

PHOTO: CHERYL JUETTEN

Better People Not Just Better Workers

2005–06 Annual Report and Program Update



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November 15, 2006

Dear Friend of Better People:

Helping individuals with legal histories is professionally gratifying and personally rewarding to Better People staff and Board of Directors. It is also exhilarating and empowering to know that you share our core values, and we appreciate your belief in, and support of, our work. While our mission is to dramatically reduce the rates of recidivism in Multnomah County and other areas, our inspirational goal is to assist our clients in changing their lives and, indirectly, that of their families and the community.

Each of us can identify with the agony and pain crime causes—and not just for the victim. The victim's family, the perpetrator's family and, the perpetrator are all adversely affected. Committing a crime is self abuse; it is a misuse of one's talents and most often causes harm to many lives. However, what we seldom hear about is that after many former offenders fulfill their punishment, they want to change their lifestyles and habits. They want a second chance to make better choices and live life differently. Better People offers that realm of hope.

There is nothing more inspiring than seeing Better People clients recognize their self worth and, as a result, decide that they can achieve positive changes and successes. Better People's services provide clients with opportunities and support for change, and that is why we come to work every day: to help our clients, to help their families, and to help the community.

This has been another year of positive change and growth for Better People clients. Our clients continue to make changes in their private lives which ultimately impact their personal interactions and employment opportunities. Better People is proud that clients gain employment, and we are encouraged that they are remaining employed long-term. Clients are receiving promotions, enhancing their personal lives by returning to school, getting married and regaining custody of their children. Please read some of their stories here in our Annual Report.

This has also been a year of change and growth for Better People. We have added new staff, and at the end of fiscal 2005-2006, we began to launch a new satellite office in Clackamas County. Better People entered into a partnership with Bridges To Change, a residential program, to provide services to supervised clients of Clackamas County Community Corrections. This will be our program's first expansion to another area. We are excited about the possibilities it offers us and the people in that community. Additional information is provided in this Report.

Change is often challenging, but without change there can be no growth. While Better People is proud of its past accomplishments, we recognize our program must expand in order to continue to offer essential and enhanced benefits to clients.

Thank you for your help in making this growth possible. Thank you for your past and future support.

Executive Director

President, Board of Directors

Founder — William "Chip" Shields; Founding President Board of Directors — Ed Hill
Founding Funders — Robert C. Warren Jr., Robert F. Kingery, Win McCormack, Black United Fund,
United Way Community Investment Fund, Meyer Memorial Trust and the Murdock Charitable Trust



PHOTO: CHERYL JUETTEN

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PHOTO: STEWART HARVEY

Why We Do What We Do

Since opening in 1998, Better People’s mission has been to dramatically reduce recidivism in Multnomah County and other areas. But that’s not what motivates staff to come to work every day. It is not what inspires us.

Our clients inspire us.

Every day, we see the faces of people who are trying to change their lives. They come to us with legal histories and feelings of dejection. Many of them are addicts and have other problems. They need jobs, yes, but they also need help. And that is what energizes us to come to work.

When we help a person with a legal history find a job and change his/her way of thinking and behaving, we have helped that person in a most fundamental way. We have helped him/her change. Better People was founded on the simple, basic principle: that people can change.

That founding principle brings us back to our original mission: reducing recidivism. While some people look at crime as a “bad person” problem, we see it as a “bad decision” problem. Our solution is to help people make better decisions, help them support themselves and their families, help them improve their self-esteem, and help them contribute to their communities in positive ways. In short, we help them become better people.

It is true that the result of change, as studies have shown, extends beyond the person to his/her family, friends and community. What we do at Better People does reduce recidivism. And that is a major reason as to why Better People exists. However, the main reason as to why we exist is the magic we see in the faces of our clients when their dreams of being better people start to come true.

Summary of Results

2005–2006

Enrolled	Job Readiness	Completed Past Step 3 (Job Ready)	Employment	30-Day Retention	90-Day Retention	180-Day Retention	365-Day Retention
178	71*	81	52	90%	83%	67%	65%

*A few clients gained employment prior to taking Job Readiness classes.

1998–2006

Enrolled	Job Readiness	Completed Past Step 3 (Job Ready)	Employment	30-Day Retention	90-Day Retention	180-Day Retention	365-Day Retention
1898	206	1096	491	91%	85%	73%	62%

Mission and Goals

The Better People Mission

Our mission is to dramatically reduce the rates of recidivism in Multnomah County and other areas, and our inspirational goal is to assist our clients in changing their lives and, indirectly, that of their families.

How We Accomplish Our Goals

Better People accomplishes its mission by providing four components of services to clients:

- Moral Reconnection Therapy (MRT®)¹, a cognitive behavioral treatment process that assists clients in changing their thinking patterns as a means of changing their behavior.
- Job Readiness classes to enable clients to become more efficient and effective in their job search.
- Job Placement assistance to help clients in gaining permanent, full-time employment.
- Job Retention assistance after gaining employment to help clients remain employed long-term.

Measures of Clients Helping the Community Through Public Service

Clients perform public service over and above any community service they have been mandated to do by the Courts. Clients, this past fiscal year, volunteered more than 800 hours of public service valued at a rate of \$18.04 per hour.² Since 1998, clients have provided public services valued at \$174,190.20 to the Portland Metropolitan community.

What Contributors Say About Us

“Better People is providing a life line to those with prior criminal records to pull themselves up and out of the quagmire.

Through their participation in the program, clients demonstrate their commitment to be responsible, dependable, and contributing parents, employees and citizens.”

Andy Honzel, The Honzel Family Foundation

Footnotes

1. MRT® was designed by Gregory Little and Kenneth Robinson of Correctional Counseling, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee. See www.ccimrt.com for additional information.

2. Figures taken from a national survey conducted by Independent Sector, see *The Dollar Value of Volunteer Time*: http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html



PHOTO: SEWARD HARKNEY

METRO COUNCILOR REX BURKHOLDER WAS THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES AT BETTER PEOPLE'S SPRING 2006 GRADUATION. COUNCILOR BURKHOLDER HAS WORKED HARD ON EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND HE HELPED ESTABLISH THE NORTHEAST COMMUNITY SCHOOL, AN INNOVATIVE DIVERSE CHARTER SCHOOL IN PORTLAND.



PHOTO: CHERYL JAEGER

OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM 'CHIP' SHIELDS, BETTER PEOPLE'S FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMCEES THE FALL 2005 MRT® GRADUATION. HE IS NOW A MEMBER OF BETTER PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COUNCIL.

How Better People Serves Its Clients

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT®)

Better People was specifically designed to work with individuals with legal histories. Many clients are faced with vast array of challenges. The use of cognitive behavioral therapy has been identified by the mental, social and addiction communities as extremely beneficial to individuals seeking to enhance and change their thinking and, therefore, their lifestyles. Better People uses Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT®), initially designed by Gregory Little, later joined by Kenneth Robinson, who together formed Correctional Counseling, Inc., in Memphis Tennessee.

The word conation was used during the 20th century by the therapeutic community when referencing to ego. The word reconnection was an attempt to have offenders re-evaluate their decisions. MRT® seeks to assist clients in raising their moral decision-making strategies.

The process was originally utilized within a prison-based drug treatment therapeutic community. However, while participants were highly functional during their prison stay, their failure rate after release was considered to be too high. The process was further developed, and today, research indicates that participants' rates of recidivism are reduced anywhere from 25% to 50%.

Job Readiness

Better People clients are too often not adequately prepared to search for employment. Clients are advised not to totally depend on the Better People Job Developer to find jobs. Clients are encouraged and required to seek employment on their own. However, too many clients lack knowledge of how to effectively approach the job market.

In addition, many clients demonstrate limited skills in completing an employment application and too often lose out

“ I thought success in a career path was not for people like me. And when I was first referred to Better People, I was unconvinced. But attending MRT classes with Facilitator Kat Bachtel helped me change my outlook on Better People and myself. Attending Valerie Keita's Job Readiness classes helped me to change my outlook on becoming a prospective employee with a legal history.

I applied for employment and got an interview, but I was nervous and unwilling to think that what I had learned in Job Readiness would actually help. I was so wrong! Almost every question we discussed during class was asked during my interview.

While waiting for the bus after the interview, I received a call on my cell phone asking me to return immediately for a second interview, and eventually I was offered the position.

Never again will I doubt what I learned, and am learning, through Better People. Just three weeks after starting the program, I became employed.

I have never been involved with such a wonderful group of people as the staff at Better People. They work hard to help clients achieve success at their own pace. I firmly believe that the staff believes in us. They truly help people like me to have a second chance. ”

Jordan Lesniewski

Employment Placement

...law prohibits employers and employment licensing agencies from denying anyone a job or license (or discriminating in other ways) because of any arrest that did not result in a conviction. ...law only allows an employer to deny you a job because of your criminal record if the crime is directly related to the job or if the employer believes you would be a threat to public safety.

Oregon does not have these laws. As a result, assisting clients in gaining employment is crucial to them and their families as well as the greater community. Clients are less likely to commit crime when they are fully employed. Employment enables them to better care for their families and themselves while also easing the burden on taxpayers in the form of prosecution and prison time.

Oregon does not mandate employers to hire persons with legal histories. Nevertheless, Better People Job Developers have established relationships with businesses based on client program participation and work qualifications. Employers are encouraged to hire clients, because as Job Developers advocate for their employment, they share that not only are they referring a person who is qualified to do the work, but also one who has exhibited that he/she is consistent, dependable, responsible and changed.

Employment Retention

Many persons with legal histories gain employment. However, their ability to retain employment long-term is too often in jeopardy due to their lack of skills for coping with workplace requirements. Our Job Readiness curriculum provides instruction for clients to deal with many work place issues. However, for those instances when clients and/or employers need support, Better People Employment Developer & Retention Specialists are available. In addition, they maintain long-term contact with employers and the client/employee.

Alumni Club Supports Better People Graduates



PHOTO: CHERYL JUETTEN

ERIC CARSON, PRESIDENT OF THE BETTER PEOPLE ALUMNI CLUB.

The Alumni Club's Mission:

People recovering their lives and reaching out to help others.

The Better People Alumni Club is a group of men and women who have completed Twelve Steps of the MRT® process. Members pay annual dues of \$25. The Club would prefer that members pay their dues in full; however, payment arrangements can be made. Members are entitled to receive legal assistance at \$25 an hour, retention services to assist you in retaining employment long-term, and access to our loan program.

The Alumni Club meets once a month for one hour. It discusses how to be an effective tool in helping both current and former clients retain their commitment to change.

The Alumni Club holds annual fundraisers. A percentage of the money raised is used to donate to other community organizations which also provide services to members of our

population. We also use funds to support our loan program. The loan program has specific requirements, including that an applicant must be employed and willing to repay the loan within six months.

Alumni Club members volunteer their time to provide public service as a means of giving back to the community. All MRT® graduates are welcomed, wanted and needed. Any MRT® client may attend meetings to observe and learn what the group is about.

The Better People Alumni Club is here for our agency's graduates.

Eric Carson
Alumni Club President

A Whole New Sense of Direction

Like many others before me, I came to Better People with the hope of being able to gain employment.

I attended the MRT® groups, worked on my Steps and passed. I soon began to understand that the program really had nothing to do with “just getting a job.” The program gave me a whole new sense of direction—direction that I use in my life today.

I have achieved many of the goals I set for myself, and I identify new ones as I go along. I learned in group to be realistic about goals. That in itself was an achievement for me.

I have worked hard to get where I am today. I have learned to use resources. I truly believe that I owe a great deal of my accomplishments to the MRT® program and the wonderful people who make up the Better People staff.



PHOTO: CHERYL JUETTEN

Tereasa Staley - MRT® graduate and Vice President of the Alumni Club

Better People job developers helped me get the job I have today. I have been employed for over four years. I feel that this is the best job I have ever had, and the first one that provided me with benefits like health insurance.

I am proud to be a graduate of Better People and Vice President of the Alumni Club. I am honored to have the opportunity to share part of my story with you. I am also proud of the person that I have become.

Tributes



JUDGE CLIFFORD L. FREEMAN
 Better People pays tribute to the late Honorable Clifford L. Freeman, Multnomah County Oregon Circuit Court Judge. Judge Freeman was the primary judge for Multnomah County Community Court. In that capacity he often referred defendants to Better People as a means of steering them toward getting their lives back on track. Judge Freeman was a long-time supporter of the work of Better People. He served as Emcee of our Spring 2005 MRT® graduation. His work in the area of social and legal justice for all people is missed.

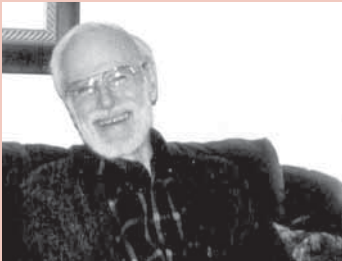


PHOTO: THE EDWARDS FAMILY

DR. MILES J. EDWARDS, M.D.
 Better People also remembers the late Miles J. Edwards, MD. Dr. Edwards was a long-time contributor to Better People through the Lowell Edwards Foundation. Until Dr. Edwards' health failed, State Representative William 'Chip' Shields (Better People's founder) and ultimately, Clariner Boston, Executive Director, met with Dr. Edwards annually to update him on the program's progress. His compassion for, and dedication to, his patients and people dealing with challenges in their lives is sorely missed. He is quoted as saying, "doctors need a deep understanding of the patient's experience and each person's unique value as a human being." Dr. Edwards valued all life and supported Better People clients seeking to bring change into their lives.

Thank You, Better People Referral Agencies

- Allied Health
- ASAP Treatment Center
- Begin Right
- Business Services
- California Federal Prison
- Camp Outlook
- Cascades AIDS
- Cascadia Behavioral Health Care
- Central City Concern
- Clackamas County Mental Health
- Clackamas Co. Parole & Probation
- Clackamas Co. Voc. Rehabilitation
- Clackamas Women's Services
- Clark Co. WA Dept. of Corrections
- Clearview Employment Services
- Coalition of Black Men
- Circuit Court of the State of Oregon
- Confederate Tribe of Grand Rende
- DePaul Treatment Center
- Family Alliance
- Friendly House
- GOALS Program
- Good Neighbor Center
- Goodwill Industries
- Helensview High School
- Hope House
- Hope Spring
- IAM CARES
- Inact
- InFocus
- Irvington Covenant Community Development Corporation
- Kon-A-Way Til-Li-Kum PC
- Legacy Emanuel Hospital & Health Center
- Lifeworks Northeast
- LOTUS
- Marion County North Office Parole & Probation
- Metropolitan Family Services GEARs Program
- Metropolitan Public Defenders
- New Beginnings Christian Church
- Mt. Hood Community College
- Multnomah County Oregon DCHS/MHASP
- Multnomah Co. Community Court
- Multnomah County Circuit Court
- Multnomah Co. Dept. of Comm. Justice
- Closed Street Supervision
- Day Reporting Center
- Domestic Violence Unity
- Gang Supervision Unit
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Troutdale Facility
- Inverness Jail
- Multnomah County Dept. of Aging & Disability Services
- Multnomah Co. Pre-Trial Services
- National Council on the Aging
- Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA)
- Native American Program
- Native American Youth Assoc.
- Neighborhood House
- New Beginning Christian Church
- Northeast Coalition
- Northeast Workforce Center
- Northwestern Pilot Project
- Providence Health Systems
- OHSU
- One Stop Career Center
- Metro
- Goal Post
- 102nd & Prescott
- 42nd & Killingsworth
- Central City Concern
- Southeast Works
- Open Door
- Options
- Oregon Dept. of Corrections
- Columbia River Correct. Facility
- Coffee Creek Correct. Facility
- Santiam Correctional Facility
- Oregon State Penitentiary
- Oregon State Correction Institution
- Mill Creek
- Eastern Oregon Correct. Institution
- Snake River Correctional Institution
- Two Rivers Correctional Institution
- Oregon Commission for the Blind
- Oregon Council For Hispanic Advancement
- Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Oregon Dept. of Human Services
- Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Adult & Family Services
- Child Welfare Dept.
- Dept. of Human Resources
- Oregon Employment Department
- PCC- Dislocated Workers Program
- Oregon Youth Authority
- MaLaren Youth Correct. Facility
- Parole/Probation
- Out Side In
- Pioneer Human Services, Seattle,WA
- Portland Community College
- Skill Center
- Steps To Success
- Workforce Development Connection
- Women's Center
- Portland Habilitation Center
- Portland House of Imoja
- Portland Impact
- Portland Police Bureau
- Portland Project House
- Portland Youth Builders
- Project Network
- Providence Health System
- Raphael House
- Recovery Association Project (RAP)
- Rose Haven
- Rustic Sage, Inc.
- St. Andrew Catholic Church
- St. Francis Church
- Salvation Army
- Self Enhancement, Inc.
- Seniors Make Sense
- St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Vincent Chemical Dependency
- Southeast Works
- Touchtone
- Transition Projects, Inc.
- Jean's Place
- Tualatin Valley Center
- Turning Point
- Unbounded Grace Alternative School
- Unity, Inc.
- US Federal Prison - Sheridan
- US Pre-Trial Services
- US Federal Public Defender
- US Probation Office
- US Veterans Administration
- Volunteers of America
- Men's Residential Center
- Women's Residential Center
- Washington Co. Parole & Probation
- West Women's Shelter
- Western Prison Project
- William Temple House
- Women In Community Service (WICS)
- Youth Progress Association
- YWCA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors — Better People
Portland, Oregon
June 30, 2006 (With Comparative Amounts for 2005)

The Board of Directors
Better People
Portland, Oregon

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of Better People as of June 30, 2006, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of Better People's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The prior year summarized comparative information has been derived from the financial statements of Better People as of June 30, 2005, and in our report dated August 22, 2005, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Better People as of June 30, 2006, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

James E. Richman, CPA, PC

December 3, 2006
James E. Richman, CPA, PC
Certified Public Accountant
One SW Columbia, Suite 777
Portland, Oregon 97258

Better People is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization.
Donations, bequests and gifts of stock accepted. Federal Tax
ID number 91-1824478. Legal name is Better People.
4310 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97211
www.betterpeople.org

The books are in the care of Richard C. Harris, CPA, of Portland.
Audit and/or current financial statements gladly furnished by
calling (503) 281-2663. The board treasurer is Mark Walker, Division
Director of Public Affairs, Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Better People—Statement of Financial Position
Year Ended June 30, 2005 (With Comparative Amounts for 2005)

ASSETS	2006	2005
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 177,072	\$ 166,120
Grants and Contracts Receivable	52,984	57,621
Prepaid Expenses	7,365	10,187
Total Current Assets	237,421	233,928
EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE	5,003	3,567
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 242,424	\$ 237,495
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,722	\$ 5,692
Accrued Payroll and Taxes	3,542	7,680
Accrued Vacation	10,460	7,811
Total Current Liabilities	15,724	21,183
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted	226,700	216,312
Total Net Assets	226,700	216,312
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 242,424	\$ 237,495

Better People—Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2006 (With Comparative Amounts for 2005)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2006	2005
Contributions	\$ 97,572	\$ 56,261
Grants and Contracts	185,553	264,322
Program Service Fees	3,491	6,662
In-Kind Contributions	13,925	5,710
Interest	3,305	1,819
Total Support and Revenue	303,846	334,774
EXPENSES		
Program Services	249,380	240,980
Management and General	30,523	30,234
Fundraising	13,555	12,291
Total Expenses	293,458	283,505
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	10,388	51,269
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	216,312	165,043
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 226,700	\$ 216,312

Contributors and Grantors

All Anonymous Donors
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 Jonathan & Deanne Ater
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We try very hard to make this list as accurate as possible. If you see an error, please call Clariner Boston at (503) 281-2663.

Jan Neill Becomes First Client Hired by Better People



JAN NEILL

There are moments that most of us never forget. Some are wonderful: getting married, the birth of our children. Some are not so wonderful, especially, when we are faced with the consequences of our actions. I will always remember the day that I gave my problems to God. Having said that, I also will never forget the day I was taken to prison. Nevertheless, one day while I was in prison, there came a moment I will also never forget.

I found an old newspaper article about Better People on a bulletin board at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Oregon's only prison for women. I was working as a janitor. I heard more about Better People from other ladies who had participated in the Women In Community Service (WICS) program and attended a presentation by Better People staff. I decided that when I got released I would look up Better People. Until then, I had pretty much decided that my education and work experience had no value. I believed that I had thrown away all that I had invested. I believed my 20 years of hard work was now worthless and that any credible career was not possible.

While I was in prison, time passed slowly. Yet, opportunity knocked on my door. As a result of my hard work, I was selected to go to the Oregon Summit Program (Boot Camp, as it is more commonly known). I was given the opportunity to not only earn reduced time off my sentence, but also an opportunity for treatment. I could go home having skills I did not have before.

On May 30, 2006, I graduated with the 68th Community from Summit, as Valedictorian of my platoon. The next week I called Better People, enrolled and began MRT® classes with Ms. Boston as my facilitator. I completed Step Three, completed Job Readiness Training and began working with a Job Developer. Soon, I was employed. But better things were yet to come.

In October of 2006 I became the first Better People client to join the staff, in a regular full-time position. What an honor. I spent months believing that Better People would be there to help me put my life back together. However, I never dreamed I would join the team and be able to help others put their lives back together.

Even if I were not an employee, I would be hard pressed to put into words the positive effects that I have gleaned from my association with Better People. I think of myself differently, I found self confidence again, and I no longer see myself as damaged goods or second best. Better People has partnered with my family, my church, my friends and me to help me be all I want to be—and still, the best is yet to be.

Better People opens an office in Clackamas County Oregon

WHEN BETTER PEOPLE FOUNDER STATE REP. WILLIAM 'CHIP' SHIELDS OPENED BETTER PEOPLE IN 1998, IT WAS TO SERVE INDIVIDUALS WITH LEGAL HISTORIES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RESIDENTIAL LOCATION. PARTICIPANTS WERE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MRT® CLASSES TWICE A WEEK AT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING OFFICE IN PORTLAND, OREGON

CLIENTS RESIDING IN MULTNOMAH, CLACKAMAS, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES OREGON, AS WELL AS WASHINGTON'S CLARK COUNTY, CAME TO BETTER PEOPLE FOR SERVICES. FOR MANY CLIENTS, THE DISTANCES THEY TRAVELED WERE TIME-CONSUMING AND, DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER, OFTEN DIFFICULT.

IN THE FALL OF 2006, BETTER PEOPLE OPENED A SATELLITE OFFICE AT 2100 SE LAKE RD., IN MILWAUKIE, OREGON, TO SERVE INDIVIDUALS UNDER SUPERVISION IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY. WE ARE A SUB-CONTRACTOR TO BRIDGES TO CHANGE, A TRANSITION RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM.

THE LOCATION PROVIDES THE SAME SERVICES OFFERED AT THE MAIN OFFICE IN PORTLAND:

- ORIENTATIONS
- MRT® CLASSES
- JOB READINESS TRAINING
- ASSISTANCE WITH GAINING FULL-TIME, PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT
- RETENTION SERVICES FOR ASSISTANCE IN REMAINING EMPLOYED LONG-TERM.

BETTER PEOPLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CLARINER BOSTON AND BRIDGES TO CHANGE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHUCK SIMPSON SEE THIS AS OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER SERVE CLIENTS LIVING IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY.

BOTH AGENCIES WILL BE HOUSED UNDER THE SAME ROOF IN OREGON CITY, IN THE SPRING OF 2007, WHEN A NEW FACILITY BECOMES AVAILABLE.

And a Very Special Thanks To ...

Cynthia Addams	Daniella Brod	Ruthanne Cox Carothers	Maxine Fitzpatrick
Michelle Agular	Bill Brooker	Debra Crane	Pat Foley
Ray Allen	Sondra Brooks	Kevin Criswell	Chelsea Fonua
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GRADUATE SONJA SNYDER, RIGHT,
 WITH STAFF MEMBER TANISHA WELLS.

PHOTO: CHERYL JUETTEN

Featured Better People Graduate John Malaer Says, “I Plugged into the Program!”

My life changed drastically 10 years ago when I fell and broke my back. I went from being an able-bodied and fully-employed electronic technician to an unemployed paraplegic on disability. I suffered with chronic pain, which I treated with narcotic pain medication, and I became dependent and addicted. But I didn't just use narcotics; I sold heroin on the streets of Portland. Ultimately, I was apprehended, tried, convicted and sentenced to two years in prison.

During those two years, I completed several cognitive programs. I also completed a nine-month intensive drug and alcohol program. I was released from prison in 2005 with strict aftercare and post prison supervision requirements.

It was at this time that I was referred to Better People by my Vocational Rehabilitation counselor. However, getting to the office of Better People would have required that I travel 2 ½ hours by bus at least twice a week for MRT® classes. Traveling that far and taking a cognitive class, again, did not appeal to me, so I declined. Eight months later, after being turned down numerous times for employment because of my legal history and a 10-year gap in my work history, I decided I would give Better People a try.

It was at Better People that I was shown and learned that everything I was doing spiritually and in my recovery was in step with the MRT® process. I plugged right in to the program and found that the Steps supported my changed lifestyle. I never missed a class. I especially



JOHN MALAER CHANGED HIS LIFE WITH HELP FROM BETTER PEOPLE.

gained a lot of insight from my peers as I worked through the dynamics of each Step. I was also able to enhance my interviewing skills by taking the Job Readiness class.

Nevertheless, my biggest accomplishment was gaining the confidence to overcome my insecurities about being disabled and returning to the workforce. Prior to coming to Better People, I was beginning to feel I would never be able to find productive employment again.

However, with the assistance of the Better People staff, I gained employment. I also bought a car. Becoming independent has helped me to know that I can reach my full potential. Now my 5- and 10-year

goals seem much more doable. I have accomplished many of the goals I had only thought about upon first coming to Better People. As I was going through the Steps, I began to recognize that each of my goals could become a reality.

I want to continue on this positive path and direction in my life. I want to accomplish the next major Step on my goals list. Eventually, I want to buy my own home. Home, health and family are significant priorities in my life. Once accomplished, I will spend the rest of my life appreciating them.

Staff

Kathi (Kat) Bachtel, our Recruitment Specialist, presents to soon-to-be released inmates at various Oregon facilities and to numerous community organizations. She has a BS in Child Development from San Diego University. She also is a certified MRT® Facilitator. Ms. Bachtel's background is in teaching, facilitating, and social work. She derives much satisfaction from supporting persons with barriers to excel in their goals. She enjoys being creative and shopping for values.

Clariner M. Boston, Executive Director, has been with Better People since its opening in 1998. Originally holding the position as Recruitment Specialist, Ms. Boston was selected by the Board of Directors to succeed State Rep. William 'Chip' Shields, founder and former Executive Director. Ms. Boston has a BS in Marketing, a Masters in Public Administration, and a Masters in Administration of Justice, from Portland State University. She is also a certified MRT® Facilitator.

Laura I. Camacho is a Job Developer & Retention Specialist. She speaks both English and Spanish. Ms. Camacho earned her B.S. in Urban Studies and Planning/Community Development and Sociology from Portland State University. She also is a certified MRT® Facilitator. She has a background in finance and budgeting and extensive experience working with and living among people of diverse ethnicities and cultures from around the globe. Ms. Camacho considers herself to be a professional champion of social causes.

Todd Caponetto is a Job Developer & Retention Specialist as well as an MRT® Facilitator. He has a BS in history from Portland State University. Mr. Caponetto has more than 5 years' experience in working with families dealing with issues of incarceration. He also has more than 5 years experience in marketing and sales, and he enjoys hiking, snowboarding, and bird watching.

Warren L. Fluker is the Employment Services Coordinator and a MRT® Facilitator. He has more than 30 years' experience in government, human resources, education, and workforce development. He received his BS and MS degrees in counseling, psychol-

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MRT® Facilitator

Warren Fluker, MS PC
Employment Specialist &
MRT® Facilitator

Laura Camacho
Employment Specialist &
MRT® Facilitator

Valerie Keita
Employment Training
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MRT® Facilitator

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Assistant

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Receptionist

Tanisha Wells
Administrative/Program
Assistant

ogy and psychology from the University of Oregon. Mr. Fluker enjoys reading, hiking, deep-sea fishing, family and quiet time.

Valerie Keita has returned to Better People in the role of Employment Training Specialist and MRT® Facilitator. Ms. Keita received her BA in Administration of Justice from Portland State University, and is currently working toward her Master's degree in the same field. She enjoys acting and writing. She is a published author and is currently working on a compilation of short stories due out in Spring 2007.

Janet (Jan) Neill, Receptionist, studied business and accounting at Oklahoma State University. She has more than 24 years experience in business and has worked in public relations, advertising and sales. Ms. Neill enjoys cooking, gardening and needle work.

Tracy Muller returned to Better People in the position of Administrative Financial Assistant. She attended Mount San Antonio College, where she majored in General Office Studies. Ms. Muller has more than 20 years office experience and is a MRT® Facilitator. She enjoys playing all kinds of sports, reading, and movies.

Tanisha Wells, Administrative Program Assistant, has a Business Technology Certificate from Chemeketa Community College and is currently working towards a degree in Business Administration from Portland State University. Ms. Wells has more than 14 years of extensive experience in customer and administrative services. She enjoys playing the violin and being with her family.

Board of Directors Farewells

We wish the very best to former Board of Directors members Robert E. Reynolds, Ph.D., James Curtis, Aubrey Davis and William (Bill) Lucas. The same is true for Stephanie Parrish-Taylor, a member of the Advisory Council. We thank them for their dedicated service and valued contributions.

The Board welcomes Donna Luckett, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

Better People also salutes former Board member Ben Butzien for his dedicated service to the program. In recognition of Mr. Butzien's outstanding service, the Board of Directors and staff Better People will dedicate the office lobby in his honor