

Here's What Others Are Saying About Better People:

"Our staff have diligently researched and assessed Multnomah County and Washington County employment services for ex-offenders. It is our view that Better People by far provides the most comprehensive and most effective ex-offender specialized job placement and job retention services in the area."

– Bill Beers,
Superintendent, Oregon Department of Corrections
Summit Program



"If you want to put your money into something that works,
put your money into Better People."

– Better People Alumnus Larry Johnson,
to Multnomah County Commissioners May 17, 2001



"When Mr. Shields approached me in 1997 about being involved in the evaluation of Better People, I was impressed first because it is rare to think about evaluation before a program is even started, and second because his ideas for Better People were very much in line with what the research says is effective — treating dynamic factors like living-wage employment and criminogenic needs like how offenders think."

– Annette Jolin, Ph.D.,
Professor, Mark Hatfield School of Government,
Division of Administration of Justice, Portland State University
to Multnomah County Commissioners May 17, 2001



"Better People is distinctive in its larger organizational mission of advocating on issues that affect the criminal justice system and, in turn, ex-offenders. For instance, [Better People Executive Director Chip] Shields is involved in efforts to reprioritize state funding for education rather than for more prisons, and he advocates restructuring of sentencing, including the elimination of the death penalty in Oregon."

– Maria Buck, Public/Private Ventures
Getting Back to Work: Employment Programs for Ex-Offenders
(A national field research report of promising practices that featured Better People).
Available on-line at www.ppv.org/indexfiles/workforce-index.html

Better People Staff

Clariner M. Boston, MS, MPA
Recruitment Specialist

Demian Lucas
Marketer

Mamie Powell
Vista Volunteer

Berry Scheib
Marketer

David Applin
Corporate Representative

William (Chip) Shields
Executive Director

We thank Alison Meier for dedicated service. Good luck in graduate school!



Not Just Better Workers

Photo: Jason Kaplan



Better People

2000 Annual Report
and Program Update

Photos: Cheryl Juetten

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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

September 2001

Dear friend of Better People:

We are pleased to report that Better People is making great strides in fulfilling its mission of dramatically reducing recidivism (offenders returning to crime) in Multnomah County and other areas since opening in June 1998.

Despite an uncooperative economy, we achieved **72 job placements** in the program year 2000-01, which is eleven more than in the previous year. **Job retention continues to be well above industry standards.**

A preliminary **recidivism evaluation** was released in February 2000. Findings indicated that participation in Better People's cognitive-behavioral therapy component, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT®), was associated with **significantly lower recidivism** when comparing those who attended at least one MRT® group session (Treatment Group) to those who attended a Better People orientation, but did not participate in the program (Comparison Group).

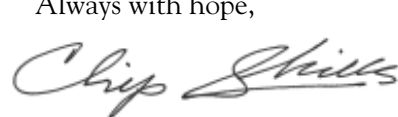
We thank the many employers, donors, alumni, researchers, volunteers and referral agencies who have made our accomplishments possible. We particularly thank the Meyer Memorial Trust, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, The Black United Fund of Oregon, the Portland/Multnomah Enterprise Community Commission, worksystems inc., Mount Hood Community College and its Steps to Success partners, the Warren Family and Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz for their strong support.

There is much work to be done. The downturn in Portland manufacturing means our clients will need more help than ever to find the opportunities they have been preparing for through participation in MRT®. Those incarcerated at age 15 under Oregon's harsh mandatory minimum law **Measure 11** are now being released at 21, an age criminologists consider to be well within the most crime-prone years. Yet despite these challenges, we take heart that more than **124 Portland companies** have used Better People as a hiring source for reliable employees.

Thanks to your kindness and support, former offenders released in the Portland Metropolitan area, as well as those on probation, now have a place where they can become better providers, better parents and better people.

Thanks again. If we can ever be of service, please call at (503) 281-2663.

Always with hope,



William (Chip) Shields
 Executive Director



Edward J. Hill
 Board President



Better People Recruitment Specialist Clariner Boston, who was selected as a Woman of Achievement by the Oregon Commission For Women in 2001, shares a moment of tenderness with Carolyn Cooper, who celebrated her one-year employment anniversary in June 2001.

Better People combines Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) with living-wage job placement and job-retention services for one year after placement.

Our Alumni Club provides added support.

A review of national research shows that benefits to taxpayers and society far outweigh the costs of the Better People approach.

Comparative Costs and Benefits of Programs to Reduce Crime	Taxpayer and Crime Victim benefits per dollar of cost
Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)	\$11.48 return for every dollar invested
Job Counseling and Job Search for Inmates Leaving Prison	\$4.00 return for every dollar invested

Source: Aos, S. (1999) The Comparative Costs and Benefits of Programs to Reduce Crime. Washington State Institute for Public Policy. Olympia, Washington. Available 8/31/01:www.wsipp.wa.gov/crime/pdf/CostModel_4Page.pdf

We want to offer special thanks to Multnomah County Commissioner Serena Cruz for all of her help.