of accreditation possible for a rehabilitative facility. The assessment declared, *"Women At Risk demonstrates a commitment to quality. The organization's efforts are impressive and consistent."*

Sarah puts it more personally: *I have never been able to trust anybody, but I found I could really trust these people. I really love them.*

Of the 265 clients served last year, more than 70% struggle with addiction and more than 80% are parents. Large majorities live in poverty, have mental health diagnoses and have a history of being violently and sexually abused.

In a statewide partnership with several other agencies serving women offenders, WCCJ helped establish the Justice Coalition on Women and Children, a new collaboration advocating for more support from the NC General Assembly, the NC Department of Correction and the Governor to break the cycle of incarceration, trauma and addiction that threatens these families.



WCCJ provides the only gender-specific state-licensed outpatient sentencing alternative for women in North Carolina.



Children with incarcerated parents are six times more likely to be incarcerated themselves.

Alternative: In 1982, when we began promoting community-based treatment instead of incarceration, nothing like our programs existed. We created a better option than prison and over the years have persistently improved to meet the specific needs of our participants. As a result, graduates of WCCJ programs have a significantly lower rate of recidivism than prison inmates.

We all need a place that knows what we are going through when we step off the correct path. These people have been so kind and knowledgeable to me, I have gotten back on the road to recovery.

~ Stephen, Men's Program client

Costly incarceration: In a day when all of our dollars are stretched thin, including our tax dollars, WCCJ offers the best outcomes for the money. Treatment at WCCJ costs approximately \$8 per person per day, while the cost of incarcerating one person for one day in North Carolina is almost \$75.



Thank God for my probation officer who told me about this Men's Group. With the economy as bad as it is, this group gave many of us hope to get through the week.

~ Steve, Men's Program client



Now let's go back to the beginning of that mission statement. **Dedicated.** No other word says more about WCCJ. Our stellar staff and devoted volunteers remain dedicated to making this community safer, healthier, and more just.

Won't you join us by making a tax-deductible contribution today?

Ellen Clarke, Executive Director

Pete Sansbury, Board Chair

p.s. It costs about \$2,900 to serve each client for one year. Fewer dollars have been available from state appropriations and foundations this year, leading to a budget shortfall here at WCCJ. Your generous donation will make a tremendous difference, particularly this year.