



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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Men's Mentoring Group Celebrates First Successful Year At Baltimore City Pretrial Facility

"Iron Sharpens Iron" Anniversary at Jail Industries Building April 13

TOWSON, MD (April 9, 2009)---"Iron Sharpens Iron," a men's mentoring group staffed by volunteers, will celebrate its first anniversary Monday, April 13 at 1 p.m. at the Jail Industries Building, 531 E. Madison Street in Baltimore.

Jail Industries is a complex within the Maryland Division of Pretrial Detention and Services whose 566 male residents are awaiting trial on mostly nonviolent offenses in the City of Baltimore.

Iron Sharpens Iron is a non-denominational program that stresses spiritual growth and fosters a mentoring relationship with men from "the outside" who share their own testimonies of transformation. The mentors help the detainees develop short- and long-term life plans, acquire vital records, and hone job and interviewing skills. The first year's participants are 22 volunteers from Israel Baptist and Greater Harvest Baptist in Baltimore. Facility Administrator Stacey Lyles-Foster, who brought the program in, hopes other churches will join to give more pretrial men a mentoring experience.

On any given day, the Maryland Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS) houses more than 4,000 men, women, and teenagers awaiting trial on adult criminal charges. DPDS facilities are the Baltimore Central Booking and Intake Center and the Baltimore City Detention Center. The Jail Industries Building is an annex of the Detention Center.

DPDS has many programs and services for pre-trial detainees designed to help them turn their lives around, become free of addictions, etc. even before their cases are adjudicated. "We are trying to change the person," says Stacey Lyles-Foster, the Jail Industries Facility Administrator. "That's why mentoring programs like this are so critical."

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