



C.O.N.N.E.C.T.

Community Resource Specialists

"It's Your Community, Own It!"

Phone 865-851-8005/865-851-8011

Ministries

2340 Magnolia Avenue

Knoxville, TN 37917

www.connectministries.net

February 9, 2017

Lori Gillen, Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Entrepreneurial Development
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW
Washington, DC. 20416

Dear Ms. Gillen,

This letter acknowledges C.O.N.N.E.C.T. Ministries support for the Knoxville Area Urban League's Aspire Challenge grant proposal to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). We are a 501©3 nonprofit tax exempt organization located at 2340 E. Magnolia Avenue in Knoxville, Tennessee. We serve formerly incarcerated men and women who are re-entering our community. Due to having criminal records, our clients have a difficult time trying to find jobs, housing and money to start a business.

C.O.N.N.E.C.T. Ministries has an established prison/jail re-entry program called Re-Entry – "The Next Steps" that serves at risk men and women seeking a second chance. If funds are awarded to the Urban League, we pledge our intent to assist with recruiting, screening, providing post training follow-up, in addition to the wrap-around services that we offer our clients. Our collaboration with the Urban League adds value to our work and it helps us to achieve our mission. Please visit our website to learn more about C.O.N.N.E.C.T. Ministries (www.connectministries.net).

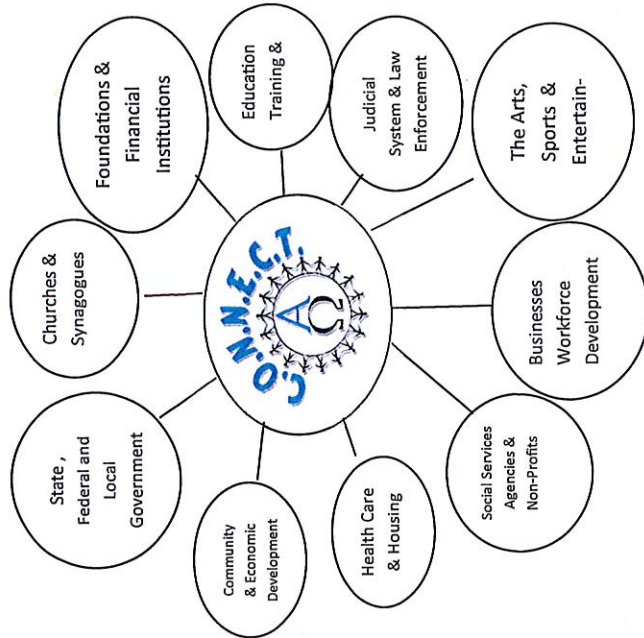
Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 865.851.8005.

Sincerely,

Keira Wyatt
Executive Director

"We are Leading People to Christ, Connecting People to People, People to Resources Doing God's Work His Way."

C.O.N.N.E.C.T. Cities of Refuge Referral Networks Affiliates Include



**"INVEST IN OUR GREATEST
COMMUNITY RESOURCE!
"OUR CITIZENS"**

"Help us to Help Those Who Need Help!"

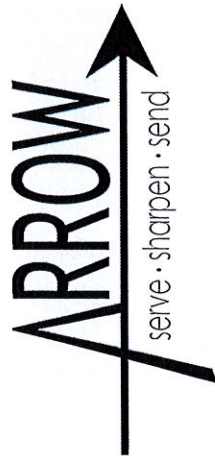
- ◆ Support Our Programs
- ◆ Build An Individuals Capacity To Thrive and Survive!
- ◆ Assist Network Affiliates

Thank You For Your Tax Deductible Gifts
CONNECT is a 501 (c) (3) Non-profit Organization
Make Checks Payable to **CONNECT Ministries**

P.O. Box 6615
Knoxville, TN 37914



Pay Pal www.connectministries.net



<http://www.arrowknoxville.com>

Transitional Program for High School Seniors

"Serve, Sharpen, Send"

- Arrow exists to serve young men as they transition from their senior year in high school to either college, the military or the workforce.

THE BURLINGTON FOOD PANTRY

Located at Greater Warner A.M.E. Zion Church

3800 Martin Luther King Avenue

Phone: 865-524-8040

3rd and 4th Thursdays @ 4:00 p.m.



C.O.N.N.E.C.T. MINISTRIES

**501 (c) (3)-Does not discriminate based
on religious beliefs, sex, creed, ethnicity, race,
sexual orientation or disabilities.**



2340 E. Magnolia Avenue

P.O. Box 6615

Knoxville, TN 37914

Phone: 865-851-8005

Fax: 865-851-8011

www.connectministries.net

Office Hours: M-TR 9:00 am -2:30 pm or by
appointment

CONNECT

Community

Organizations

Networking

Neighborhoods

Encouraging

Change

Together



Ministries

**Our Mission : "To Honor God and Build Our
Community One Person at A Time Using
Biblical Principals, Service, Education,
and Community Resources."**

**"Leading People to Christ, Connecting People to
People; People to Resources, Doing God's Work God's
Way."**

- ◆ We Are a "Hands-On" Community Networking Resource Center. We Provide In-House Services, Information, "Gap Programs" & Services Referrals for Individuals Who Need Help Finding Help.
- ◆ Our Approach Is Holistic.-Mind, Body and Spirit
- ◆ We Encourage Cooperation, Accountability, And Purpose In The Community between Citizens and Service Providers To Enhance The Quality of Life Of The People We Serve.

"Committed to Service"

SERVING KNOX COUNTY SINCE 2006

Re-Entry - "The Next Steps" & The City of Knoxville's Second Chances Program



Prison/Jail Re-entry Program for At-Risk Men, Women and Youth Seeking a Second Chance-Education, Training and Wrap-Around Services



www.theurbancowboybov.org

"The Urban Cowboy Restoration Program"

"Save Our Sons Initiative"

Prison/Jail Reentry Program for Men 18 years and older

- ◆ Job readiness
- ◆ Financial Literacy
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Employment /Entrepreneurial Innovation
- ◆ Mentoring
- ◆ Education



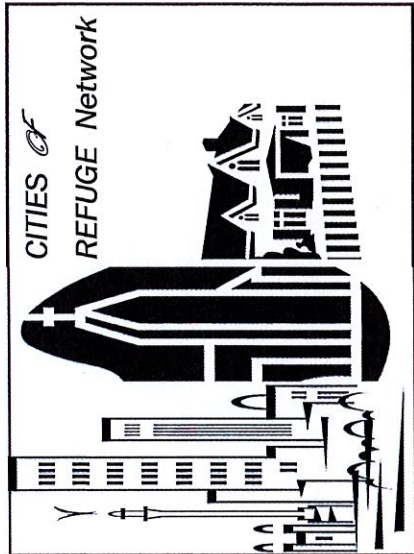
F.I.R.M. Program

"Faith Based Comprehensive Family Program
Family *Intervention* Restoration*
Mentoring

The Round Table A weekly Bible Study



Get Connected



Get Plugged In

Exceptional - Churches, Government Agencies Organizations, Businesses, Individuals and Employers who are part of a premiere referral network system willing to walk-along- side men, women, youth and children who have fallen on hard times and need the love and support of people who believe in restoration, forgiveness and "second chances." Invest in Cooperative Scholarships, Community Support, Operations and Micro Grants "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant." Matt.23:11

Community Resource Training Program



This affordable apprenticeship/training referral program specifically designed to help members of the community who have low to moderate incomes become gainfully employed. The goal is to develop valuable skills that will increase opportunities for sustainable income in high demand occupations that do not require a college degree.



Project Fresh Start

Program for @ Risk Youth 14—24 years of age

- ◆ Education(Emphasis on S.T.E..M and Writing)
- ◆ Employment and Job Readiness Training
- ◆ Juvenile Diversion
- ◆ Service Projects
- ◆ Assessments
- ◆ Life Skills /Coaching/Mentoring/



CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Homeless Citizens Reentry Initiative (HCRI)



CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Services and Referrals to Individuals and Families with Housing Barriers

*This program is funded in part by the City of Knoxville

The Charles Moore Music Scholarship

This fund provides musical scholarships for students ages 8-21 years of age. These students are sponsored annually to the credentialed institution and or private instructor of their choice.



February 9, 2017

Lori Gillen, Deputy Associate Administrator
Office of Entrepreneurial Development
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Re: Letter of Intent

Dear Ms. Gillen,

I am pleased to submit this Letter of Intent to assist the Knoxville Area Urban League with recruiting, screening and post training follow-up services for non-violent felons trying to launch a new business or growing an existing business. As a small business owner with 40 years of experience, I have been invited to be a guest speaker for participants in the Urban League's CO.STARTERS Entrepreneurship Training Program. I have met and mentored several past participants that have completed the program. I can attest to the value and quality of this program.

CO.STARTERS is a great fit for African American men and women repeatedly experience incarceration because no one will give them a job. Without a job and money, these offenders revert back to the only thing they know –committing crimes to survive. Due to my concern about the high recidivism rate for minorities, especially young black males, I established Community Setup, a grassroots nonprofit to help teach and educate ex-offenders on how to stay out of jail. I work with judges, law enforcement, community residents and community organizations to provide social services to support formerly incarcerated individuals. I am passionate about keeping minorities out of jail and reducing our recidivism rate.

I applaud SBA for creating entrepreneurial opportunities through the Aspire Challenge competition. I can assure you that this program is a necessity and perhaps the only chance formerly incarcerated individuals will have to generate income to become financially stable. The Knoxville Area Urban League has the capability and capacity to teach ex-offenders how to start a business. They also have a loan program that provides capital for new businesses. Community StepUp stands ready, willing and able to recruit, screen and deliver direct support services to help make this program successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Kendrick, DVM". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joseph Kendrick, DVM
Executive Director



KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY STEP UP

Do You Have an Incarcerated Relative, Friend, or Loved One?
Do You Need a Support System to Keep Your Relative, Friend, or
Loved One From Going, or Returning to Prison?

THEN COME AND JOIN US!

We meet the 1st Tuesday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at
The Beck Cultural Exchange Center, 1927 Dandridge Ave, Knoxville, TN 37915

OUR MISSION:

To **Stop** The
Disproportionate
Large Number Of
African-Americans
And Disadvantaged
Persons Who Are
Being Recycled In
The Prison System

WE HELP BY:

Identifying Offenders
and Ex-Offenders Who
Need Help In Finding:

- * Jobs
- * Housing
- * GED
- * Paying Fines

OUR GOAL:

To Connect
Ex-Offenders To
Established
Organizations Offering
The Needed Services
That Will Provide The
Support And Resources
To Prevent Them From
Re-entry Into
The Prison System

CSU OFFICERS

Executive Director: Joseph Kendrick

Correspondent Secretary: Joyce Drew

Treasurer: Fredrick Downs

Secretary: Mary Smith

Membership for Community Step Up is only a one-time fee of \$5.00

For More Info Contact: Mary Smith at 865-237-6936

Joyce Drew at 865-521-8334

P.O. BOX 6189 , Knoxville, TN 37914

email: csuknox@yahoo.com

**Community Step Up (CSU): Outline of Master Plan to Stop the Recidivism
of African Americans in our Jails and Prisons**

STEP I – Formation of an education committee. This committee's responsibility is to work with schools and churches to identify at-risk students who need help in maximizing their academic potential. It is reported that students who cannot read by the end of the third grade have a fifty-percent (50%) chance of being incarcerated.

STEP II - Identify every African American inmate (and others who inquire) who is incarcerated in designated jails/prisons. This group's responsibility will be to work with existing prison ministries in encouraging inmates to participate in prison programs that will aid them in becoming a productive citizen when released. We have a questionnaire where each person can inform us of his /her needs when they are released.

STEP III – Form a working partnership with all current groups who work with troubled youth or have prison and post-prison ministries. Our goal is to develop a registry of all ministries in the Knoxville area that aim to aid felons and their families. We then can refer individuals and their families for the help they need

STEP IV – Providing Jobs – The Biggest Challenge. We need to identify and target employers who are willing to give released inmates a second chance. We must develop a way to train former inmates on how to dress and prepare for an interview for a particular job. Organizations already exist who do this. We need a listing of individuals and churches who can offer temporary work until a permanent job is found.

STEP V – Get politicians involved to review laws and rules that make it difficult for former felons to succeed. Perhaps we should question privatization of any penal system (for profit). Such a system decreases any incentive to stop the "pipeline of African Americans" and other disadvantaged persons to prison.

STEP VI – Legal Help – We need to interest the legal profession in what we are doing. We need law students or lawyers who may be willing to offer *pro bono* assistance. We plan to conduct forums on jury duty, attending sentencing hearings, etc. We need to educate our young people, especially our young Black men, on what to do and say when confronted by the police.

STEP VII – Establish a *ways and means* committee – This group will ensure all financial matters and documents of CSU meet the nonprofit and IRS rules and regulations.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! Please consider joining our Grass Roots Movement!!

Executive Committee

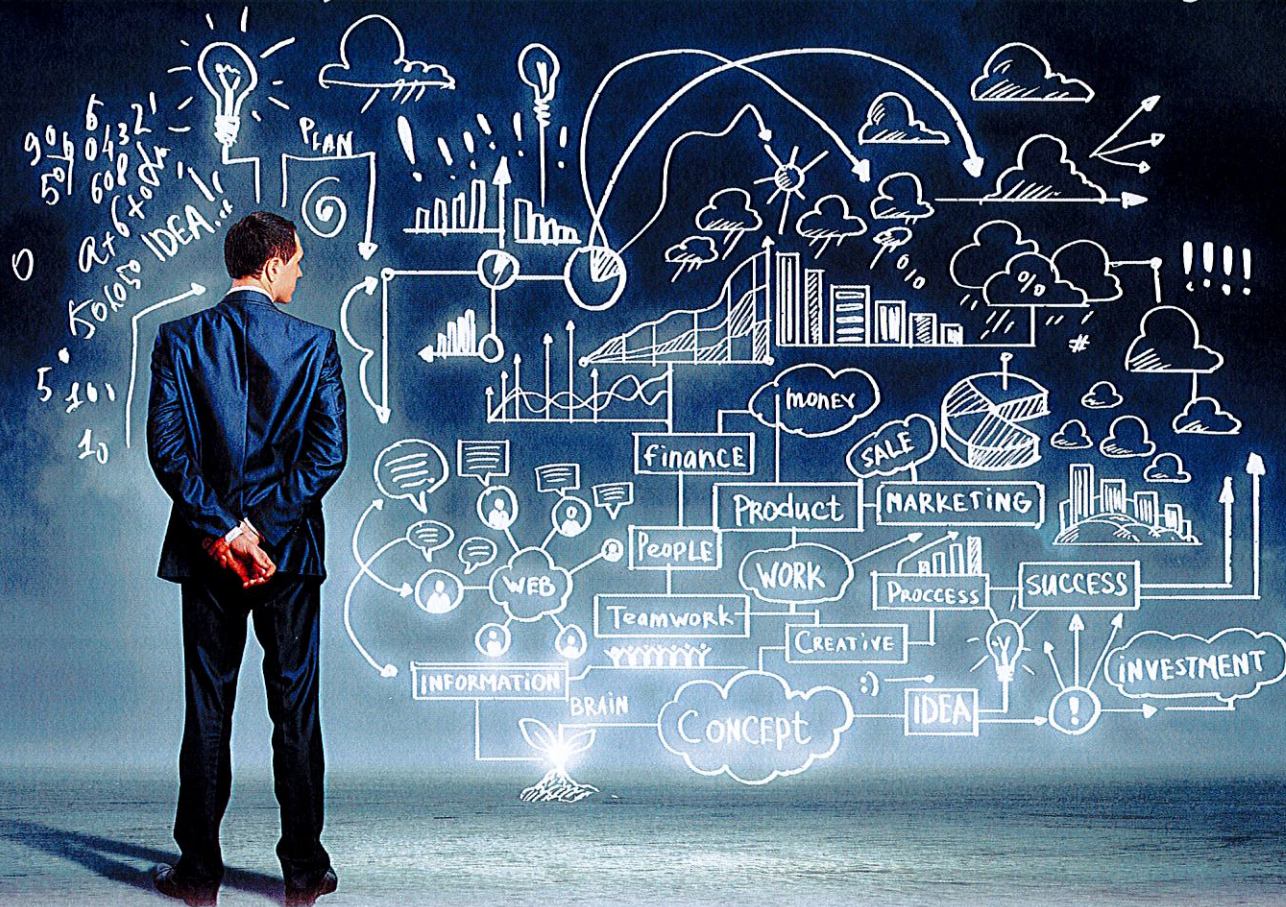
Community Step Up

Joe Handcock
Chair person

KNOXVILLE BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK

Solution Sessions

We asked and you told us. We listened and now we're delivering.



Are you in business? Thinking about starting one?
Please join us for our next solutions strategy sessions.

HOW TO MANAGE CUSTOMER ACQUISITION AND RETENTION

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 4 - 6 p.m.

Join Jason Hubbard, founder of "Your Growth Expert" and instrumental in growing three top 100 Inc. Fastest Growing Private Companies.

TSDBC

Tennessee Small Business Development Center
17 Market Square, Suite 201, Knoxville 37902

Registration: <https://goo.gl/SbL8ph>

SCORE | Greater Knoxville



Knoxville Area
Urban League

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*



KNOXVILLE
ENTREPRENEUR
CENTER



KNOXVILLE
CHAMBER



Solution Sessions is a collaboration sponsored by entrepreneur support organizations dedicated to helping small businesses thrive.