



Covington DRC Update



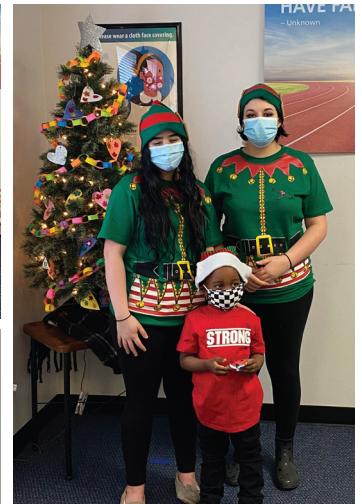
JANUARY 2021

WELCOME

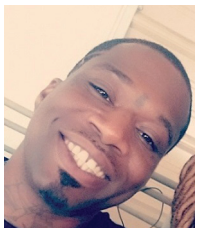


Annette Ellis
Program Manager

Serving the local community is part of our core mission at the Covington DRC, and over the holidays, our DRC and several other Louisiana DRC programs came together to help a local child in need. I recently met a 93-year-old woman who was taking care of her 4-year-old great grandson, who informed me that he had lost all his other family members in the preceding months. When I mentioned the tragic story on our weekly Program Manager call and said our office was planning to collect Christmas gifts for the boy, Jaiden, the Thibodaux and Monroe offices immediately stepped up to help! While the Covington DRC donated a Christmas tree, toys and clothing, Monroe Program Manager Mr. Marc Reimer collected financial donations and clothing, Thibodaux Program Manager Ms. Rebecca Prejeant donated toys, and our Area Manager, Ms. Timithia Hall, donated clothing and shoes, all to help one local child have a merry Christmas. I'm so grateful to work with such a wonderful, caring group of people. If we can make a positive change in one person's life, we can make a positive impact in the community. Thank you for reading our January update, and please stay safe!



SPOTLIGHT ON... JACOB M.



Jacob M. began attending the Covington DRC program in November 2020, where he met caring staff members who, he said, helped him in his time of need. "I would recommend the program to anybody who feels like they want to change and improve aspects of their life," said Jacob. "This program can make you strong at the spots you are the weakest." Jacob said his goals in the program were to stop smoking marijuana and to get his GED, but when he attempted the first time, he struggled to stay clean. However, the most recent drug test he took was clean and he has since maintained his sobriety. During his time at the DRC, Jacob M. has been participating in classes, groups and meetings virtually Monday through Thursday and visits the center every Friday in-person for his drug test. "For me, the DRC taught me about keeping away from certain people and certain environments," said Jacob. "I learned that I have to try to control the situation, not let the situation control me."

DID YOU KNOW?

When given access to job resources and skills training, individuals who are released to community supervision gain the power to find stable work, make a steady income and develop a sense of purpose. To help program participants successfully reintegrate into the community, GEO Reentry Services' **Employment Assistance** program offers a continuum of job development, placement, and retention services that connect individuals with job providers and related resources. Our centers offer access to computer-based career skills programming, run on-site employment readiness group sessions and host regular job and resource fairs, while collaborating with local organizations to facilitate participant job searches and placement. Employment specialists on staff offer career recommendations and work with participants to create step-by-step employment plans. Participants may also be referred to a Workforce Development program, where they gain access to labor market information, learn new strategies for managing personal barriers to employment, and undergo vocational assessments to pinpoint their challenges and affinities. We also assist participants secure proper work identification, attire and transportation, while providing instruction for job searching, resume writing, on-the-job habits, general business etiquette, time management and more.

By Kasia Kijanczuk, M.S., Research Manager for GEO Continuum of Care