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CCT embracing new ways to engage with clients

The Center for Community Transitions [communications@centerforcommunitytransitions.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:59 PM

To: Steve Johnston

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Building people, not prisons since 1974

Pause with Patrice: An update on CCT during COVID-19



"Vulnerability sounds like truth and feels like courage. Truth and courage aren't always comfortable, but they're never weakness." -- Brene Brown

As a first-time nonprofit executive director, I never imagined vulnerability would emerge as a defining leadership skill during my first 90 days at the Center for Community Transitions. I also never envisioned leading big, transformative change during a global pandemic. Lately, I find myself wondering if this very moment in time is why I spent 20-plus years working in human resources.

Situations like these put us in a position of making decisions we have never made before regardless of our position in the organization. At CCT, we've all been pushed to be rapidly adaptive while navigating staff reductions. Many are working remotely for the first time while also being (virtually) present and responsive to our clients and families as we attempt to figure out what 'normal' now means.

Truth is, being swept into the opportunity to lead with vulnerability in a new job has sparked a kind of courage I believe could ONLY emerge during this kind of disruption. New year. New role. New leadership challenge.

There's something much greater at play here. What keeps me going is asking myself each day, 'Who do you want to be during - and after - COVID-19?'

Patrice Funderburg, Executive Director

Care through Crisis: Clients receive services and support during pandemic



From food and clothing referrals to telemedicine and medication management, we haven't let a global pandemic keep us from providing essential support and services to formerly incarcerated individuals.

Our clients served their time and are now reentering a community filled with so many unknowns. Right now, they need our support more than ever to help them navigate uncertainty and adapt quickly to constantly changing and challenging circumstances.

[Read more about CCT's efforts during the pandemic.](#)

CCT awarded \$50,000 through COVID-19 Relief Fund



Thanks to [United Way of Central Carolinas and the COVID-19 Relief Fund](#), CCT was awarded a generous \$50,000 grant to support our clients and operations during the pandemic. These grant dollars will go towards funding increased staffing and food and supplies at our [Center for Women](#). Our residents are now at the facility 24/7 due to the suspension of the NC Department of Public Safety's work release program. Also at the center, we've set up a canteen where residents can pick up toiletries,

washcloths, snacks, water, soda and other essentials.

E-Learning: The New Normal



We're also embracing the new normal by building an e-learning platform to help us continue serving our clients virtually. The platform is enhancing the way we do business by providing opportunities for us to engage with clients through technology.

Thanks to a partnership with [Digital Charlotte](#), we secured five laptops before the initial COVID-19 impact. Two laptops allow [Center for Women](#) residents to work remotely during suspended NCDPS work release. Another laptop is set up in the Center for Women counseling room to allow us to shift to teletherapy. The remaining two laptops are set up at workstations in the CCT library so residents who are in school can participate in online classes.

In the coming weeks, we'll also launch an EVERY Tuesday meal distribution program to replace our THIRD Tuesday family gatherings while social distancing mandates remain in place. Individuals impacted by incarceration and their family members will be able to pick up essential supplies and groceries EVERY Tuesday while supplies last. For EVERY Tuesday start date, times and location visit our [Families Doing Time](#) page.

Ways to support CCT during COVID-19



We sent an appeal last month requesting financial donations to help our clients during COVID-19. To date, we've raised \$1,150 to purchase cell phones for recently released clients so they can connect with CCT, family members, potential employers and other critical resources.

Funds raised will also help pay for EVERY Tuesday meals and much-needed medical prescriptions for those with chronic illnesses enrolled in our [Formerly Incarcerated in Transitions \(FIT\) program](#). Thanks to everyone who already supported this online appeal.

If you haven't made a gift already and your circumstances allow, [please consider making a gift](#) of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more to support our COVID-19 relief effort.

Or, if you're unable to make a financial contribution at this time, consider volunteering for our new EVERY Tuesday meal distribution program benefiting families affected by incarceration. Email cthompson@centerforcommunitytransitions.org for more details.

Thank you Build People Not Prisons event sponsors, committee members and ticket purchasers!



As we announced last month, we had to postpone our annual Build People Not Prisons fundraising event that was to take place on March 26. We want to express, again, sincere gratitude to our [event sponsors](#) and ticket purchasers.

Also, a big thank you to our fantastic event planning committee for volunteering their time and support: Jenny Bonk, Whitney Smith, Von Cooper, Jason Goodyear, Thomas Morgan and Rachel Nemecek. Stay tuned for rescheduled dates for the event and online auction.

[Click here to see ALL of our generous donors since January 1, 2020](#)



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