



THE PERSPECTIVE OF CROSSROADS

ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES OR GET KNOCKED OUT!!!

Life is like a Boxing Match. We can choose to roll with the punches or get knocked out. In round one, you get in the ring with your opponent knowing nothing about them except that you both are fighting for the same thing. You put on your most intimidating expression and stare each other directly in the face. The referee gives you the rules and then the bell rings. At this time, you've realized that there is no turning back so you size up your competition to get an ideal of what you need to do. You duck and dodge without a clue of where your opponent will aim or where the punches will land. And although some hits may hurt more than others and some barely phases you, you still know that you've been hit but

you're not giving up. Then the bell rings again. Now either you're going to be lying flat on your back with the referee over you counting to ten or standing on your feet waiting to see if you have just landed a TKO. Either way, you know that you have just given it everything you got and you know that you can honestly face your opponent with pride, dignity, and respect. Now the moment has come. The crowd goes wild and your team runs over to you, covers you with your robe, escorts you to the middle of the ring with one of your arms in the air and your championship belt in the other arm. Yes, you heard it right, the announcer has just named you as the "Winner"! That

gut feeling of accomplishment, sweat of hard work and bruises of pain takes a toll over your entire body all at once. This is no different from life. We all are winners and everybody around you is going for the belt. But if you train, prepare and be ready for whatever and whomever, than you have done all you can do. Some opponents may be more challenging than others but always remember that its your life that you're fighting for. So give it your best shot and you're guaranteed to walk away a champ.

Written by Chief Editor,
Miss Rose Finkley

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"ACT LIKE WHO YOU WANNA BE"

by CAO EDNA R. LEE

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Special Thanks to the participants who made this possible

The editor would like to thank the people who contributed to making this Newsletter possible. The Newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis. No one person is solely responsible for the information needed. This is a team effort. If you would like to participate please give your information or documentation to Miss Finkley (Internal Auditor)

POETRY AND ENCOURAGEMENT



ALL PARAGRAPHS WERE WRITTEN BY RESIDENTS L. WILLIAMS & G. JONES

Sometimes I feel strange for not wanting more out of life and having the ability to go on and be successful. There are times at night when the world is quiet and I am left alone with my thoughts. Thinking of how my life begun and how I ended up in this position

and how every step of my life has gotten me where I am today. I drive myself crazy at night questioning my life and feeling guilty until I can fall to sleep. By morning the pain seems to go away giving me the confidence to face another day. There's so much about life I don't know and a lot more to learn. I'll never forget these lonely days and sleepless nights in this hell cell. I will never make the same mistakes again and I will try to be a better person than I was the day before. Considering the benefit of the doubt, I'm forced to make some important decisions regarding my future. I was thinking about Patti Labelle's song "Somebody Loves You", and I won-

der who this someone was. But I try to keep my head up to avoid so many tears. I assumed I was doing the right thing because I was doing what I wanted to do until reality set in. No longer will I be defined by who I was in the past and I will not hide from pain or happiness nor will I beat myself up about my mistakes. I just have to make smarter decisions with all the painful experiences I've been through when I was struggling in the darkness. It's time for a new vision of light to shine on the areas that need to be healed. When the sun rise I can look towards the ocean and blue skies and say "free at last" and leave the pass behind .

POETRY AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Opening the door up for doubt to come in only gives the devil free room in your mind to plant a seed of deceit in order to encourage you to make yet another mistake. We lose our will to stand up and fight. We are blinded by the lust of our flesh and give the wrong people control of our lives, instead of giving it to the person

who really counts. Help me to change my ways. Show me the area of my sins so that I can change my ways. Give me the strength to be brave in order to accept whatever obstacles that may come my way. Though my flesh is weak my faith is strong.



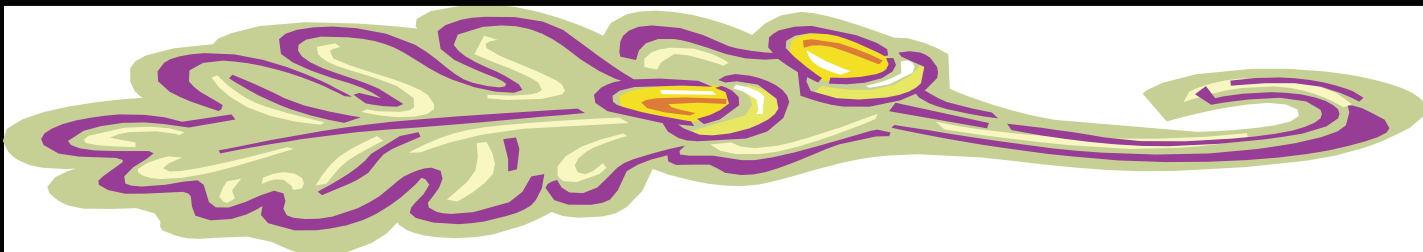
POETRY AND ENCOURAGEMENT



Why is it so hard for us to accept change, constantly putting our lives on the line for the wrong reasons, hurting the ones we claim to love? Why do we say that we are ready or willing to change, when in the back of our minds we're not? Is it because we try to convince others and our selves for that matter? Why do we continue to make the wrong choices knowing the outcome? Is it a way to justify the things we do or is it just our way of thinking?



POETRY AND ENCOURAGEMENT



ALL PARAGRAPHS WERE WRITTEN BY
RESIDENT GREGORY JONES RM 401

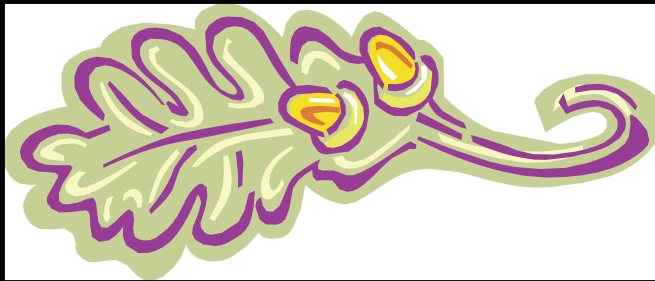
STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE

I may not be perfect but I'm brave. Don't worry about the color of my skin because my glow is from within. My story keeps growing and it only gets better like fine wine with time. I'm a silent man and my thoughts are frozen as I write them down on white pages. I'm sick of being in these cages. It's been going on too long to realize. Where is the prize? Did I come in last, is this a race or a test of faith? Sometimes my mind plays tricks on me, behold let the real story be told. The deep darkness wasn't the only thing clouding my mind in this drugged and polluted environment. Stuck in a hole made by man, trapped disgustingly and getting dirtier by the minute, water don't even clean it. Will I survive or will I drown in self pity trying to learn what's right? I've made so many mistakes and so many times I've felt like crap. It's like I'm going through hell in search for heaven. Sometimes I feel like I don't belong anywhere and it's taking long for me to get somewhere, The lonely road I traveled is a heavy load to bare and it's a long way there. Please send an angel to guide me. It's a cold world and a cold summer and winter in December is hot. Remember it's what you hear that leaves you confused. Often I ask myself what was I hustling for, to get high? Isn't life worth more? I'm coming close to losing my mind trying to make it through hard times, striving to survive the game of life. Right now I feel like a bird in a cage without a key, hoping one day I'll be free from crying as I spread my wings and start flying so the world can see. Maybe I'm invisible to the world. Do anybody got my back, my front, my anything? I guess not. I'm alone in this big empty space quenching the thirst for some understanding.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING

As I go into my inner self for guidance, my thoughts cushions a divine spark within my mind and allow my thinking process to unfold and gravitate naturally. From there, all creativity springs as I reaches out into this manifest world to accomplish my sense of security within myself. Life is no more or no less a series of lessons and I'm playing the role of a student who is here to learn and pass it on to others in a gentle more profound way. In order to allow my life to unfold naturally I must open my eyes to a more positive way of living and find my way down the path of trust and wisdom. I know that everything I ever gone through is a life lesson. We all have choices and I made some bad ones. The pain and suffering I've caused to others from my actions has decreased, because with time on my hands it has allowed me to advance to a much more wiser man. Exercising my mind and expanding my thoughts in a positive manner to gain a much successful ending before it ends. Life is a puzzle with pieces missing. I'm trying to find the right pieces and put them all together. Knowledge we must strive for, trust we must build, and respect we must earn. I'm just hoping to have forgiveness in my heart in the form of a deeper understanding of my mistakes. I must have freedom to explore all parts of life, the good, the bad and the ugly. No longer will I live life on the edge but take the advantage of my ability to succeed. My pass is history as I open my eyes to a brand new way of living. I trust and have faith in God to guide me through this world of confusion to keep me from being mislead. I except responsibility for my actions. I'm paying my dept to society, now it's time to move on to bigger and better things and a new vision of hope.

G.E.D CLASS OF 2010

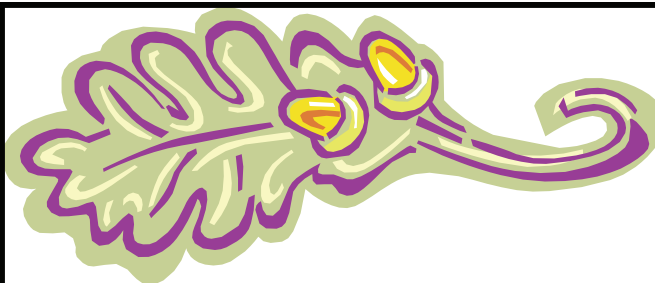
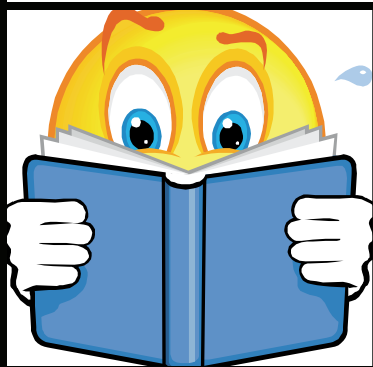


Congratulations to all participants as of April 1, 2010–June 30, 2010

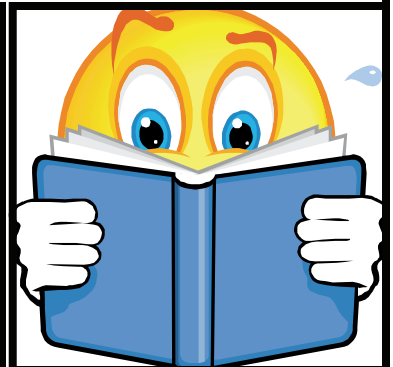


Here is the final GED Attainment Update for Crossroads. Without a moment to spare, we met our W.I.G. of attaining sixty (60) GED Certificates! *Of the eighty-seven (87) Clients that tested sixty (60) passed the GED Test for an attainment rate of 69%!!* The Clients worked very hard to get their High School Credentials, and the entire Staff here at Crossroads (Administration, Program, Security and Support Staff) worked very hard to help us maintain the high standards that this Program has been known for. As I have said repeatedly, we could not do what we do in this program, without the cooperation and support that we get from the entire Crossroads Family. Again, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and cooperation.

Ken McCord



Kudos to the Basic Skills Instructors for reaching their FY goals
Ken McCord, Angel Figueroa, Brittny Ridenbaugh





CROSSROADS IS "KEEPING IT REAL" IN JULY 2010

(SEE MS. M. JOINTER FOR DETAILS)

SUN	MON	TUES	wed	THUR	FRi	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	<i>K.I.R</i>
8	<i>K.I.R</i>	10	11	<i>K.I.R</i>	13	<i>K.I.R</i>
<i>K.I.R</i>	16	17	18	19	<i>K.I.R</i>	<i>K.I.R</i>
<i>K.I.R</i>	23	24	25	<i>K.I.R</i>	<i>K.I.R</i>	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

JULY 7: UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM, 3301 S. DEARBORN,(SIEGAL HALL 202), 1PM—330PM

JULY 9: 6TH DISTRICT CPD/PEER JURY, 7801 S. HALSTED, 5PM—630PM

JULY 12: SAKHIL CENTER FOR SUCCESS, 5900 S. WOODS ST., 11AM- 1PM

JULY 14: BURGLARY PRESENTATION, 6TH DISTRICT CPD/334, 7059 S. SOUTH SHORE DRIVE, 7PM-8PM

JULY 15: BURGLARY PRESENTATION, 14TH DISTRICT CPD,(HOLSTEIN PARK), 2200 N. OAKLEY, 7PM-8PM

JULY 20: NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORP CHICAGO POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY, 1200 W. JACKSON, 10AM-1PM

JULY 21: BEACON THERAPEUTIC CENTER, 10650 S. LONGWOOD DRIVE, 930AM—10:15AM

JULY 22: BURGLARY PRESENTATION, 3RD DISTRICT/BT 322, 7040 S. COTTAGE GROVE 7PM—8PM

JULY 26: BURGLARY PRESENTATION, 3RD DISTRICT/323 (PARK MANOR), 600 E. 73RD ST., 7PM -8PM

JULY 27: BURGLARY PRESENTATION, 3RD DISTRICT/321, 7040 S. COTTAGE GROVEF, 7PM-8PM

JULY 13,17,& 31, 2010 HAS ALSO BEEN ADDED TO THE CALENDAR. SEE MS. JOINTER FOR LOCATIONS

JOKES and STUFF

THINGS NOT TO SAY TO

POLICE OFFICERS

1. Are you Andy or Barney
2. I thought you had to be in good physical condition to be a police officer
3. I was trying to keep up with traffic. The other cars are just way ahead of me
4. If an officer ask you are your eyes red because you've been drinking, don't reply are your eyes glazed because you've been eating doughnuts
5. Sorry officer I Just realized my radar detector was unplugged
6. Are you one of the guys from the village people?+
7. You're not going to check the trunk are you?
8. Do you know why you pulled me over officer? Oh okay just so one of us does.
9. Can you hold my beer while I reach for my license officer?

WHAT HAPPENED?

A police detective was investigating a homicide. As he questioned the on-scene officer, he learned the body was a young woman. The body was found with a bowl over her head and a spoon stuck in her back.

The on-scene officer asked what the detective thought happened to the woman.

The detective responded, "I think it's obvious. She was attacked by a cereal killer!"



LAWYERS ARE GREEDY

A lawyer opened the door of his brand new BMW, when suddenly a car came along and hit the door, ripping it off completely.

When the police arrived at the scene, the lawyer was complaining bitterly about the damage to his precious BMW.

"Officer, look what they've done to my Beeeemer!!!", he whined.

"You lawyers are so materialistic, you make me sick!!!", retorted the officer. "You're so worried about your stupid BMW, that you didn't even notice that your left arm was ripped off!"

"Oh no!", replied the lawyer, finally noticing the bloody left shoulder where his arm once was.

"Where's my Rolex????!!!"

THE NEW RESIDENT

A new man is brought into Prison Cell 102.

Already there was a long-time resident who looks 100 years old.

The new man looks at the old-timer in confusion

The old-timer says, "Look at me. I'm old and worn out.

You'd never believe that I used to live the life of Riley.

I spent money daily in Las Vegas, had a boat, four fine cars, the most beautiful women, and I ate in all the best restaurants of France."

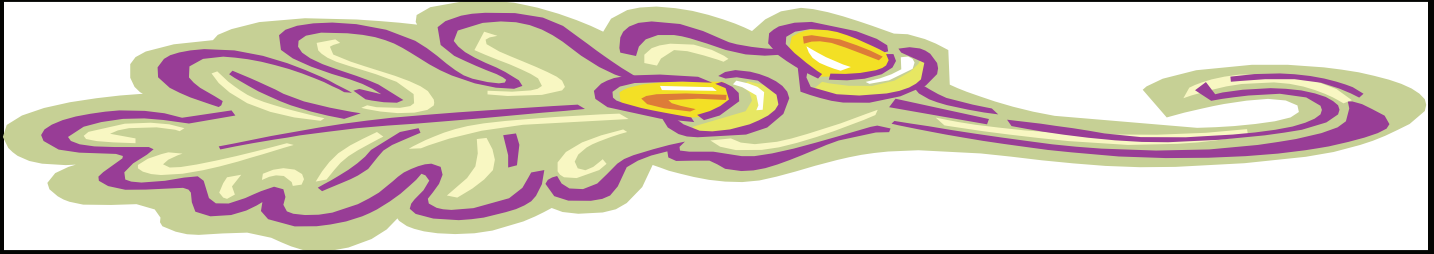
The new man asked, "What ever happened?"

The old timer raised his eyebrows at the new resident and replied,

"One day Riley reported his credit cards missing!"



CROSSROADS EVENTS



FATHER AND DAUGHTER DANCE May 28, 2010

Initiated by Sharonna Houston & Charlene Spellman, (Hosts includes: Rose Finkley, Kenyetta Wren, Andre Martin, Deanna McGhee, Dorothy Wilson, Gwendolyn Swanson, Edna R. Lee)

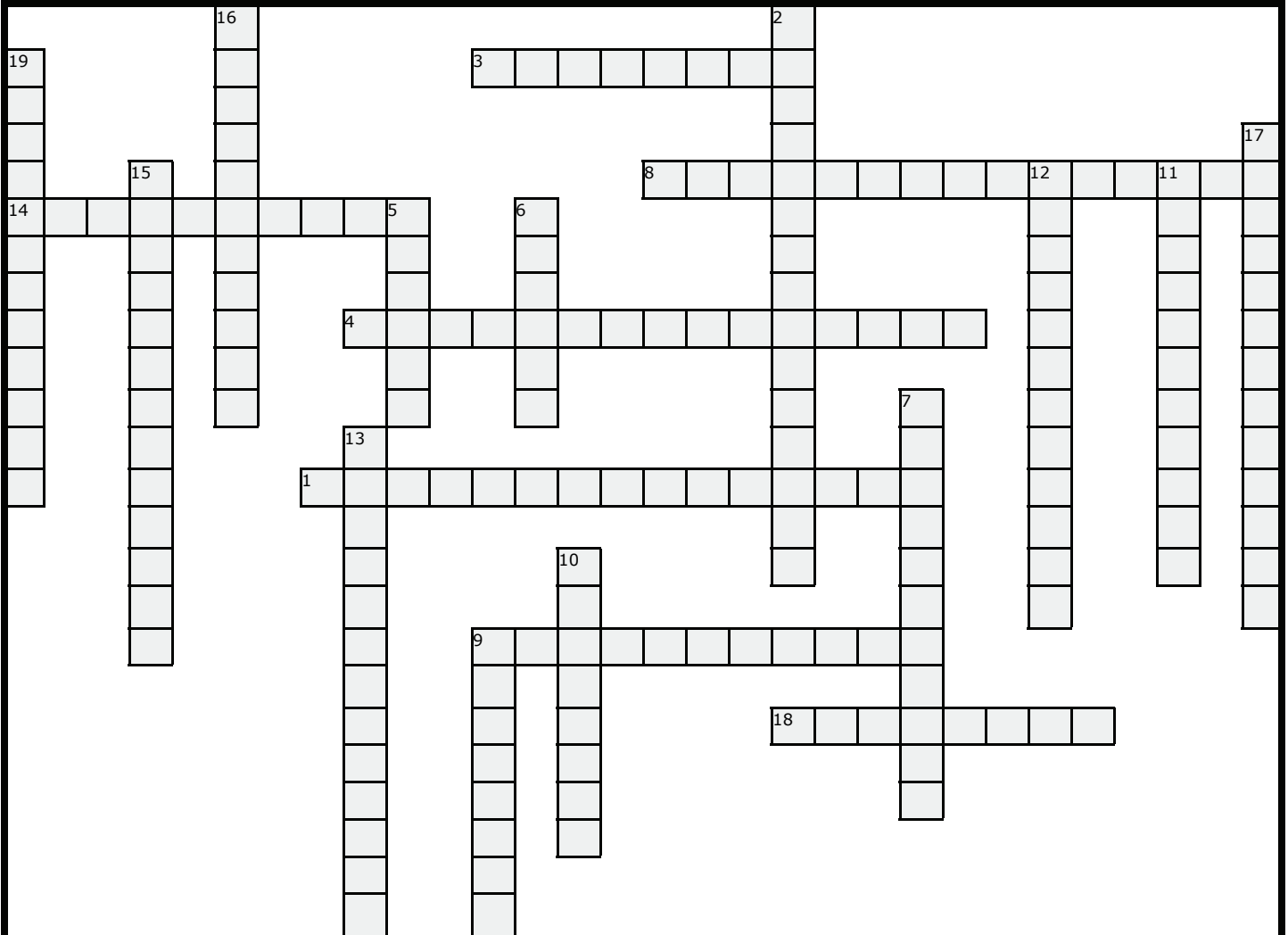


30 DAY JOB RETENTION DINNER June 16, 2010

Initiated by Lois P. Turner, (Hosts includes Joyce Williams, Lolita Washington, Beatrice Adams, Sean Kirkland, Anne Robinson, Charlene Smith, Margaret Bogard, Dorothy Evans, Shirley Cotton, Ervin Robinson, & Edna R. Lee)



NOW WHAT DO YOU REALLY KNOW ABOUT CROSSROADS

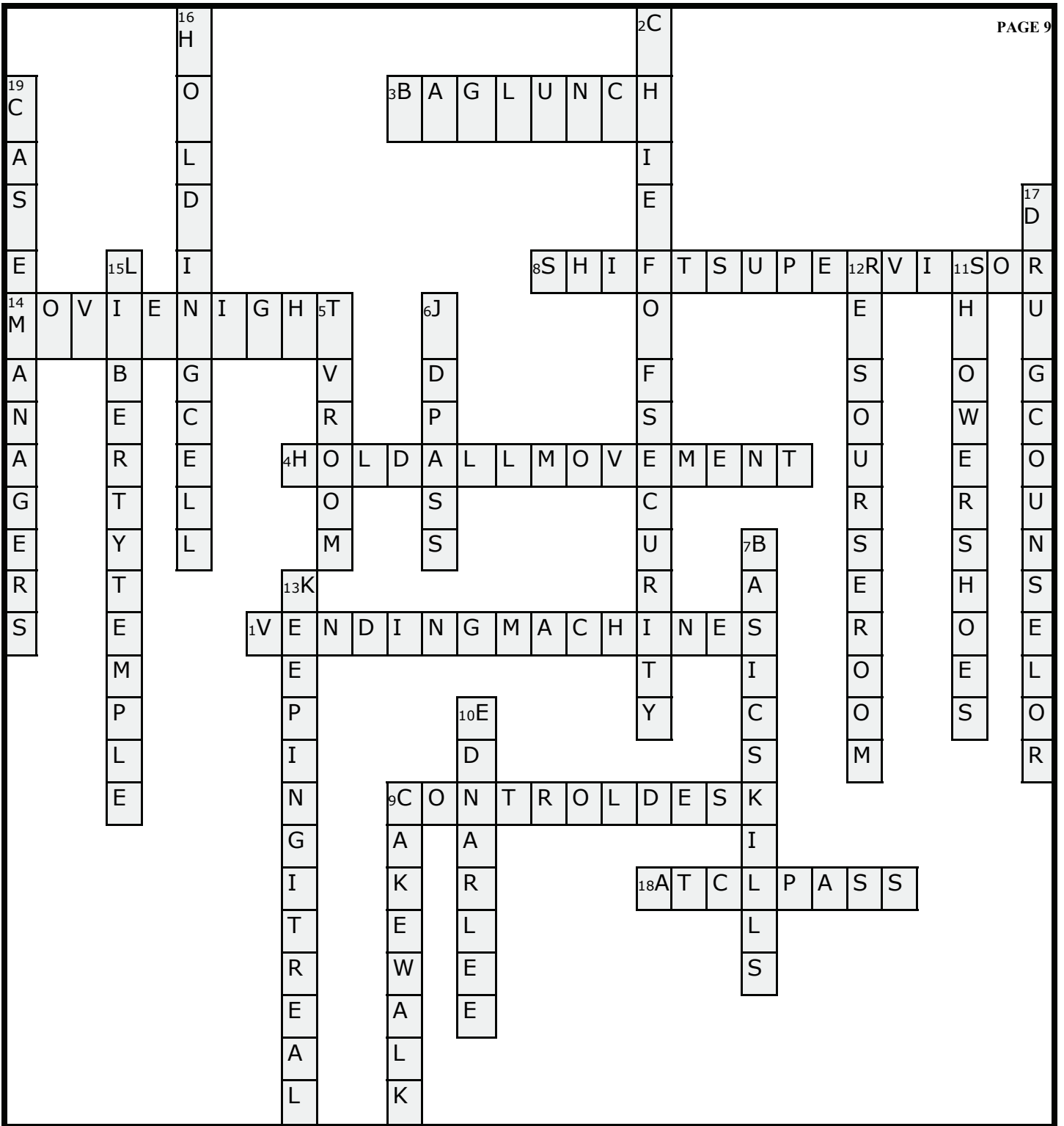


Across:

- 1. YOU BUY SNACKS FROM THIS
- 3. YOU GET THIS WHEN YOU DON'T EAT
- 4. NO MOVING IN THE CENTER
- 8. THIS STAFF MEMBER WEARS A WHITESHIRT
- 9. YOUR PASSES ARE KEPT HERE
- 14. YOU WATCH DVD'S ON THIS NIGHT
- 18. YOU NEED THIS TO LEAVE THE CENTER FOR SEVENTY HOURS

Down:

- 2. THIS STAFF MEMBER IS OVER CRC1'S AND CRC2'S
- 5. YOU CAN TALK TO OTHER RESIDENTS HERE
- 6. YOU NEED THIS TO GO TO AN INTERVIEW
- 7. KEN MCCORD IS OVER THIS
- 10. THE CAO FULL NAME
- 11. YO WHERE THESES WHEN YOU GET OUT OF THE SHOWER
- 12. YOU CAN USE COMPUTERS HERE
- 13. MS JOINTER'S PROGRAM
- 15. THE CHURCH BIBLE STUDY IN THE CENTER
- 9. THIS IS EVENT COST A DOLLAR AND IS HELD IN THE GYM
- 16. YOU ARE PUT HERE BEFORE GOING TO STATESVILE
- 17. MS KNOX
- 19. YOU GO TO THIS PERSON FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS



What You Need to Know !

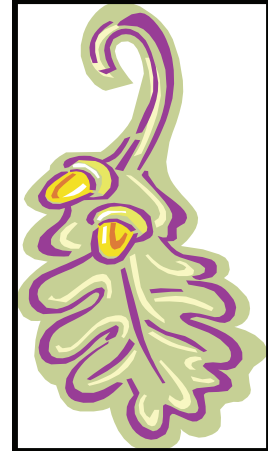
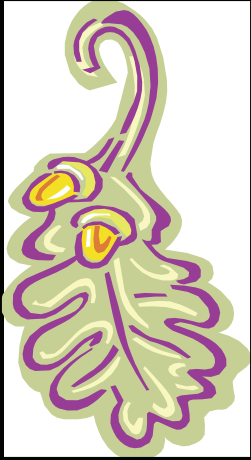
The purpose of the Newsletter is to encourage and acknowledge residents to express their creativeness, ideals, and emotions. There is always room for improvement and development. Please take advantage of this opportunity and submit all ideas to the editor

Thank you all in advance

Ms. Finkley

WHERE IT ALL BEGANNED

Ms. B. Diane Williams
President and Chief Executive Officer
Safer Foundation



Since 1996 Diane Williams has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Safer Foundation, one of the nation's largest not-for-profit providers of employment placement and job readiness training exclusively targeting people with criminal records. Under Ms. Williams's leadership Safer has built a reputation both nationally and internationally as the premier provider of reentry services in the State of Illinois. Recent studies show that Safer's models have been proven to reduce recidivism by up to 58 percent. Through Safer's broad program base which is delivered in prisons and in the community, nearly 10,000 people with criminal records are served each year.

Ms. Williams has served in consulting roles for several United States Federal agencies including the Department of Labor, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services and has served on the National Institute of Corrections Advisory Board. As a member of the American Correctional Association (ACA) Delegate Assembly and Chair of the ACA Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force, Diane has been a voice on issues of importance to the corrections community particularly in the area of community corrections and reentry. Most recently, Ms. Williams was appointed by Governor Quinn to Illinois Human Services Commission. Ms. Williams, in conjunction with members of the Commission, was responsible for putting together a report on the state of human services in Illinois, concentrating on highlighting the needs of traditionally indigent and underemployed populations such as people with criminal records. The Commission is also developing recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly, based on identified needs, which can serve as a guide about how to provide high-quality, high-impact human service programs to Illinois citizens.

Kudos to Ms. Williams and all that she has done over the years for people with criminal records and beyond. Her success should not go unnoticed and nor should her generosity and morality. Life is made up of many obstacles, distractions, and influences, but if people like Ms. Williams didn't have a vision or the belief in second chances, then where would most people affected by these situations be? Many success stories have been written, told, and experienced by offenders who have decided to come to The Safer Foundation and turn their lives around. In some cases, by force and not by choice, this was the only place that they could call home. But as long as you decide to do the time and don't allow the time to do you, then you can also be apart of Ms. Williams's long line of success stories, not to mention, your own.