



# The Commissioner

The newsletter of the Kansas City  
Metropolitan Crime Commission

March, 2016

Volume 5, Issue 1

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Rick Armstrong

Dear Crime Commission Board Members and Members of our Program Boards:

Thank you for your warm welcome to the Crime Commission. As my three-month anniversary approaches, it is hard to imagine a better transition experience. (Special thank you to Rick Easley and Terry Kilroy for their help and guidance.) Since arriving it has been my focus to make every effort to get to know each Crime Commission board member and employee on a personal level to help guide my efforts to best serve our organization. Thankfully you have accommodated by taking your valuable time to meet for coffee and lunch and share your passion and vision for the future of the Crime Commission.

Our fiscal year concluded in February and all indicators point to a great 2015 for the Crime Commission and our core programs. We expect to provide specific financial details by the end of March to the board. I wish to thank our crime commission staff, program directors and employees for their dedicated work effort. Our organization is successful because of their team effort in combination with the help of our board members whom unselfishly give of their time and talents.

Thank you to our law enforcement partners and city leaders who have contributed to support the Crime

**(Continued on page 2)**



**(Continued from page 1)**

Commission historically and since my arrival. Special thanks to KCMO Chief Daryl Forte and Mayor Sly James and KCK Chief Terry Zeigler and Mayor/CEO Mark Holland for their support at our January and February board meetings.

This is an exciting time for the Crime Commission as the strategic planning process is well underway. With the guidance of the Crime Commission Board, Executive Committee and Chair Terry Kilroy, the goal of the strategic planning process is to shape plans for action to support our belief that every person deserves a safe community. The strategic plan will help create the goals and action plans to guide the Crime Commission and our core programs as we help power a safer Kansas City Metropolitan area. Our current timeline calls for the strategic planning committee to make a presentation of their recommendations to the Crime Commission Board at our April 18<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Thank you again for your kind welcome, and equally important, your energy, passion and commitment to help the Crime Commission continue to grow in our capacity to help keep our community safe.

Rick Armstrong

***Editor's Note:** For those of you who have not yet had a chance to become acquainted with our "new" president, we would like to pass along a little information about Rick's experience that made him the successful candidate to head our organization.*

*Rick Armstrong retired from the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department as Police Chief and became chief of the newly formed Kansas City, Kansas School District Police Department before accepting the position of President of the Crime Commission. He began his service to the Crime Commission at the first of the year after the retirement of Rick Easley. Rick Armstrong served with the KCKPD for 35 years until retiring in 2014.*

*A lifelong resident of Kansas City, Kansas, he is a graduate of J.C. Harmon High School. Armstrong, 55, holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from K.U. and a B.A. in Business Administration and Management from Mid America Nazarene University. He was named Alumnus of the Year for Mid America Nazarene in 2013. He also has served as an adjunct professor at the Kansas City, Kansas Community College since 1991. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI Law Enforcement Leadership School.*

*Rick began his police career as a patrolman and worked his way up through the ranks to become chief. Along the way, through a competitive testing process, he became the youngest officer to attain the rank of captain. During his term as chief he oversaw the construction and implementation of a new patrol division station and many other improvements for the department.*

*He is active with the Metropolitan Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, the Kansas Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, has served on the board of the Wyandotte County United Way, MCSP and many other civic and professional organizations. He and his wife of 28 years, Allison, have chaired the Sunflower House Charity Gala. Sunflower House provides services, including treatment, counseling and shelter for child victims of sexual assault.*



## Second Chance

RISK REDUCTION CENTER

By  
Ron Smith, Dir., SCP

Instead of the usual facts and figures recitations so common with organizational newsletters we'd like to share just a few items from the past quarter of particular interest to us, as a staff, and hopefully to all of you who support the Crime Commission and its programs.

**Meet a Second Chance Program Advisory Board Member** – Dr. Karen P. Boyd, PhD, MBA, joined the Second Chance Program's Advisory Board in April of 2015. Dr. Boyd presently serves as the Vice President of Organizational Performance with the United Way of Greater Kansas City. She brings to the SC board an extensive community leadership and professional business management background, as well as considerable experience in the non-profit sector.

In addition to SC, she has received many board appointments with organizations and neighborhood associations throughout the KC area. For over 30 years, she has worked diligently to link health, economic and education resources with under-served and disenfranchised populations.

Dr. Boyd is a Chicago native, an avid gardener and gourmet cook. Actually, Dr. Boyd has an outstanding talent as a professional gourmet baker and the SC staff can testify to the excellent cakes, pies, and other assorted delicious deserts prepared by her. Most recently, for an SC team celebration of Cameron Hardy's birthday, she provided a beautiful Triple Chocolate Mousse Cake with Raspberry Mousse filling. Photographic examples of Dr. Boyd's baking skills can be viewed at [www.PatisseriePatrice.com](http://www.PatisseriePatrice.com). We're very appreciative of Dr. Boyd's service to the Second Chance Board, her passion for reentry and commitment to improving the quality of life for all Greater KC residents.



Dr. Karen Boyd

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

**Dianne’s Story** – This past January, local news anchor John Holt, of WDAF-TV FOX 4 News, shared the story of Dianne Myers and her journey from prison to freedom, spotlighting the reentry assistance she’s receiving from Second Chance. Dianne went to prison at age 16 and came out at 34. She spent 17 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections after she and her then-boyfriend shot and killed her step-grandfather outside Hannibal, MO.



Dianne Myers

Myers says that she had endured years of sexual abuse from him and that despite people knowing about it, “nothing was done.” Dianne admits to her deep regret for the crime and is now trying to put her life together with the help of her case manager, Brittany Peterson, as well as support from the entire SC team. Dianne says that after being released from prison she was just overwhelmed by the free world and didn’t know what to do. She was unemployed and near homeless and then someone suggested she seek help from Second Chance. Now, Dianne is gainfully employed at a job she likes and will soon be getting her own apartment. More importantly she’s adjusting to her new life and is thankful for the opportunity provided by Second Chance in helping her become a self-supporting free woman.

Fox 4 News anchor John Holt, who wrote and aired the story, admits to being impressed with the amazing transitional progress Dianne has made through her relationship with Second Chance. Dianne says that seeking out Second Chance was one of her better decisions and she can’t thank Second Chance enough for all of their help.

**“Famous Amos”** – At 55 years of age, Amos Pearcill has led a marginal life which resulted in him spending several years in and out of prison. His last “bit” found him at the Cameron Correctional Facility serving two years for a drug related offense. It was there that Amos got in touch with his Christian faith and decided to

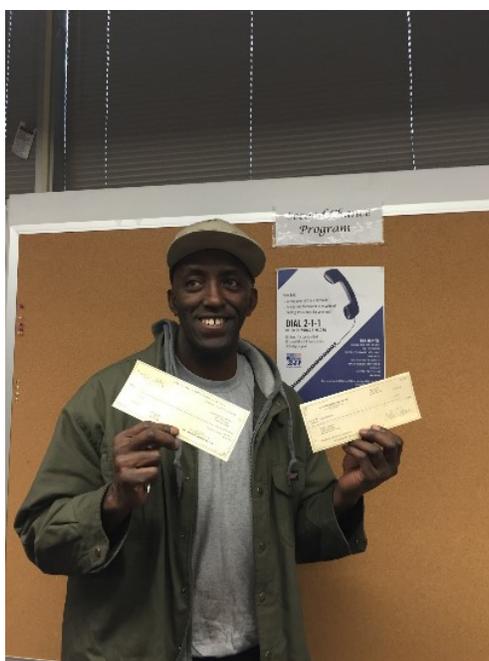
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(Continued from page 4)

change his life for the better. He began speaking to younger inmates as a spiritual and life mentor and acquired the nickname of “Famous Amos.” However, he was unsure of how he would make the transition himself once released from prison.

He became aware of Second Chance during a prison outreach at Cameron by Reentry and Resource Specialists Brittany Peterson and Addie Vobach. Immediately upon release he asked his parole officer for a SC referral and was soon introduced to Reentry Specialist, Cameron Hardy. With Cameron’s assistance, Amos quickly found employment and asked to have a photo taken of himself proudly holding his first paycheck in a long time. Amos also credits Cameron with encouraging and helping him reconnect as a father to his adult children and especially a young son who is in foster care.



“Famous” Amos Pearcill and his first paycheck.

Amos says he’s finally on the right track and doing well. He offers these words, “To young men re-entering society from prison, it’s important to find a support group. I highly recommend the Second Chance Program because they build off of the goals of the ex-felon. They want you to succeed and provide one on one counseling. Personal ideas are not looked down upon. Second Chance endorses and encourages teamwork and utilizes workshops and classes to assist the ex-offender. A good spring forward starts with sound footing and Second Chance offers such support.”

**Meet SC Mascot “Remy”** – Remy is a 4 month old female mixed breed born on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2015, and is the newest addition to the Second Chance team. Addie Vobach, SC staffer, while looking for community volunteer opportunities, discovered Remy at the Unleashed Pet Rescue in Mission, Kansas. Normally, Unleashed

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

Pet Rescue attempts to place pets in good homes through foster care and adoption. But, regrettably, Remy (a runt), her mom, and litter mates had not generated much interest and were most likely awaiting a fate of euthanasia. Addie says she couldn't help but personally take Remy home as a foster pup and subsequently adopt her.

Eventually, with a stay from "death row," the rest of Remy's birth family was placed in separate foster homes. Addie describes Remy as "spunky and sweet." The SC staff attempted last year to acquire a mascot through the Missouri Department of Corrections Puppy for Parole Program (P4P) but a facility and kennel was not close to the KC Metro Area. Thanks to Addie, we now look forward to Remy's visits one day a week. When visiting the Second Chance office, Remy is the center of attraction and loads of fun for clients and staff.



Remy, the new mascot of the Second Chance Program has stolen the hearts of staff and guests.

**Substance Abuse and Reentry** - Despite increasing evidence that addiction is a treatable disease of the brain, most individuals do not receive adequate treatment. This is frequently the case with many Second Chance Program (SCP) clients. Involvement in the criminal justice system often results from illegal drug-seeking behavior and/or participation in illegal trafficking activities.

The Missouri Department of Corrections estimates that annually 53% of all new prison admissions have convictions for drug and alcohol offenses and 59% of those returning to prison are for drug offenses. Also, 42% of DWI prison admissions have five or more DWI convictions. Alarmingly, 92% of those returning to prison required some degree of substance abuse treatment. Most SC clients acknowledge some history of substance abuse and nearly 75% of them require some degree of treatment as a condition of supervision.

Although SCP is not a licensed Addiction Recovery (AR) provider, it's important that our case management staff be aware of and reinforce treatment plans to ensure the best chance of success for our clients. To that end, in February, the entire SCP specialist staff attended a four-day workshop and received certification in "Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training." The training was provided by the University of Oklahoma Southwest Prevention Center and ACT Missouri. It's the goal of Second Chance to provide the highest quality of reentry services that will guide our clients towards enduring sobriety and a crime free productive life.



## SAFE QUARTERLY REPORT

By Sonny Wilson, Executive Director

In mid-December a wrap-up meeting was held to review financial results of the 2015 Guns N Hoses charity boxing event. This year's event was a success from the number of patrons who attended, 1300-1500, to the net revenue received, \$33,000. The event next year will again be held in the Grand Ballroom of Bartle Hall but will be held in late October (10-21-2016) rather than the usual date in November.

In late December just prior to the Christmas holiday, SAFE delivered presents to the family of fallen firefighter John Mesh. An anonymous benefactor and SAFE supporter purchased the gifts and asked SAFE to deliver them with no mention of any name.

On January 6, 2016, SAFE received good news in the form of a new beer sponsor for our golf tournament and possibly for the Guns N Hoses program as well. Gordon Biersch is brewing a new beer called "Heroes Ale" in honor of all Public Safety Officers and will provide this product for the golf tournament in May.

On January 11, 2016, SAFE, with the assistance of Dave Bova, a Lawrence, Kansas firefighter, delivered a Line of Duty Death survivor benefit to the family of fallen Lawrence Firefighter, Robert Smith. Robert was a Lawrence-Douglas County EMT who died in the line of duty (LODD) on March 11, 2011. His death was not determined to be in the line of duty until late December 2015.



Robert Smith, fallen Lawrence/Douglas County, Kansas Fire Department EMT

With the inclusion of Robert Smith, SAFE has now paid initial and holiday benefits totaling \$261,900 to families of 18 fallen Public Safety Officers since the inception of the SAFE program on October 30, 2003.

In early February 2016 the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Policeman's Ball, sponsored by Fraternal Order of Police Lodge # 50 from Lee's Summit, and was held in Kansas City. This formal affair was attended by approximately 650-700 persons and has over the last four years given the SAFE program in excess of \$12,000 per year.

And finally in late February, SAFE representatives met with and interviewed two prospective new Board Members. Both will be considered for appointment or election to the Board upon positions becoming available.



## MCSP is “Helping Our Community”

By Barry Mayer, KCMCC Vice President

In this past quarter, MCSP has been successful in adding a new worksite, the Raytown Emergency Assistance Program-REAP, 9300 E. 75<sup>th</sup> Street. REAP is supported by United Way, the city of Raytown, civic and school organizations, businesses, churches, and many individuals who give time, resources, and finances. REAP helps families in the Raytown community who are struggling to make ends meet. Whether it’s the single mom trying to support her young children on her minimum wage job; the grandmother raising two teenage sons on solely her Social Security pension; or the man who injured himself at work, losing insurance and an income without a way to pay rent and utilities.

It’s not necessarily unusual for MCSP to add a new worksite but this one is special to us. Raytown Courts have been a faithful utilizer of the community service program for many years and one of our caseworkers attends weekly night court sessions for them. However, we have always had difficulty finding a suitable Raytown worksite. Many thanks go out to MCSP Supervisor Wendy Steinhaus who successfully negotiated with REAP. The worksite is up and running with MCSP clients from Raytown and other city/county jurisdictions. REAP could not be more grateful.



The Raytown Emergency Assistance Program – REAP – is a place for hope and help for the city’s needy.

At right, volunteers package food and toys for underprivileged families during REAP’s Christmas initiative.



(Continued on page 9)



**(Continued from page 8)**

MCSP has also added a new worksite on the Kansas side. The City of Prairie Village and the Prairie Village Police Department have established a worksite for neighborhood and parks clean-up assistance. We look forward this year to keeping that worksite's client numbers high and Prairie Village clean.



Also, we are assisting the Independence Police Department with a special project. They contacted MCSP and requested assistance painting the city jail. The project has just begun with clients helping with scraping and cleaning before the painting fun begins.



Independence Police get help "sprucing" up their jail.

MCSP staff again would like to extend our appreciation to our board members for all their support. We look forward to 2016 being one of our most productive years supporting the needs of the courts/prosecutors, police, neighborhoods, non-profits, local government service departments, faith-based organizations and, of course, our clients who perform the community service work.



## 10 YEARS ON THE LAM ENDS THANKS TO A CRIME STOPPERS TIP

By Detective Kevin Boehm, Crime Stoppers Coordinator

On occasion justice takes its time. So it was for a fugitive in the Kansas City area as she had been on the run for over 10 years. In 2005 a felony parole violation was issued for Lametric Stallings by the State of Kansas for sale of narcotics and she had evaded capture since. However, that all changed with a call to the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline. Quality, detailed information was received about the suspect's whereabouts and that she was living in an apartment under an alias.

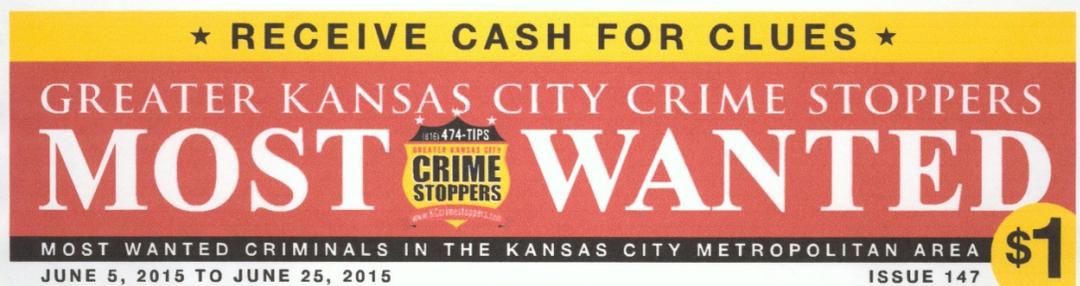
The Greater KC Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline publishes the Kansas City Most Wanted Newspaper and began featuring the suspect in issue #51, the paper is now in its 160<sup>th</sup> issue! Likewise, periodic TV segments shown by our local TV partners had highlighted the suspect and warrant yet no results had been realized until this tip led Kansas Department of Corrections agents to the Kansas City address where the suspect was located and arrested.

The arresting agent has been involved with fugitive apprehension for years and remembers this suspect due to the unusual length of time she was on the loose. A big "shout out" to the tipster and the agents for a job well done and 10 years in the making!



Lametric Stallings, back behind Kansas Department of Corrections bars after 10 years on the run, thanks to a Crime Stoppers tip!

Our *Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers Most Wanted* newspaper continues to be an important tool for area law enforcement. Tips to Crime Stoppers about listed fugitives have resulted in the arrests of 472 fugitive felons since its inception in June, 2007. That's an average of four wanted fugitives in each issue. The newspaper is now sold in about 150 area retail locations, including most Quik Trips. It also has about 40 paid subscribers by mail, including two inmates of prisons! Some area police departments and cities have begun buying subscriptions of multiple copies that they hand out in their police and/or court buildings. We appreciate that support!



(Continued on page 11)



(Continued from page 10)

In other Crime Stoppers news, at the March Crime Stoppers board meeting Margaret Jones presented an award certificate to our program coordinator, Detective Kevin Boehm. The certificates were awarded to the members of the board of Crime Stoppers USA by the 9/11 Commission of the InterPort Police for the Crime Stoppers organization's "Distinguished Organizational Achievement Contributing to the Protection of Country and the Global Community."

The award particularly cited CSUSA's activity in taking tips on terrorism and suspicious activity. The awards were originally presented at the 2015 International Association of Chiefs of Police in Chicago on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Margaret made the presentation to Kevin on behalf of CSUSA.



Kevin Boehm accepts his 9/11 Commission certificate from Margaret Jones.

Margaret also announced to the board that the 2016 Midwest Crime Stoppers Training Conference would be held October 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> in Iola, Kansas. A variety of important topics will be discussed and board members were urged to consider attending. The conference will be hosted jointly by the Kansas Crime Stoppers Association and the Allen County, Kansas Crime Stoppers program. She also urged the Crime Stoppers board to consider hosting a future conference.



## First Employee of the Month Chosen

Our new Crime Commission President, Rick Armstrong (or “New Rick” as he is often referred to in the office) recently instituted a way for employees to recognize the effort, teamwork, or leadership of their peers.

The “Employee of the Month” award is given to a Crime Commission worker based on a vote of fellow employees. The ‘ballots’ require the voter to list their reasons why they are nominating the person and how, in particular, that employee has impacted the voter.

In the first election in late February for the March Employee of the Month Award, Metropolitan Community Service Worksite Coordinator, Rachel Fischer, was selected to receive the honor and a Starbucks gift card. The employees voting for her mentioned the many hats she wears including out-of-area case worker and handling the MCSP weekly deposit and she does all this as a part-time worker. She is an eleven year veteran of the Crime Commission.

“It was an honor. I was really surprised and flattered, especially since it came from co-workers,” she said.

Rachel is also well known around the office for her good natured humor, practical jokes and spirit of teamwork.

If there is laughter in the office, it’s a good bet the Rachel is responsible!

She has been recognized before for her work for the Commission. In 2014 she was given the President’s Award, an annual recognition for an outstanding employee.

Congratulations to Rachel on being the debut recipient of this award.



Rachel Fischer