

# SCRIMP Newsletter

Seeds of Hope Jail Ministry, Inc.

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## **Our Volunteers**

*Helping offenders have safe, stable, productive lives*

One goal of the Second Chance Act is to improve the quality and the availability of training for volunteers working in jails and prisons.

individuals attended and five signed on as mentors. Nine others have joined them since that time, for a total of fourteen. Nine of these provide Bible studies in the

### **SCRIMP GOALS**

- 1. Improve the administration of mentoring programs and expand mentoring strategies and program design.**
- 2. Enhance the organizational capacity, system efficiency and cost effectiveness of mentoring programs through training and technical assistance.**
- 3. Improve outcomes for mentoring recipients by establishing and strengthening community collaboration.**

SCRIMP enlists local experts to educate volunteers about how to help Seeds of Hope's efforts to promote successful reentry for ex-offenders. During the first round of mentor trainings in November and December 2010, seventeen

jail. Four attend Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) groups on Tuesdays at Catholic Social Service, and two provide GED instruction in the jail. Their dedication is critical to our success.

## **What is SCRIMP?**

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The Second Chance Reentry Initiative Mentoring Program (SCRIMP) is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice as part of the Second Chance Act, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008. SCRIMP is part of a nationwide effort to break the cycle of repeated incarceration for those leaving jails and prisons in the U.S. This law responded to our ever-rising prison population and the strain it places on society. Second Chance Act funding is provided to agency partners to create or improve adult mentoring programs or other efforts to reduce ex-offender recidivism. SCRIMP began serving inmates in the Finney County Jail and those on parole or probation in Finney County in October, 2010 and is funded through September 30, 2012.

**1<sup>st</sup> MRT Graduate Raul Ramirez-Juarez and  
MRT Facilitator Brooke Hamlin-Lopez, June 14, 2011**



Raul Ramirez-Juarez is SCRIMP's first MRT graduate. Raul was invited to join SCRIMP while attending Within My Reach classes while incarcerated during 2010. When asked what's different about his reentry experience this time, Raul responded, "Last time you guys weren't here... In SCRIMP, people really open up. Most people seem to like coming to this [MRT] class. It's helped me to care about myself, to open up with others. I'm a private person. I don't like people knowing my business, but here there are people in lots of different situations. Hey, open up and you learn from others' mistakes."

## **Our Clients**

### ***Beating the odds on the road to success***

SCRIMP has provided "Within My Reach" classes to 20 men and GED instruction to seven men in the Finney County Jail. We currently have 15 men and two women attending MRT and receiving case management services. Of these clients, seven are employed; two are attending GED classes at Garden City Community College, and five are waiting to join the next GED class in mid-July. When asked recently how they've managed to stay clean and sober and out of trouble, several clients credited the SCRIMP program, especially MRT classes. So far, our results have been significantly better

than the 52% national average success rate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance programs. Only three of our 19 clients, or 16%, have experiencing re-incarceration. Of those, one has returned to the program after release and is now receiving intensive out-patient addiction treatment to help him stay on track. The average national success rate for all returning prisoners is about 33%.

Support from our many community partners has been instrumental in the success of the SCRIMP program. We're sincerely grateful to them all, including but not limited to:

## **Our Partners**

### ***Promoting success***

- ✚ Catholic Social Service
- ✚ First Christian Church
- ✚ 25<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Community Corrections & Rehabilitative Services
- ✚ Finney County Sheriff's Department
- ✚ Finney County Attorney's Office
- ✚ Finney County Adult Learning Center
- ✚ Finney County Community Health Coalition Center for Children & Families
- ✚ Salvation Army
- ✚ SW Kansas Regional Prevention Center