



## Contents

P. 1  
REENTRY PROGRAMS

P. 2  
THE STUDENT BECOMES  
THE TEACHER

P. 3  
THANK YOU

P. 4  
THANK YOU AWTY



## REENTRY PROGRAMS ARE THE KEY TO SUCCESS



*Santa Maria was honored to have Ms. Sally Yates, Deputy Attorney General of the United States, visit and speak at Bonita House during National Reentry Week.*

During the inaugural National Reentry Week (April 24-30, 2016), the Department of Justice sponsored over 550 events designed to improve reentry outcomes for formerly incarcerated individuals and raise awareness of the importance of successful reentry. Throughout the week and all across the country, the Bureau of Prisons coordinated reentry events ranging from job fairs, to practice interviews, to mentorship programs, to events for children of incarcerated parents. In addition, each U.S. Attorney’s Office held reentry events, including meetings between local reentry stakeholders, reentry court proceedings, employer roundtables or other events designed to raise awareness about the importance of reentry work. Santa Maria was honored to have been selected as one of the few nonprofit organizations across the country to host one of the reentry events with special guests Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, US Attorney, Southern District of Texas, Kenneth Magidson, Texas Senator John Whitmire, and Texas Department of Criminal Justice and University of Texas – Medical Branch officials.

According to the Department of Justice, each year, more than 600,000 individuals return to our neighborhoods after serving time in federal and state prisons, and another 11.4 million individuals cycle through local jails. The number of women who have been incarcerated has been growing steadily over the last two decades. This growth has an impact on an ever increasing number of children since women are often the primary caregivers.

Once released, women face serious obstacles to successful reentry, such as difficulties in obtaining employment, housing, higher education, and even credit due to their criminal record. Many have addictions and mental health disorders that have contributed to their criminal justice involvement, and for which few have received treatment. Trauma from unsafe relationships, human trafficking and intimate partner violence are also unfortunately too common. Ultimately, these barriers can contribute to a cycle of incarceration that makes it difficult for even the most well-intentioned individuals to stay on the right path and stay out of the criminal justice system.

Santa Maria and other family re-entry programs are important because we address these underlying contributors to incarceration, do everything possible to strengthen family ties and keep the family unit together, and through the use of trained peer recovery coaches provide one-on-one mentoring and community support to help these families thrive. Through programs that emphasize rehabilitation and strong family and community engagement, we can help reduce incarceration rates and improve the health and safety of our entire community.

During the reentry event, Santa Maria CEO, Nadine Scamp, LMSW addressed the crowd and dignitaries stating that, “we know that for many women, histories of trauma, substance use and

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

# THE STUDENT BECOMES THE TEACHER

There are many ways to describe Kimberly – Compassionate, Driven, Blessed. When you meet her you immediately get the impression that she is a well adjusted person who has a great life. But something else describes Kimberly. Her past.

By the age of 12, Kimberly was in and out of foster care and found herself living on the streets of Houston. She stated, “I was doing and dealing crack and heroin and when it was all said in done I had a 21 year active addiction.” Kimberly continued, “I gave the Texas Department of Criminal Justice a total of 7 years of my life but that never stopped me from using.” As a 5 time felon, Kimberly never received any treatment while incarcerated which only led to her returning to her addiction when released. In addition to her freedom, Kimberly had to give up her son when she became pregnant at age 17. It wasn’t until 13 years later that the two of them were reunited as mother and son. Years later and pregnant with her second child, she heard about Santa Maria and decided to call. It would be this call that changed her life. “The lady that answered the phone was the very first person to actually care about me in my entire life,” Kimberly reflected. “She made me want to get better.”

Kimberly spent a total of 9 months at Santa Maria where she gave birth to her daughter. “Santa Maria became the family I never had. They accepted me and I felt loved and empowered,” she stated. Upon completion of her program at Santa Maria Kimberly’s life was on track. She had a steady job at a local bank, married, had a place to live and spent numerous hours giving back to the agency that had helped her so much. “I volunteered for 7 years at Santa Maria spending time with the ladies and organizing donation drives to get much needed items.” Her volunteerism turned into a full time job as Kimberly was hired as a Recovery Coach at Santa Maria. Kimberly said, “I love being side by side with the clients. Who knows better than me what they are going through.” She continued, “I was the student now I am the teacher and my heart is full.” As a Recovery Coach, Kimberly provides coaching/mentoring and maintains weekly contact with the client to discuss recovery goals, barriers to recovery, challenges, and meet individual needs. She assists with employment, education, health, housing, social, spiritual and family needs all while sharing her own personal journey through recovery.

Kimberly’s heart is full and so is her plate. She directly coaches 28 women at a time for a 2 year period as well as providing support to more than 80 women at our Jacquelyn location. In addition, she is very involved with support groups and conducts outreach on the streets of Houston trying to get women to understand that there is life after addiction. When asked why she does what she does, Kimberly simply stated, “I’m very blessed to be able to share my life experiences to help others.” She concluded, “the most rewarding part of my job is when the ladies I coach come back later and become a coach themselves. Together, we keep the message of recovery going strong.”

**THANK YOU COACH KIMBERLY. YOUR PERSEVERANCE, COMPASSION AND DRIVE ARE A LESSON TO US ALL.**



*“I love being side by side with the clients. Who knows better than me what they are going through. I was the student now I am the teacher and my heart is full.” — Kimberly*



## BINGO!

Thank you to the great folks from Inesperity for providing a fun-filled evening of Bingo (and cookies) to the women and children at Bonita House.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mental health disorders are a major contributor to their incarceration and recidivism rates. Further, a significant number of incarcerated women have children, magnifying the negative impact of incarceration on the next generation when children are separated from their parents.” Ms. Scamp continued, “Santa Maria provides a full array of services to help women and their families recover from addiction, trauma and incarceration. Our moms want the same things for their children as any other mother – a safe and loving home, a good education, a future filled with hope – and Santa Maria provides a second chance for our families to fulfill these dreams.”

1 UTMB, TDCJ and Santa Maria staff discuss programs for reentry with US Attorney, Southern District of Texas, Kenneth Magidson, and Deputy Attorney Sally Yates.

2 Santa Maria’s CEO, Nadine Scamp, LMSW, Amelia Murphy, Director of Recovery Support Services, Sharon Perkins, Executive Director of Criminal Justice Programs with Senator John Whitmire.



**7TH ANNUAL RUN FOR RECOVERY & COFFEE CARNIVAL** was a tremendous success! Thank you to all of the sponsors, volunteers, and of course the race participants.



A special Thank You to our long time supporter **HOMEAID HOUSTON** along with their partners (listed) for renovating the lobby at our Bonita House location. It turned out great!



Thanks to **KAREN CRISSWELL** and her team of volunteers, The Women’s Recovery Residence and Community Center at Paschall now has a new courtyard complete with an awesome play structure for the kids.



Thank you **WALMART CENTRAL FILL** for your generous donation and volunteer efforts! Santa Maria CEO, Nadine Scamp, LMSW, pictured with Otis Taylor, Walmart Central Fill General Manager.



Santa Maria’s Yolanda Martin, Barbara Page and Nadine Scamp receive a generous grant from Commissioner Daniel Moran on behalf of the **TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION**. The funds will go towards providing treatment, housing and supportive services for homeless female Veterans through our VIEWS program.



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Email: [kkelly@santamariahostel.org](mailto:kkelly@santamariahostel.org)

**A BIG THANK YOU TO THE AWTY  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR  
DONATING MORE THAN 600 PAIRS  
OF SOCKS FOR THE WOMEN OF  
SANTA MARIA.**



## ITEMS NEEDED FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN:

- FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
- DIAPERS
- INFANT FORMULA
- BABY WIPES
- STROLLERS
- CAR SEATS
- INFANT AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
- INFANT BEDDING, INCLUDING RECEIVING BLANKETS
- BASSINETS
- DIAPER BAGS
- BOTTLES