



Be the pebble in the pond that starts the ripple effect.



A LIFE IMPROVEMENT BUSINESSSM

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Berks Connections/Pretrial Services



MISSION STATEMENT

Berks Connections/Pretrial Services improves lives and creates safer, more prosperous communities by providing services, support, and community reintegration to individuals involved in the justice system and to their families.

VISION STATEMENT

The communities we serve are safer and healthier because people in the justice system have the tools and support to live productive, law-abiding lives.



Berks Connections/Pretrial Services is proud to be certified by the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO) through their Standards for Excellence certification program. BCPS successfully completed this certification program by voluntarily opening itself up to scrutiny by a "jury of its peers" who examined our organization for compliance with PANO's Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector. Standards of Excellence are based on fundamental values such as honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility, and accountability. BCPS's programs and services, management, fundraising, and financial practices were examined in depth before the certification was awarded. *BCPS was one of the first organizations to be certified under the Standards program that began in 2002.*

BCPS earned the 2022 Gold Seal of Transparency from CANDID (formerly Guidestar), the leading source for nonprofit and foundation financial, leadership, and mission information. Our financial details and agency information can be viewed at <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/23-1969810>.



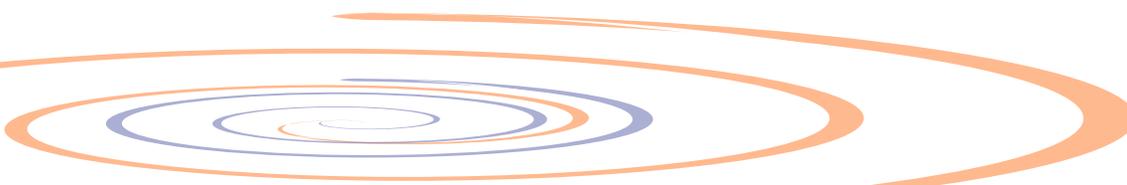
Lauren graduated with the 17th Cohort of the **R3 Program** in October of 2020. When we met her, 12 weeks prior, she was a different person. She was recently released from jail and was a recovering addict. But most noticeable, she was painfully shy. Her hair often covered her eyes, and when you could see them, she rarely met the eyes of the person talking to her. But during the 8-week **R3 Program**, Lauren began transforming.

Immediately after the ceremony, she was approached by one of our second chance employers to discuss the possibility of Lauren going to work for them. Although still reserved, Lauren engaged fully with the HR representative. And in less than a month, she was employed, working the third shift, and immediately began demonstrating the work ethic needed to move up within the company!

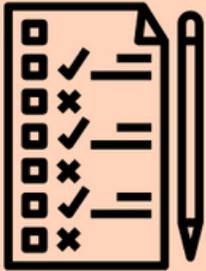
Utilizing the tools she learned at BCPS, she set realistic goals for herself and began checking them off one by one. She saved money and purchased a car. She moved into a new apartment where she could have her cat join her, which was a boost to her emotional wellbeing! And after reaching all of her milestones in recovery, Lauren graduated from treatment court. Despite a death in her immediate family, she has continued to focus on the positive things happening in her life.

She has maintained open communications with her case manager at BCPS, sharing her successes and challenges. We are so proud of how far Lauren has come and what she has accomplished during a global pandemic. We are excited to see what she accomplishes in the future!

Follow client stories like these on our social media platforms



What Makes BCPS's Work With Reentrants So SUCCESSFUL?



PREPARATION:

BCPS begins the preparation for reentry while individuals are still incarcerated. Reentry coordinators work closely with inmates to develop a transition plan, identifying needs, support systems, and mapping out what they need to do prior to leaving jail/prison, and the immediate steps upon release.

PLANNING: Once released, reentrants face numerous, often overwhelming barriers. BCPS Case Managers work alongside their clients to set individualized, attainable goals to help them assimilate back into the community, as well as attend to any immediate needs, address high-risk situations, and learn how to access other community resources.



4 Key Elements of Success

There are 4 elements that are essential to the success of individuals reentering society after incarceration:



Berks Connections/Pretrial Services

A LIFE IMPROVEMENT BUSINESSSM



IMPACTFUL PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES: BCPS offers evidence-based programs and services that provide the tools needed for continued success; housing services, employee readiness, workforce development, job placement with our second-chance employers, mentoring, financial coaching, and use of our computer-based learning center.

Outcomes for individuals involved in these programs have consistently shown a drastic reduction in the rate of recidivism and an increase in stable employment at 6- and 12-months post-release.

FUNDING: Funding the immediate needs of the clients enables them to accept employment offers sooner, and have the tools they need to maintain that employment. These basic needs may include bus passes/transportation, essential work attire, and valid identification required to work in the state of Pennsylvania.



Welcome!

Dear Friends of BCPS:

In 2021 as the world attempted to adjust their lives to the “new normal” resulting from the global pandemic, BCPS continued to work diligently to identify the increased needs of those we serve and adapt our programming to meet them to the best of our ability! Our incredibly dedicated team continued to provide both in-person and virtual assistance to their clients, assuring there was no interruption to services while continuing to follow our COVID safety protocols.

As you look through this report you will see that we added two new programs in 2021, allowing us to cast a few more stones in the pond and increase our ripple effect! Thanks to a Covid-19 Response Grant from the United Way of Berks County, we were able to open the Reentry Resource Center, which is a one stop shop for individuals with current or prior justice system involvement to get assistance and referrals to meet their immediate basic needs. In cooperation with State Senator Judy Schwank’s Office, the Berks County District Attorney’s Office, and the Berks County Bar Association we launched the Pardon Project of Berks County, which provides eligible individuals the ability to be matched with a trained Pardon Coach who will help them to complete a pardon application and aid them in their journey to get their criminal record pardoned so that they can finally live their lives to their current potential!



NIKKI & PEGGY

We would encourage you to also take the time to review the various client success stories so that you can see firsthand the impact our programming is having in causing positive ripples not only in our clients’ lives but also for their families and the community as a whole! We continue to be extremely proud of our programs, the supportive services that we provide, and most importantly our amazing team who are changing lives each and every day! We thank YOU for all of your support to make this possible! We wouldn’t be able to do all of this important work without the help of our Board of Directors, our volunteers, donors, second-chance employers, and community partners. Thank you for helping us to ensure that BCPS’s essential services continue to be the source of hope, opportunity, and second chances for those that need it most!

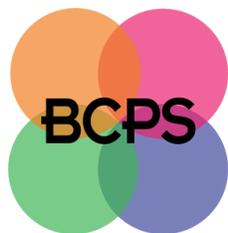
Peggy Kershner

Nikki Schnovel

CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dylan became the first of our R3 Prep for Young Adult (PREP YA) participants to complete both the PREP YA and the R3 programs. Between programs, while waiting for the start of the next cohort, Dylan participated in a paid work experience program through PA CareerLink. He worked over 120 hours, and in addition to building his resume, Dylan received an incentive bonus! Then, he joined Cohort 23.

Since completing the R3 programs, Dylan was hired for a full-time position at a wholesale grocer, where he is putting the skills he learned in these programs into practice. And he has a baby on the way!



Stephen is a Cohort 18 graduate of the R3 Program. Throughout the duration of R3, Stephen was able to maintain full-time employment working a 3rd shift position, even obtaining his OSHA-10 and Flagger Certifications. Stephen also received a significant raise during this time as a testament to how hard he was working while on the job.

Leonard spells success P-R-E-P-A-R-A-T-I-O-N.

Throughout the 8-week R3 program, Leonard (Cohort 20) demonstrated time and again that he was going to succeed, not just with BCPS, but in life.

On Shadow Day, R3 participants are matched with a Berks County employer to observe their daily routine and give them a feel for what is expected of an employee. Leonard was scheduled to do his shadow day at Acrylabs, a leading second chance employer and 2021 recipient of the Paul J Hoh Life Improvement Award.

The day before his shadow day, Leonard took the time out of his busy schedule to ride the bus to Acrylabs, ensuring he knew where he was going and that he would be on time the next day. He did so well during his day at Acrylabs that he was offered a position immediately after he graduated from the R3 program!

Leonard shares that he loves the feel of the 'family environment' at Acrylabs.



“My past does not define me, but has helped shape me.”

- Leonard



“

Leonard is a home run. He is learning fast and picks up tasks and responsibilities quickly. He is focused on being a better man than he was yesterday (that's his motto) and we like his attitude.

- Barry Lucas, VP of Operations at Acrylabs

BCPS Ambassadors

Paul Hoh

Kate Hoh

Hamid Chaudhry

The late Dr. Constance Dent

Elsayed Elmarzouky

Linda Faye Epes

The late Dr. Ann Gundry

Althea Harmon

Megan Huesgen

Craig Poole

Scott Rehr

Mark Stone

Eric Savage



Ruby Martin

2022 Paul J. Hoh Life Improvement Awardees

Bob Williams

Stephanie Larkin - ABC Keystone

Vince Console - ABC Eastern PA

Safe Berks

Alice Moyer

West Lawn United Methodist Church

New Castle Lawn and Landscape



Kip Frasso was a beloved part of our R3 Team and positively influenced hundreds of individuals in this role. He was empathetic, patient, and had an extraordinary way of helping people to embrace the hard work it takes to transform their lives. Along with his impact on BCPS clients, Kip also served as a role model, mentor, and friend to the rest of the team.

Kip passed away in January of this year after a brief illness. Given Kip's legacy of service to individuals involved in the Criminal Justice System, we are proud to honor his memory by naming our client recognition after him - the **Kip Frasso Outstanding Transformation Award**.

Benjamin Marrero-Rivera

Hamilton Newton

Paul Zenone

2022 Kip Frasso Outstanding Transformation Awardees



Sandi graduated from the R3 program with Cohort 14 in January of 2020. She was hired for a full-time role shortly afterward. But, like many others during the COVID-19 pandemic, she was unfortunately laid off. When she found out that her employer would not be re-opening, Sandi reached out to BCPS to help her find another job. In just a few days, she was hired through a temp agency for a position that she loves, which resulted in being hired through the company.

At BCPS, we tell our clients to continue to utilize our team whenever they need us, regardless of how long it's been since we've seen them. And Sandi did just that. She was proactive and her determination to quickly find a new job paid off. We are so proud of Sandi and her hard work and resilience through a tough situation!

Follow client stories like these on our social media platforms



Bradley and Bachman's Roofing, Building and Remodeling, Inc.

Before class on June 24, 2021, R3 instructor, Kevin went to check on Bachman's progress on the roofing project at the Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center. He immediately recognized the Bachman's employee as Bradley who graduated from the first R3 cohort!

Kevin took the current cohort up on the roof to meet Bradley and let him share his success. Bradley has been working for Bachman's for 4 years now and said he wouldn't have had the opportunity if it wasn't for R3! Bradley shared that he continues to watch the progress of the R3 cohorts through our Facebook page.

REENTRY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

BCPS staff provides pre and post-release services to the Berks County Jail System (BCJS) Reentry Program participants. Case managers work with inmates to develop their Transition Plan – a document that outlines needs including reentry goals and identified supports – to aid in their successful return to the community. BCPS staff, through ongoing case management, provides

referrals and information about housing, employment, drug, alcohol, and mental health counseling and treatment as well as education and literacy. Upon release, Reentry Program clients have access to a multitude of services such as the use of the CBLC, the benefits of the Employment Development Specialist's labor, and potential entry into the R3 program.



**CASE
MANAGEMENT**

**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



BCPS provides employment readiness workshops, job search assistance, case management, and retention support for inmates in the Reentry Program at the BCJS (pre and post-release), residents of the Wernersville Community Corrections Center, those on state parole, and Treatment Court participants. In addition, BCPS helps to remove many of the barriers between reentrants and employment

such as the need for proper identification, transportation assistance, and providing necessary work shoes or clothing. All BCPS case managers have been trained in the evidence-informed curriculum Cognitive Behavioral Interventions Employment Adult (CBI-EA) to better serve clients and improve their outcomes in employment and the overall recidivism rate.

BCPS offers mentoring services to aid clients in developing an individualized wellness plan, provide early intervention services to clients that are experiencing difficulties or exhibiting behaviors that are indicative of a backslide, and facilitate both group and one-to-one workshops. Mentoring services are also a critical component offered in our R3 and R3 Prep YA programs.



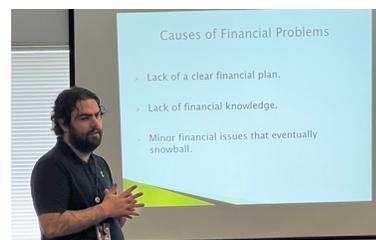
MENTORING

**EMPLOYMENT
DEVELOPMENT**



The BCPS Employment Development Specialist works within the community to develop and maintain relationships with employers to encourage opportunities for workforce development program clients who successfully complete the program. This position helps ensure that individuals referred for employment are a good match for the employer's needs, serves as a liaison between case managers and employers, and provides ongoing retention support and assistance to the employer.

BCPS provides financial literacy education in a group setting and one-to-one budget coaching and assistance for Workforce Development and Housing program clients. In addition to educational sessions, BCPS staff provides financial coaching when employment is obtained to help individuals reach their financial goals.



**FINANCIAL
LITERACY**

WORK IN PROGRESS (WIP)

WIP is a comprehensive reentry workforce development program for current or former justice-involved individuals who have a mental health diagnosis and are currently receiving case management services from one of the following mental health providers in Berks County, **SAM, Inc.**, Berks Counseling Center, TASC – Awaken or Salisbury Behavioral Health. BCPS staff work with WIP participants on a one-to-one basis to prepare them for entering employment. The program includes job readiness and essential skills training, financial literacy education, and cognitive-based workforce sessions. Our Employment Development Specialist enlists the support of local employers to provide job shadow and volunteer opportunities for WIP clients. Once programming is completed, the participant receives assistance with job search and job placement. Additionally, case management and retention support are provided to each participant for a minimum of one year following their enrollment in the program.



R3 PREP ADULT

R3 Prep Adult is an enrichment for R3 and its participants. This program allows for added outreach and recruitment efforts so that more Berks County reentrants may participate in R3 as well as provides BCPS with an Apprenticeship Liaison who cultivates additional Apprenticeship Affiliates and prospects for BCPS. Upon enrollment into R3 Prep Adult, clients receive BCPS's traditional workforce development training and case management, an introduction to cognitive concepts, and undergo assessments indicating math and reading levels. Before starting in an R3 cohort, participants are provided with an array of information and education about apprenticeship opportunities and their benefits. It is anticipated that with this added layer of education, we will begin to see more R3 graduates move onto registered apprenticeship programs and enter into careers that will provide them with a lifetime of fulfillment and success!

“
The R3 Prep YA program allows individuals to have a unique learning opportunity that never before was available to them.
~ Jessica Nunez - Reentry Services Director
”



R3 PREP FOR YOUNG ADULTS (R3 PREP YA)

The Berks County Workforce Development Board brought together BCPS and the PA Careerlink's Young Adult Program for this impactful initiative. R3 Prep YA serves young adults (18-24 years of age) with justice system involvement who lack a diploma or high school equivalency. Participants are prepared for entrance into **Rebuilding Reentrants & Reading (R3)**. R3 Prep YA couples academic attainment with an innovative approach to opening career choice opportunities for young adults to further their education and acquire fundamental skills in construction trades that lead to lifelong gainful employment. BCPS provides a mentor, case management, cognitive programming, and an introduction to the R3 program. Our partner in this program, PA CareerLink® Berks County's Young Adult Program, provides the educational component. Stipends and paid work experiences are available to participants. Enrollment occurs on an ongoing basis and the length of participation is individualized depending on their academic level.



REENTRY RESOURCE CENTER

The Reentry Resource Center (RERC) is a single point of contact for individuals with current or prior justice system involvement. BCPS staff will conduct a brief assessment on those seeking assistance from the RERC. This assessment will aid in determining which of their needs require immediate attention. Assistance for basic needs along with information and referrals to services in the community will be provided. The RERC was funded through a COVID-19 Response Grant from the United Way of Berks County.



R3

REBUILDING REENTRANTS & READING

BCPS has operated **Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading (R3)** since 2017. This registered pre-apprenticeship program offers an opportunity for individuals with a criminal history to acquire skills in the construction trades that lead to gainful employment. The **Berks County Workforce Development Board** has identified the construction trades as a high-priority sector that provides employment opportunities at family-sustaining wages.

BCPS partners with the **Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center (RMCTC)**, the **Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC)**, and the **GoggleWorks Center for the Arts** to provide the three components of the training; career and technical education at RMCTC and BCTC, hands-on learning on-site at the **GoggleWorks**, and an employment-focused cognitive curriculum delivered by BCPS staff. BCPS developed this innovative model which is based on best practices of reentry programming and adult career and technical education.

The combination of best practices - classroom learning, hands-on experience, and cognitive interventions - not only improves employment outcomes for participants, it significantly reduces recidivism as well. 208 individuals completed **R3** between October 2017 and December 2021. 59% of the **R3** graduates are maintaining stable employment and 93% have not recidivated! Before the COVID-19 pandemic, stable employment for the **R3** graduate was about 70%. BCPS provides case management, mentoring, and support for one year following graduation. The comprehensive case management includes financial literacy and coaching as well as job search, placement, and retention support.

Both **Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., (ABC) Keystone Chapter** and **Eastern PA Chapter**, and **Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC)** are the Registered Apprenticeship sponsor Program Affiliates for our registered pre-apprenticeship program. **R3** graduates are eligible for credit up to 72 hours of Related Theory Learning (RTL).



R3 is an 8-week registered pre-apprenticeship program in the construction trades and is comprised of three components:

- Career & technical education at **Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center** and **Berks Career & Technology Center**
- Hands-on learning at **Habitat for Humanity of Berks County** properties and **GoggleWorks Woodworking Studio**
- Employment-focused cognitive curriculum and job readiness skills delivered by **BCPS** staff

Participants have the ability to receive:

- Up to \$2,000 stipend over 8 weeks
- Case Management & Mentoring for one-year post-graduation
- Job search and placement assistance
- Flagger and OSHA Safety Certifications
- Credit toward **Associated Builders and Contractors Keystone** and **Eastern PA Chapters** PLUS select **Berks Career and Technology Center** Apprenticeship Programs

DID YOU KNOW?

Pennsylvania's recidivism rate is 46%

**BCPS R3 graduates'
recidivism rate is
less than 7%!**

PRETRIAL SERVICES

Pretrial Interviews and Assessments

Pretrial Officers conduct post-arrest interviews and assessments of criminal defendants and furnish the verified assessments to the judiciary, either prior to bail being set or at the preliminary hearing. BCPS utilizes the Pretrial Assessment Tool of the Ohio Risk Assessment System (PAT-ORAS) to assess the risk of a defendant committing a new offense while under pretrial release or failing to appear for court. BCPS also assists with jail population management. Pretrial staff conduct a monthly review of the jail population to assure that low-risk defendants are not needlessly incarcerated due to their inability to post bail. We are pleased to see that on average, the true pretrial population (those held only on a bail) hovers around 30%, which is well below the national average. For those defendants that are classified as low risk and are deemed appropriate for pretrial release, Pretrial Officers will provide the assessments to defense counsel and recommend that a motion is made to modify the bail to release the defendant on unsecured bail.

Pretrial Supervision

BCPS provides supervised release for criminal defendants who would otherwise remain in jail until the final disposition of their case. Pretrial Officers utilize the results of the PAT-ORAS to set conditions that are based on the risk that individual poses and to ensure both court appearance and public safety. Pretrial Officers provide drug and alcohol program referrals for individuals facing drug-related charges and for those identified as having a drug or alcohol problem. BCPS also oversees the Community Release Bail Program, which was designed to ensure that the economic circumstances of a person will not subject him/her to punishment before trial. The appearance rate for defendants under our supervision averages 96% and the re-arrest rate averages 5%.

Treatment Courts

BCPS provides personnel and support for the Berks County Treatment Courts, which include DUI, Drug and Alcohol, and Mental Health Courts. BCPS interviews and assesses most treatment court applicants and provides referrals for drug and alcohol testing and treatment. The Treatment Courts provide an intensive combination of court-ordered treatment and regular interaction with the Treatment Court Judge and the team, including the Public Defender's Office, Adult Probation Office, TASC, SAM, Inc., the District Attorney's Office, treatment providers, and BCPS. Our Reentry Coordinator provides case management and workforce development programming for participants of the DUI, Mental Health, and Drug Treatment Courts.



Provides verified interviews and assessments



Monitors Pretrial population in Berks County Jail System



Provides pretrial supervision



Assists with Treatment Courts - DUI, Drug and Alcohol, and Mental Health

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT



BCPS Workforce Development programs equip returning citizens with the intra and interpersonal skills essential to becoming productive members of our community. Obtaining stable employment at a living wage is important to one's reentry success. **BCPS's Employment Development Specialist** partners with area employers to learn about the employers' specific operations and provides referrals of individuals who are a good match for their hiring needs. To ensure further success, we also deliver ongoing support after placement. Although the COVID-19 global health crisis interrupted so much, it also created many new and unanticipated opportunities.

➤ **BCPS** hosted a mental health seminar for employers in September: **Mental Health in the Workplace: Developing a Toolkit to be a Proactive Employer.** Realizing the impact of mental health in the

workplace, we put together a seminar for employers in cooperation with presenter Brandon Sands. Human Resource professionals attending the seminar received SHRM accreditation. We look forward to providing more of these insightful seminars to help employers navigate human complexities.

➤ In November, **BCPS** was fortunate to host the second in-person **Returning Citizen Career Fair** since the pandemic, with 40 second-chance employers and service providers in attendance. The pandemic has heightened employers' awareness and need to increase their talent pool resources. This, in turn, continues to open many new doors for **BCPS** to educate employers on our workforce development programs. With our increased outreach and networking, we look forward to additional in-person engagements and expanding on these newly formed relationships.

BCPS Berks Connections/Pretrial Services
A LIFE IMPROVEMENT BUSINESS™

Looking For Talent?
SAVE THE DATE

3
OCTOBER

**RETURNING CITIZENS
CAREER FAIR**
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, READING
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

HOPE - OPPORTUNITY - SECOND CHANCES

Visit our website to register
For more information contact kstone@bcpsreentry.org

Thank you to all the employers for providing hope and second chances; and to service providers for the many community resources to those looking to improve their lives.

➤ Our **Apprenticeship Liaison** (new role as of 2021) is helping our clients bridge the jump from our **R3** registered pre-apprenticeship program to registered apprenticeships with the help of our affiliates, ABC Keystone and ABC Eastern PA, and Berks Career and Technology Center. **R3** graduates wanting to move on to an apprenticeship will experience increased exposure to education, better wages, and lifetime careers.

IS YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD HOLDING YOU BACK?
HAVE YOU TURNED YOUR LIFE AROUND?



Pardon Project of Berks County

WHAT IS A PARDON?

A pardon is an act by the Governor, forgiving you for the crime you committed, and leads to having your conviction erased from your criminal record. After a pardon, you don't have to "check the box" when filling out an application, nor do you have to tell anyone that you were ever convicted. The application for a pardon is free, a lawyer is not necessary, and over 80% of the people going before the PA Board of Pardons are granted a pardon!

Why are pardons important?

People change, records don't! Pardons give people who have changed their lives the opportunity to stop being defined by their worst mistakes. Pardons restore the rights and privileges that were lost as a result of a conviction. Not only do they open the door to greater employment and educational opportunities and increased housing options, but they also can have a positive economic impact on the community.

Over a ten-year period, pardons brought over \$16.5 million in higher wages to Pennsylvania communities!

Eligibility:

- Cannot have a conviction for a sex crime
- Must reside in or have a conviction in Berks County
- At least 2 years have passed since the completion of the sentence (including probation and parole)
- Cannot have any open criminal cases
- Must have all restitution paid in full and be active with a payment plan if there are outstanding fines and court costs

What is the Pardon Project?

The main goal of the **Pardon Project of Berks County** is to assist individuals with a criminal record who have served their sentence and are seeking a pardon of their records. The **Pardon Project** connects eligible applicants with trained volunteer Pardon Coaches to assist them in completing the pardon application and aid them in their journey.

The **Pardon Project** offers individuals a life-changing opportunity to finally break free from their past mistakes and live their lives according to their current potential. BCPS is thrilled to coordinate the efforts of the **Pardon Project of Berks County** and serve as the official Pardon Hub for Berks County.

Where can I learn more?

BerksConnections.org/PardonProjectofBerksCounty PardonMeBerks@bcpsreentry.org

Interested in being a volunteer Pardon Coach: BerksPardonCoach@bcpsreentry.org

"Mistakes made long ago shouldn't follow you for the rest of your life."

– PA State Senator Judy Schwank

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

Berks County Forensic Task Force

In 2020 the Community Resources Network merged with Berks County's Forensic Coalition to form the **Berks County Forensic Task Force (BCFTF)**. The BCFTF's mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning of services for the justice-involved in Berks County to support the reintegration of returning citizens into local communities, lower recidivism rates, reduce the number of victims of crime, and increase the safety of our communities.



Blankets of Hope

Blankets of Hope supports BCPS clients by providing blankets to individuals who are homeless or are at-risk for homelessness, as well as beds and bedding for those who are getting off of the street and moving into a home. Each child who received gifts through the BCPS Holiday Gift Project also received a blanket.

The Forge

The Forge collected new and gently-worn suits, dress shirts, and ties, and donated them, sized, and matched to BCPS R3 graduates. Owning a suit will enable them to put their best feet forward in their interviews, or whenever a suit would be appropriate. **The Forge** anticipates this as an ongoing donation for each of the graduating R3 cohorts. Their mission is to help men become the version of themselves that our culture needs, focusing on positive imagery, service, and fellowship!



Hope Rescue Mission

BCPS and **Hope Rescue Mission (HRM)** partner to assist clients in common. HRM generously donates clothing and winter coats for our program participants and offers a safe living environment for returning citizens who are working to support themselves. Each December, **Hope's** truck acts as Santa's sleigh, transporting the children's gifts for the Holiday Gift Project to West Lawn United Methodist Church for the annual Care and Share event.



New Journey Community Outreach

BCPS and **New Journey** partner to assist reentrants who are getting back on their feet. **New Journey** provides a daily soup kitchen, weekly food pantry, and weekly clothing center for individuals and families in need in the city of Reading.



INITIATIVES

United Way of Berks County

As a United Way of Berks County partner, BCPS receives funding to support the Reentry Program at the Berks County Jail System as well as ongoing funding to staff our Computer-Based Learning Center.

NEW in 2020, the United Way of Berks County funded BCPS's Reentry Resource Center, to help our clients seeking resources within our community. Assistance for basic needs along with information and referrals to services in the community is provided through this initiative.

Over the years, many BCPS initiatives and events have been made possible thanks to the generous financial and volunteer support of the United Way of Berks County. In a non-pandemic year, our annual Family Connections picnic serves as a United Way Day of Caring site.



In April 2022, the United Way of Berks County awarded a \$1.2 million focused, 3-year grant that will allow BCPS to operate Reentry Works.

Reentry Works will expand BCPS workforce services to all individuals in Berks County with current or past justice system involvement. The program will be designed to help clients become reliable and successful employees and help to address issues of unemployment and underemployment of former inmates returning to the community. The program uses a case-managed approach and creates individualized employment plans for our clients. The program's curriculum includes skill, education, and experience assessments; financial literacy; employment preparedness; computer labs; and employer recruitment.

Funding for this grant is through a \$10 million gift United Way of Berks County received from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

Thank You!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Mother's Voice/Father's Voice Program

The **Mother's Voice/Father's Voice Volunteers** have been on pause since March 2020. During non-pandemic times, these volunteers recorded incarcerated parents reading stories to their young children. The book and DVD are sent to the child for them to watch their parent reading while following along in the book. This provides a sense of closeness between the parent and child that would otherwise not be possible. *In 2019, 862 children benefited from this program.*

NEW

Pardon Project of Berks County – Pardon Coach

The **Pardon Project of Berks County** helps eligible individuals apply for a pardon. Often, the success of the application is in the two essay portions of the application: Explain their involvement in the incident in which they were convicted, and share their story since their sentence ended. How have they changed, what are they doing successfully, and what are they challenged with because of their record? **Pardon Coaches** are trained to recognize the Board of Pardons' consideration factors and can help individuals submit their best possible pardon application.

Mock Interviews

Throughout the pandemic, **Mock Interview** volunteers were able to connect with clients via Zoom to allow them to practice their newly learned interview skills. This interaction is hugely beneficial to individuals who are embarking on their new lives. Volunteers provide instant feedback so that our clients can show their best selves to future employers.

Family Connections Events

In a non-pandemic year, BCPS staff and volunteers host social events allowing incarcerated parents to reunite with their children and caregivers in a more casual setting. Children's games, crafts, and holiday meal are served up at the **Family Connections Picnic**. Held in September, the picnic is a **United Way Day of Caring** site. At the **Family Connections Holiday Party** families enjoy a delicious holiday meal, activities, and a special visit from Santa Claus for the children! Generous contributions from United Way volunteers allow us to provide gifts for all the children in attendance. These events provide the opportunity for much-needed contact between children and their incarcerated parents within a positive environment.

Holiday Gift Project

BCPS enlists individual volunteers and volunteer groups throughout the community to provide holiday gifts for children whose parents are incarcerated or have justice involvement. Normally, the gifts are collected and distributed at a special holiday event hosted by **West Lawn United Methodist Church**. To minimize exposure during the pandemic, the **Care and Share Party** was reimagined into a drive-through event, where families could safely pick up their gifts. **West Lawn UMC** and their volunteers supplied the same holiday activities and treats, along with blankets provided by **Blankets of Hope**.

798 children received gifts in 2021!

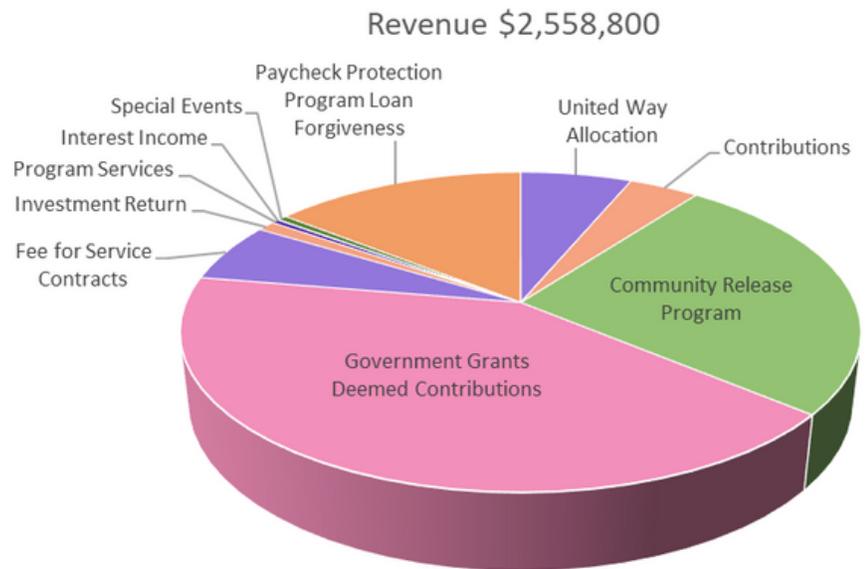
For information on volunteering for BCPS, email development@BCPSReentry.org

BCPS Revenue and Expenses For Calendar Year 2021 January 1 - December 31, 2021

FINANCIALS

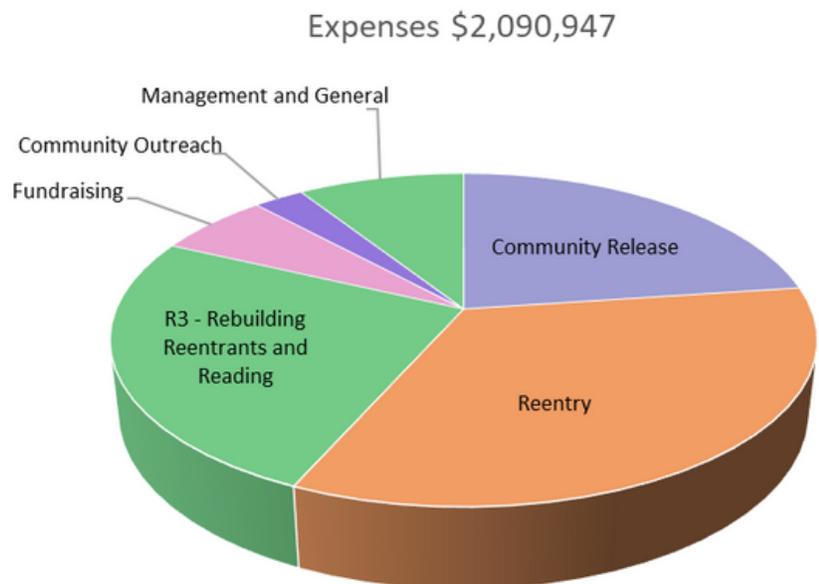
REVENUE

United Way Allocation	\$161,559
Contributions	\$101,771
Community Release Program	\$660,129
Government Grants Deemed Contributions	\$1,063,259
Fee for Service Contracts	\$154,108
Investment Return	\$26,070
Program Services	\$10,220
Interest Income	\$1,462
Special Events	\$13,228
Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness	\$366,994
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	\$2,558,800



EXPENSES

Community Release	\$477,764
Reentry	\$706,799
R3 - Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading	\$529,581
Fundraising	\$129,075
Community Outreach	\$57,403
Management and General	\$190,325
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,090,947



Thank you to our donors!
Your financial support provides
HOPE, OPPORTUNITY and
SECOND CHANCES
to our clients and their families
when they need it the most!

\$20,000

Peter and Mary Terranova

\$10,000

Henry Janssen Foundation
Jerry and Carolyn Holleran
Verizon

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Performance Toyota
Jeannie and Eric Savage

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Ann Gundry
United Methodist Women,
Eastern Penna. Conference

\$1,000 - \$1,999

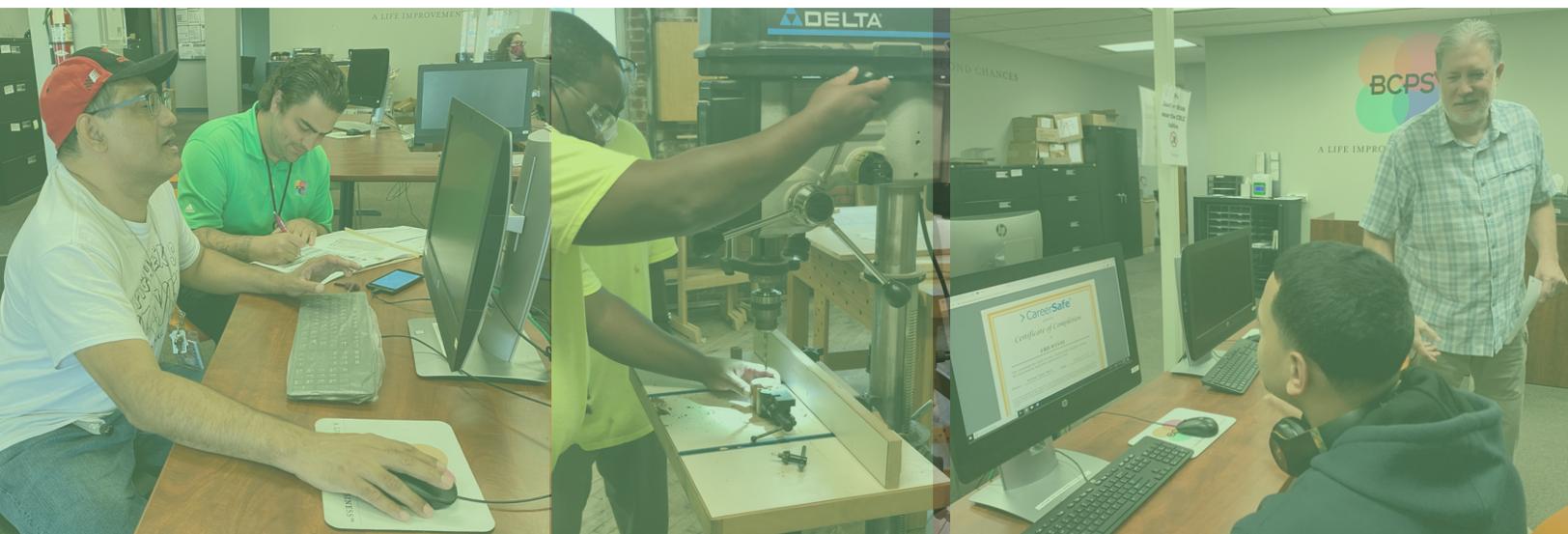
Linda Bell
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Althea U. Harmon
Penn State Health St. Joseph
Scott and Yvette Rehr
Stone Financial
Anthony and Michelle Tomczak

\$500 - \$999

Champion Personnel
Elsayed Elmarzouky
Christine Guistwite
Highmark Blue Shield
Hope Rescue Mission
Peggy and Lee Kershner
Robert Myer
Penske Truck Leasing
Alexia Pursley
St. John's Lutheran Church
Nicolle and Leroy Schnovel
Vanessa Starr
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Training and Facilitation
TASC
Tweed-Weber-Danks, Inc.

\$250 - \$499

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Marilyn Schneider
William Seaman
James Shankweiler
Nadine Smet-Weiss
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Joe and Lorraine Tumolo
Kent and Sara Weymouth
J. William and Jody Widing



\$100 - \$249

ABC Eastern Pennsylvania
ABC Keystone
John and Elizabeth Adams
Alpek Polyester
Abhishek Amatya & Jennifer Ergen-Amatya
Anonymous
Arkema
Carolyn Bazik
Stacy Becker
Bench Dogs
Berk International LLC
Bertolet Construction
BlueTriton Brands
Carmela and Steve Bobick
Joann and Bruno Bombay
Boscov's Department Store, LLC
Nancy Boudreau
Jeanne Brewer
Erin Brown
Kevin Brumbach
Buckingham Asset Management, LLC
Caron Treatment Center
Daniel and Melanie Casciano
Carol Chmielewski
Classic Staffing
Common Ground Recovery Community
Cornerstone Building Brands
Mitchell Davidheiser
Allen & Laurie Dawkins
Renee Dietrich
Sharon & Malcolm Dreibelbis
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Nicolle Schnovel _____ Co-Executive Director
Denise Myer _____ Finance Manager
Mark Myers _____ Finance Analyst
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Kathy Galtere _____ Human Resources Assistant
Elith Moscoso _____ Receptionist

Development & Community Outreach Staff

Vanessa Starr _____ Development Director
Saoni Segura Alcantara _____ Community Outreach Coordinator

Pretrial Services Staff

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Genesis Munoz _____ Pretrial Officer
Brianna Perez _____ Pretrial Officer
Ilein Natalia Parra _____ Pretrial Officer
Andrew Cochrane _____ Reentry Coordinator-Treatment Court

Reentry Program Staff

Christine Guistwite _____ Reentry Director
Jessica Nunez _____ Reentry Services Director
Jason Mensch _____ R3 Program Director
Kathleen Stone _____ Employment Development Specialist
Lori Stoudt _____ Apprenticeship Liaison
Michelle Tomczak _____ WIP Case Manager
Chad Moyer _____ Lead Reentry Coordinator
Angela Blum _____ Reentry Resource Coordinator
Amanda Deiser _____ Reentry Coordinator
Maria Gonzalez Lara _____ Reentry Coordinator
Lindsey Aukamp _____ Reentry Coordinator
Taylor Cipolla _____ Pardon Project Coordinator
Desiree Negron _____ Reentry Case Manager
Michelle Little _____ R3 Case Manager
Ashley McGee _____ R3 Case Manager
Thomas Johnson _____ Cognitive Curriculum Specialist
Logan Albrecht _____ R3 Prep Young Adult Case Manager
Casey Schmidt _____ R3 Prep Young Adult Mentor
Josie Basile _____ R3 Prep Adult Case Manager

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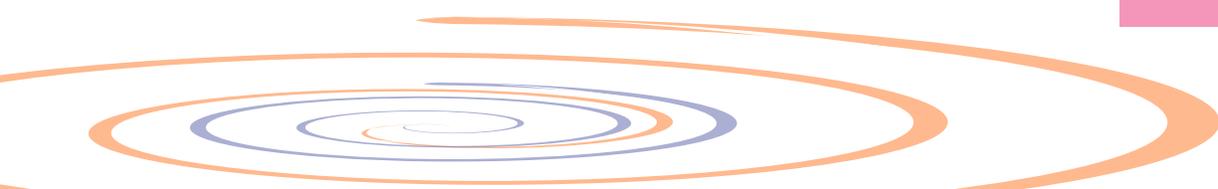
Jeannie Savage

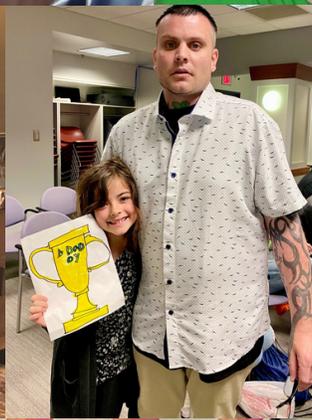
Larry Snow

Leonette Stocker

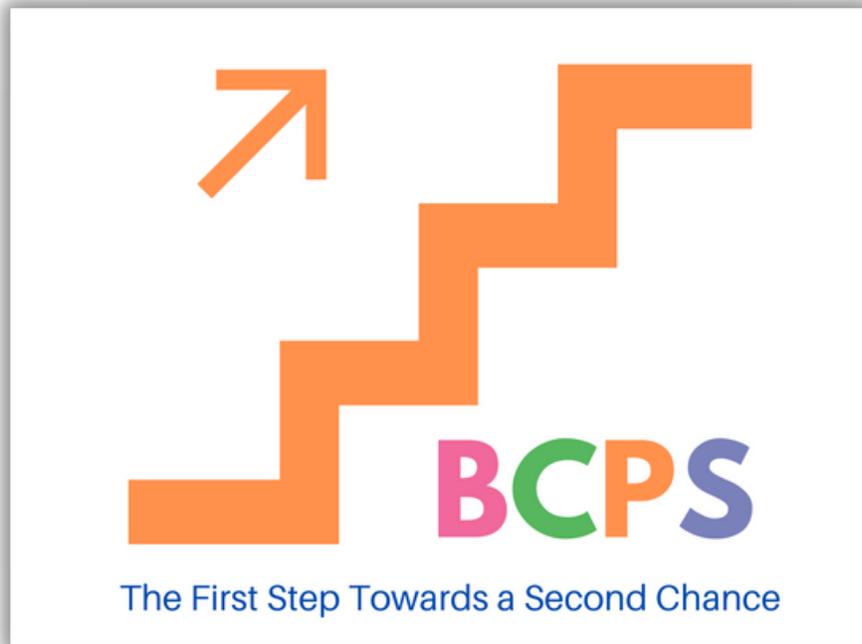
Peter Terranova

Ron Velez





Thank you for your support!



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BCPS

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Reading, PA 19601

484-260-3860



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