

Faith Works

Winter 2015 A community newsletter from City of Faith Prison Ministry



2014 Silver Linings Christmas Project

City of Faith has proudly partnered with the City of Little Rock for 8 years to host the Silver Linings

LR Animal Village

- Every Saturday
- Cleaning kennels, etc
- friendsoftheanimalvillage.org

COF-LR CRAB

- First Monday monthly
- Community partners discuss City of Faith & community projects

Real Talk

- Tuesday nights weekly
- Monroe Men's Group

2015 Pudding Cup Run

- June 27, 2015
- Partnership with Midtowne Church

Silver Linings Christmas Project

- December 9, 2015
- Partnership with City of LR Alert Centers Facilitators
- Christmas for 200 senior citizens

'The glory of this present house will be great than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty.'

Haggai 2:9

Christmas Project. "We love our partnership with the city. They make this project fun," stated Deputy Executive Director Terry Williams. For the 2014 SLCP, City of Faith was able to provide Christmas goodies for over 200 senior citizens in the Little Rock area. This year Federal Case Manager Mike South took over most of the project's coordination. "It was a lot of work but I was honored to be a part of it," said South. All the proceeds for the SLCP were raised during the inaugural Pudding Cup Run co-hosted by Midtowne Church of Benton.

City of Faith has been fortunate to hear positive feedback from the seniors and the coordinators from the City of LR Alert Centers: "Your kind generosity and thoughtfulness is appreciated. Service providers like the City of Faith are constantly needed to strengthen collaborative partnerships in public and private sectors aimed at building and achieving community efforts for meeting persistent community needs."

If you would like to be a part of the 2015 Silver Linings Christmas Project, please contact Allen W i n k l e r (awinkler@cityoffaith.org)

or by following us on Facebook ([fb.com/cityoffaithministries](https://www.facebook.com/cityoffaithministries)) or Twitter ([@cityoffaith](https://twitter.com/cityoffaith)).



New City of Faith-LR Administration Building

City of Faith is proud to announce the addition of a new building to their Little Rock location. "This has been a long coming dream of mine. We've always wanted to provide more opportunity to our residents but we just haven't had the space," said Deputy Executive Director Terry Williams. The new building will house 8 of COF-LR's current administrative staff with plans to expand personnel later. "One thing I've learned over the last 20 years is that you can never have too much space," further stated Williams.

The new building will also facilitate training and co-op classes for the COF-LR residents. "I'm also pleased that my staff will have a place where they can meet that won't be an inconvenience to the residents," said Williams. The building is anticipated to be completed in Spring of 2015. Ground breaking was started at the end of September directly across from COF-LR's current location.



Volunteers Corner

Since the founding of City of Faith in 1986, City of Faith company-wide has logged over 10,000 hours of community service hours to over 5 different cities. Below is City of Faith-Little Rock's current volunteer hours and volunteer dollar value:

July- 230 hours, \$4,353.90

August - 165 hours, \$3,123.45

September - 94 hours, \$1,779.42

October - 126 hours, \$2,385.18

November - 333 hours, \$6,303.69

December - 289 hours, \$5,470.77

**volunteer dollars based on Bureau of Labor Statistics*

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The Gables of Maumelle

City of Faith-LR is always looking for ways to pitch in and lend a hand to their neighbors and surrounding communities. After several bad storms hit the community of Maumelle in August, City of Faith was called out to help at the Gables Apartment complex. "We were hit with really bad flooding in Maumelle after the storm hit. No one was prepared for it. There was debris everywhere. I heard there was a need for help at the Gables apartments and knew a bunch of men that would love to help out," said Deputy Executive Director Terry Williams. COF-LR residents were able to help the residents of The Gables move furniture out of their apartments and into storage until the flooding and repair is complete. "I really like helping out. I know that if something like this happened in my hometown, I would want help from others too," stated a resident volunteer.

Joan Adcock, City of LR Board of Director, has been the chairman of the City of Faith Community Relations and Awareness Board for almost 20 years. Through her leadership, City of Faith-Little Rock has been able to partner with a lot of great agencies and organizations. In October, November, and December, Ms. Adcock organized a group of COF-LR residents to volunteer under her direction with Habitat for Humanity. "I have been a professional painter all of my adult life. Finding a way I could give back to the city of Little Rock through my skills was a profound day for me. I am very thankful for Ms. Adcock and City of Faith for allowing me to go do this," said a resident volunteer. The residents were able to completely paint, inside and outside, a refurbished house as part of Habitat's program. "We were able to repurpose a lot of houses thanks to Habitat for Humanity. I love all the helpers from City of Faith. They are always so excited to help and can't get enough of helping," said Director Adcock.



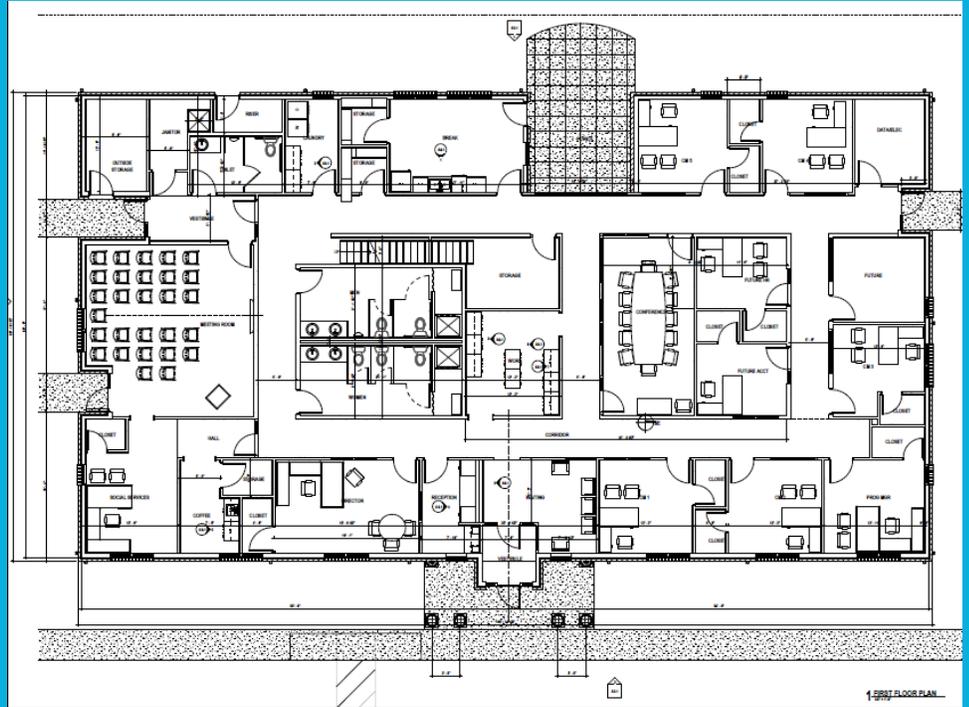
PARTNERING WITH COF MINISTRIES

Through the donations of our generous neighbors, City of Faith Prison Ministries has been able to fund many community projects over the past several years. Thousands of children have received Christmas presents, hundreds of seniors had a warm Christmas meal, and many heard the message of Jesus Christ. City of Faith business operations are funded by federal and state contracts so for that reason, 100% of YOUR donations go directly into our community projects. Donations are tax deductible and may be sent to 1401 South Garfield Drive, Little Rock, AR 72204 or you can utilize direct draft each month or quarter directly to City of Faith (you can find these forms at our website). YOUR contributions are greatly appreciated.



New Building continued

The building will offer residents a separate classroom where they will be instructed on various subjects. COF-LR staff will also be able to have a private conference room, break room, and offices for visiting partner agencies. “We are so excited that when we have guests from the Probation Office or the Bureau of Prisons we will have a space for them to do their job as



well,” said Williams. The new administration building is located directly behind the new Easter Seals apartments currently under construction on Charlotte Dr. “We love our neighbors. We are thrilled to be sharing this construction project with Easter Seals. This whole process has been great. We couldn’t have done our project without Easter Seals being involved,” said Williams. The building was designed by Williams & Dean Architects and is being constructed by PDC Construction both of Little Rock. “We wanted to hire local companies and contribute as much as possible to the local economy,” stated Williams. PDC Construction has also met with several COF-LR residents about employment opportunities. “We hope that many of our residents will be able to find fulltime, permanent employment with PDC. The partnership between our two companies has been great,” said Employment Placement Specialist Brett Mann.



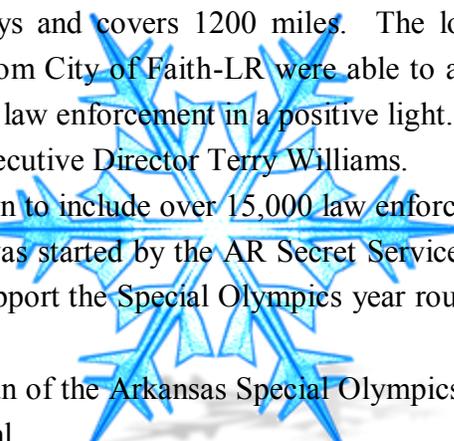


City of Faith-Little Rock was honored to help with the 2014 Law Enforcement Torch Run. The Torch Run is held in 35 counties over 50 states. The run was able to raise over \$20 million. Arkansas is proud have raised over \$500,000 each year since 2010. The Torch Run raises money and awareness for the Special Olympics. The race takes places over 4 days and covers 1200 miles. The local Arkansas chapter

included a Polar Plunge as part of their relay. Residents from City of Faith-LR were able to assist in setup and tear down prior and after the event. “We like for our guys to see law enforcement in a positive light. We feel it truly helps with their reintegration back into society,” stated Deputy Executive Director Terry Williams.

The Torch Run started 26 years ago in Kansas and has grown to include over 15,000 law enforcement officers including federal, state, and local officials. The Arkansas team was started by the AR Secret Service as a 30-mile run and evolved into what it is today. The funds raised will help support the Special Olympics year round sports programs as well as training.

For more information about the Law Enforcement Torch Run of the Arkansas Special Olympics, visit their website at specialolympicsarkansas.org/law-enforcement-torch-run.html

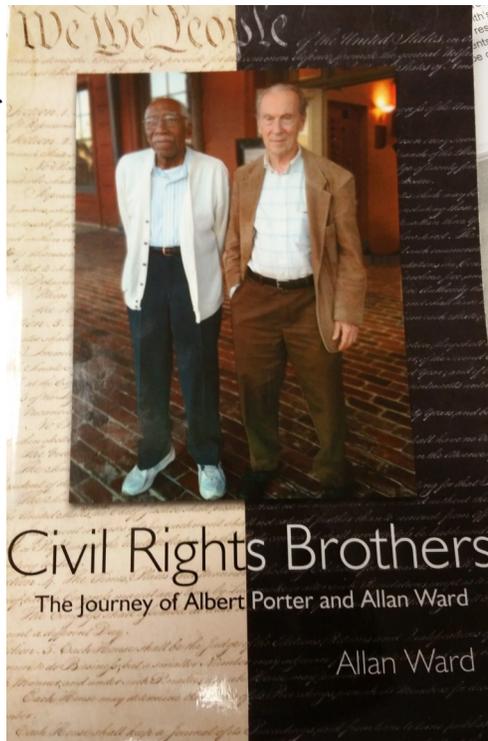


Civil Rights Brothers

City of Faith-Little Rock has been at it’s present location since November of 1996. Since that time, COF-LR has been required by the Bureau of Prisons and the City of Little Rock to or-

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Dr. Ward’s book *Civil Rights Brothers*

ganize and hold monthly meetings with
bers of the community. This board is
neighbors from the surrounding
neighborhoods. One of the longest stand-
members of this board is Dr. Allan Ward.
Ward has blessed COF-LR with his lead-
and wisdom many times through their
staff training sessions. Dr. Ward recently
a book entitled Civil Right Brothers
his and for-
C O F - L R
(Community
Albert Por-
Civil Rights
City of Faith
n i c a t i o n s
based on his
“It was truly



Dr. Ward with COF-LR Staff Member Roderick Pettus

Relations & Advisory Board) member
ter’s journey as friends during the
era. Dr. Ward recently trained the
staff on cultural diversity and commu-
skills (for which he holds a doctorate)
experiences in the 1960s and 1970s.
inspiring to hear him talk. I have known Dr. Ward for 10 years and had no idea how in-
volved he was during Civil Rights. He captivated our entire staff with his stories and les-
sons on how to treat others,” said Program Manager Allen Winkler. Dr. Ward is a retired
professor of communication from University of AR at Little Rock and Philander Smith
College in Little Rock.



Time's They are a Changin'

Terry Williams
Deputy Executive Director
@terrismcwilliams



Happy New Year! It's unbelievable to think another year has come and gone and here we are in January, 2015 with the hope of a fresh start. 2014 was huge for us here at City of Faith with the ground breaking of our new administration offices, our first ever Pudding Cup 5 and 10K, numerous volunteer opportunities and a significant increase in our population. It's been fun to watch us grow and have more people to not only care for but to have them care for others in our community.

2014 also brought about personal victories as well: my youngest daughter married the love of her life, my oldest daughter and granddaughter moved back to Arkansas from Washington, my dad and mom were reunited in heaven and I was able to celebrate my husband's 60th birthday in Times Square in New York City. In addition to these wonderful events, I began a personal bible study with the help of The Village Chapel in Nashville, Tennessee and as God always (I mean ALWAYS) does, He expects you to walk out what you learn. Please allow me to share one very hard lesson:

Every December the Federal Bureau of Prisons conducts a "full" monitoring of our facility. This is the only time I'm afforded the luxury of actually knowing when they're coming. This usually means a time of deep cleaning, putting on our best face or "rolling out the 'company' rug," if you will. This year was no different. I spent the week prior to the monitoring barking orders, cleaning, getting the residents mentally prepared, hovering over case managers to have their "files in order," and just generally being a pain in the butt to all involved. I constantly reminded the residents of the rules: no smoking, no food in your room, no cell phones! Bark, bark, bark! "We know! We know! We know! We got you Ms. Wims. Don't you worry, we got you!" I was as tired of hearing my voice as they were. Well, the inspection came and went well and while I found myself in a somewhat celebratory, relieved mood, I couldn't stay there long because I was studying the book of Galatians and was forced to re-think some things. I have been at City of Faith 19 years and for some reason known only to

the heavenlies, I was now having to consider the Apostle Paul's teaching concerning the difference between law and grace and somehow apply this to the City of Faith population. We are a facility of rules (as we should be). New rules are made all the time. Some are so burdensome that it's hard to comprehend living their lives bound as they are. Still, I'm conflicted knowing it's necessary. Where does grace come in? How much grace can I give without the house running amok? Jesus gives grace fully and completely, resulting in peace and creating heirs. All the law ever did was create prisoners. However, without the law we'd never know our need for a savior. So I decided it was time to stop being "that guy."

I called a house meeting on a Sunday night to discuss these profound things with the residents. The room was filled with faces that were either mad or relieved to be there (instead of prison) and some were just plain indifferent. I discussed a few of the things I was learning and how hard it was for me to change considering how long I've had to operate in this mode. I also told them of a friend of mine who said to me, "What do you expect from them? They're JUST inmates doing what inmates do." That statement made me sad because if I thought for a minute this was true, I would have wasted 19 years of my life which would be my own personal prison sentence. No. They're not just inmates or rule-breakers. They are God's own creation and I looked at their faces knowing exactly what I had to do. So 2015 rolls in with me allowing cell phones (a certain kind with no bells or whistles and I have to know the number and no you can't use them for accountability and no you can't call each other and no you can't use them in the facility and no and no and no) and e-cigarettes (no you can't smoke real cigarettes and no you can only have this orange kind and no you can't refill them and no and no and no). Baby Steps. But I've got to tell you just showing this little bit of grace changed the whole atmosphere of the facility. I saw people smile. I saw faces soften and heard sincere gratitude. I felt tension in my own heart melt away. Paul was right when he said, "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." Gal. 5:6b. Do I still have a job to do? Yes, I do. Do I still have to be the heavy handed halfway house director? You better believe it because I know I'm dealing with human nature. But I can shed some grace when needed and we can all be just a little more free. I pray you all have the best year yet! Terry

strengthening communities by developing:

responsible family members
dependable employees
productive citizens

respecting:

the challenge of change
the courage of commitment
the calling of character

valuing:

physical and ethical accountability
a clean, orderly environment
a strong work ethic