

## And A Very Special Thanks To...



Better People board member Maccéo Pettis and Board President Ed Hill set policy and fund-raising goals at the Spring 2001 board meeting.

*“Better People’s specific focus on serving ex-offenders plays a significant role in explaining the program’s success. Better People has a very solid reputation in the corrections community for strong job placement and job retention outcomes.”*

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Training and Transition Coordinator  
Oregon Department of Corrections

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Alumnus Larry Johnson and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno were both speakers at the Economic Policy Institute’s conference *Improving the Transition from Prison to Work* held in November 2000 in Washington, D.C.

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## “Break in the Clouds” Auction Donors

*(Benefitting Survivors Advocating for  
An Effective System and Better People)*

Bullwinkle's  
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Graybar Electric  
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Hollywood Video  
Marcia Hunt  
The Japanese Garden  
Kaady Car Washes  
Lakewood Theatre  
MacTarnahan's  
Mary Mather-Slac  
Mount Hood Railroad  
Newport Bay Restaurant  
Northwest Children's Theatre  
Oaks Park  
Old Wives Tales  
OMS  
The Oregon Symphony

(Thanks to Jane Jackson and Jay Swedblom for chairing the event)

*Better People offers special condolences to the  
family and friends of these supporters and  
advocates who have recently passed:*

**Don Allen  
Francis Auffenberg  
William Brod**

## Marvin Dean Was Better People's First Placement: Now He Hires Better People Graduates

“...Marvin Dean, 26, was one of Better People's first graduates in 1998. 'It helped me set goals in my life, have motivation and have a positive outlook on things,' he said. 'It gave me the necessary tools to solve problems in a less confrontational way.'”

According to Dean, the program is cost-effective in more ways than one. He cited statistics by the Washington Institute for Public Policy, which found that for every dollar spent on Moral Reconciliation Therapy, victims and taxpayers receive \$11.48 in benefits from restitution payments and taxes paid into the system. The state of Washington uses Moral Reconciliation Therapy in all of its criminal rehabilitation services and institutions.

The program works through 12 steps, not unlike similar but unrelated personal improvement programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

The hardest step, Dean said, is number three. 'It has to do with trust – for me that was kind of hard because I don't just trust being open with a group,' he said.

'Also, the step of setting goals – I never planned beyond the next day,' he said.

Dean was raised in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, Calif., the only male in his family. 'It was a pretty hectic community with the gangs and what not,' he said. 'I was going to the gangs just for that male companionship and need for a father figure.'

He moved to Portland when he was 17. 'Here in Portland was where I got in the most trouble of my life, he said. Sent to jail on a felony conviction, he first went to a juvenile facility, then spent two years in prison. After his release in May 1996, Dean said he went to college, but found his criminal record made it hard to find a job. That's what led him to Better People's door.

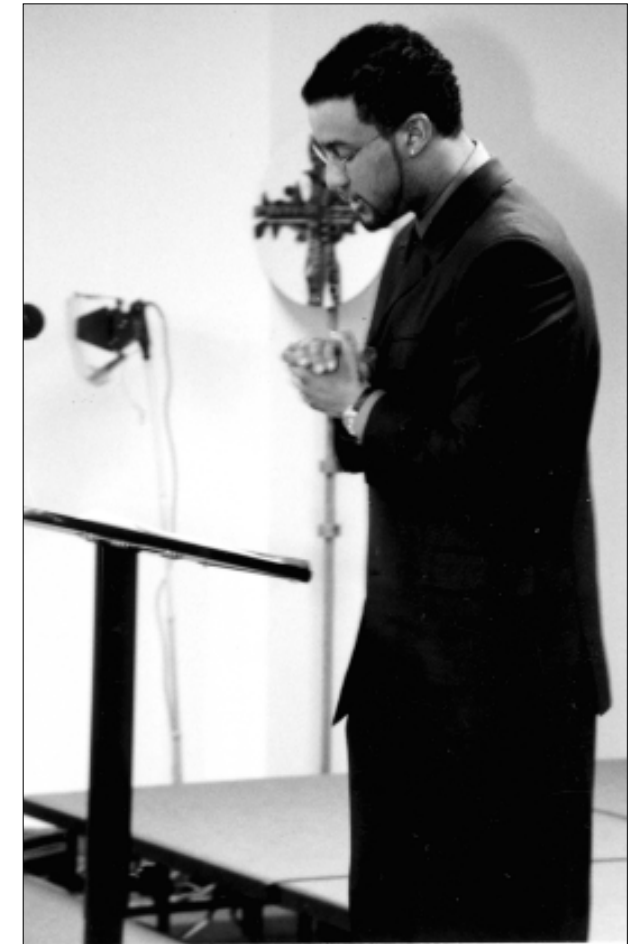
'It actually ended up being the best decision I ever made in my life,' he said.

On a personal level, Dean had another goal, 'to maintain my relationship with my children and make sure they grow up in a less hostile environment than I did,' he said. Dean's children, who live in Portland, are ages two and eight.

According to Dean, making a sincere effort to rehabilitate individuals is something that benefits all of society, not just former inmates.

'You still have to release people (from prison) in a few years and they're still going to be ignorant,' Dean said. 'A lot of people when I was in there were not talking about rehabilitation, they were talking about what they're going to do different to not get caught next time.'”

– from story written by reporter Lisa Loving which appeared in The Skanner, February 21, 2001.



*Graduate Marvin Dean,  
Better People's first job placement,  
celebrated his three-year employment  
anniversary in July 2001 with PCRI.  
He is a supervisor now, earns \$14.82  
per hour, and is hiring other  
Better People clients.*

*(The KATU news clip on  
Mr. Dean can be viewed at  
www.betterpeople.org.)*