

Returning Citizen Financial Assistance Committee

Report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

The Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee (ReCFAC) was established in 2014 to create guidelines and oversee the disbursement of funds to assist men as they leave Orange Correctional Center and return to the community. The committee works with the Transition and Support Committee, which must have established a support circle for a returning citizen before he can receive financial assistance.

The committee meets on an as needed basis, conducting most of its business via email. Requests during FY'2019-2020 included clothing and personal needs upon release from OCC, as well as cell phones and medical supplies. Food assistance was provided for one partner due to temporary unemployment; one partner was provided with transportation assistance (Uber) so he could get to his job early in the morning for two weeks prior to drawing his first paycheck.

We have provided assistance to six men over the year, for a total expenditure of \$1,274.23. We received an anonymous gift to the fund of \$1,200. This leaves a carryover balance to FY2020-2021 of \$2,460.21. [This includes carryover funds from previous fiscal year of \$1,534.76; \$1,000 allocation from CHFM funds; \$1,200 gift.] Due to budget cuts, the allocation approved for FY'20-21 is \$770.

We are pleased that David Schneider will join our committee effective July 1, 2020.

The coming year is uncertain due to the corona virus situation. We have several men in the pipeline requesting partnership but we are unable to visit OCC at this time. We also anticipate a greater need for housing assistance as it is impossible at this time to get men into any of the shelters (with one exception). Although housing has not traditionally been covered by ReFAC, this will need to be addressed in the coming year by both ReFAC and Transition/Support committees.

Submitted by the ReCFAC: Asta Crowe (clerk), Nancy Milio, Gwynne Pomeroy and Richard Miller