



Covington DRC Update



APRIL 2020

WELCOME



Annette Ellis
Program Manager

When program participants are experiencing uncertainty, it can often be the smallest gesture that makes the biggest impact. During the coronavirus pandemic, we at the Covington DRC are doing what we can to show our participants that our thoughts are with them and their families. Thanks to generous donations from the Covington Target store, organized by Target Reverse Logistics Manager Debbie Eiberger and her staff, we've been able to create care packages and drop them off weekly to participants' homes. These packages include toiletries, dry goods, snacks, frozen foods, baby diapers and baby wipes, along with flyers on handwashing and sanitizing properly. Since we are enforcing a no-contact policy, the packages

are being left on participants' porches and doorsteps by staff wearing personal protective equipment and adhering to the CDC-recommended social distancing policy. It is a wonderful feeling to have participants and their family members call us to thank us for showing them that we value them as people and not just a number to be counted. The Covington DRC staff appreciate being part of a company that demonstrates it genuinely cares for the staff and the participants they serve. Thanks for reading our April update, and please stay safe!



SPOTLIGHT ON... CASE MANAGER GUILLERMO PINA, CLIENT SERVICES SPECIALIST TYNESHEIA WILLIAMS AND VAN DRIVER MICHAEL MOORE



Pictured from left to right: Michael Moore, Guillermo Pina, Tynesheia Williams

These three Covington DRC employees have been putting in long hours to ensure that the Target care packages get to participants in a timely manner, driving around to drop off packages at more than 20 homes per week. Each weekly trip takes about three and half hours and covers five different localities, with the furthest about 40 minutes away from the DRC. "Especially right now, this project has been uplifting to all of our spirits," said Pina. "I know it's a time of need and everyone is scared, and I feel good being able to help these families who really need the help." This past weekend Moore, Williams and Lisa Roberts dropped off a special holiday surprise to participants' homes: Easter baskets with candy, stuffed animals and coloring books for the kids. Williams said that being involved in this project has already taught her how to better serve her clients' needs, even if they aren't able to talk face to face. "Right now we're missing [participants] just as they're missing us, so to meet them in their own environments gives us a better vision of their daily life at home and the things they go through," she said. In addition to driving with Pina and Williams to drop off the aid packages, Moore also drives to Target to pick up the donation boxes. Then, everyone in the office works together to make up the packages and personalize them. "It's good to know that in this time of uncertainty, we're able to help these participants and their families, who have already gone through a lot of struggle in their lives. These are extraordinary circumstances, and in such a time, the help is that much more valuable and useful and meaningful for people who could really use it."

DID YOU KNOW?

By Wendy Dressler, GEO Care Research Analyst

Criminal justice researchers have spent decades asking: Why do offenders stop offending? At GEO Reentry we ask: How can we successfully assist citizens to reintegrate back to the community?

Desistance theory attempts to explain both questions, arguing that with the proper tools, an offender can become a reformed person. The “desister” must choose to initiate change and be motivated by something in his or her life. The individual must state that they want to “stop offending,” and they “feel like they can stop offending.” Researchers* identified three types of offenders: 1) Confident, the individual wants to stop offending, feels that they can stop offending, and their supervising officer agrees; 2) Optimistic, the individual wants to stop offending, feels they can, but their supervising officer disagrees; and Pessimistic, the individual does not want to stop offending. Desistance from crime is a gradual process of change and is evident by a reduction in offense severity and frequency. Therefore, it is crucial to reward individuals for every small step they make toward change.

*Burnett, R. (1992). *The Dynamics of Recidivism*, Centre for Criminological Research, University of Oxford, England.

