



# CRIME PREVENTION INSTITUTE

*Breaking the Cycle of Crime*

## PROGRAM FACTSHEET

### Targeted Project Re-Enterprise

#### Breaking the cycle of crime in communities

The Crime Prevention Institute continues to prove that non-violent offenders, provided with basic training and assistance, can become productive members of our community. The agency does this through the Targeted Project Re-Enterprise program by working with inmates before and after they are released to prepare for and find meaningful employment.

Prior to release, all participating receive a comprehensive assessment of substance abuse, mental health, and risk for re-offense. Inmates take classes on preparing job applications and succeeding in interviews. They also attend a transition preparation support group for twenty weeks and work one-on-one with a case manager to develop personal goals and a release plan.

After their release, the agency provides men in the program with transportation assistance, clothing, hygiene products, work supplies, bus passes, job placement assistance, individualized support, and financial incentives at 30, 60 and 90 days of employment.

The case manager hosts a weekly support group in downtown Austin to provide stability for clients who have just been released, as well as program alums who have been working in the community for months. Participants use the group to share job leads and encourage one another in the pursuit of a crime-free life.

### Enterprising Girl Scouts Beyond Bars

#### Breaking the cycle of crime within families

Children with incarcerated parents are six to eight times more likely to enter the criminal justice system themselves. The Enterprising Girl Scouts Beyond Bars program strives to keep young girls with incarcerated mothers from developing negative behavior patterns. The program provides counseling and other services to help children of offenders build and maintain self-esteem. The ultimate goals of the program are to improve the mother-daughter relationship, improve their self image, and assist the mothers in becoming active, employed, and involved parents.

The Crime Prevention Institute partners with three other groups for this Austin initiative: the Girl Scouts - Lone Star Council, the YWCA, and the University of Texas School of Social Work. Cumulatively, these agencies provide case management, employment placement assistance, recruitment and training of volunteers and mentors, group therapy, drug treatment and counseling, program evaluation, and job preparation skills and training. This continuum of services helps young girls understand their value and eases the trauma of having a mother behind bars.

In October 2005, the Mental Health Association of Texas presented the Ring of Honor Award to the Crime Prevention Institute for the agency's role in the Girls Scouts Beyond Bars project. Also that year, a documentary on this watershed program premiered at the internationally-recognized SXSW Film Festival in Austin, Texas. Directed by award winning filmmakers Ellen Spiro and Karen Bernstein, "Troop 1500: Girl Scouts Beyond Bars" was broadcasting nationally on PBS, featured in People Magazine, and spotlight in Oprah Winfrey's "O" Magazine.