Bon Secours Baltimore Health System Launches Re-Entry Program for Ex-Offenders

“Re-Entry Success” serves as the bridge between prison and society

BALTIMORE (April 18, 2016) – With 458 people currently in prison from the community, the Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park neighborhood of West Baltimore represents one of the highest incarceration rates in Baltimore. In an effort to ease the transition back into the community for individuals released from prison, Bon Secours Baltimore Health System recently launched a re-entry program for returning citizens to West Baltimore.

Part of Bon Secours Community Works, “Re-Entry Success” is a 12-week training course that addresses the challenges of reintegration and teaches an array of life skills in a positive, collaborative environment. Using the evidenced-based TYRO model created by The Ridge Project in Ohio and currently being utilized in many states, this “Re-Entry Success” emphasizes character building to ensure participants are ready to fully integrate back into society.

Following the 12-week training, graduates receive a year of comprehensive follow-up services by the Career Development Program team that include individual, personalized coaching for motivation; help with real-life issues and tasks such as transportation, child care and support, mental health and substance abuse concerns; mentoring; peer support; job placement assistance. Community Works offers certification and/or occupational training for careers such as construction and urban landscaping. Traditional education classes such as GED classes, community college courses, online classes in our computer lab with reading and math tutoring are also offered. Additionally, services such as housing assistance, credit repair, childcare, tax preparation, parenting classes and expungement assistance are available for program participants through Community Works.

“The overarching goal of our program is for individuals to become empowered to no longer look to society to support them, but will look to themselves to support society,” said Anees Abdul-Rahim, MHS, Re-Entry Coordinator at Bon Secours. “Through experience working with community residents who came to Bon Secours...
Community Works for help, we saw that returning citizens needed concentrated attention to address their needs and set them on the path to success.”

Bon Secours offers two “Re-Entry Success” programs, one for men and another for women. Program leadership is also working with Dorsey Run Correctional Institution and the Chesapeake Detention Facility to reach prisoners within three to 12 months of release to start the program prior to their release date. There are currently 41 prisoners participating in the program.

**About Bon Secours Baltimore Health System:** Bon Secours Baltimore Health System (BSHSI) serves the west Baltimore Community with a comprehensive array of services including a 72 bed acute care hospital with medical and surgical services, comprehensive behavioral health services, same day surgery, imaging, an outpatient dialysis program, over 25 thousand emergency department visits a year, more than 4,300 discharges annually, over 725 affordable housing units in six Senior and two Family Housing Centers, numerous community outreach programs for men, women, expectant mothers, children, teenagers and seniors. More than 760 people are employed by Bon Secours Baltimore Health System. The mission of the Health System is to provide compassionate, quality health care and to be “Good Help®” to those in need in west Baltimore. For more information visit: [www.bonsecoursbaltimore.com](http://www.bonsecoursbaltimore.com).

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