

The true joy of life is being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one.

– *George Bernard Shaw*

CEi's Leadership Council is a network of influential community members that support the organization by connecting it to the resources needed to achieve it's mission. Through simple introductions to people they know, Council members open the doors to a variety of opportunities and help the organization's grassroots board continue its hands-on work to restore former offenders to productive roles in society.

During Tough Times

Weak job markets lead to crime

The State is emptying a prison in West Tennessee as part of a strategy to save money by supervising more offenders in the community and fewer in custody. As a result, roughly 1,500 inmates will be coming home earlier than expected. For Chattanooga, this means an increase in the parole population of 15 percent – during the worst job market we have seen in decades! More than one parolee in three are now unemployed; and without jobs, they are three times as likely to re-offend.

Declining Revenues

Services needed most when money is scarce.

Just as we should be expanding our services to help preserve public safety, declining revenues have forced us to cut back. Our budget for 2010 is \$365,000. This is about half what we have spent in prior years.

Sustainability Plan

No margin, no mission

In addition to ordinary charitable incomes from gifts, grants and events, CEi manages two projects designed to close the gap in funding and make the organization sustainable.

- **CEi Works** is an alternative staffing program that provides our participants with quick access to the workforce through remunerative work training assignments. Much like a temporary employment agency, we pay our workers and bill our customers. Our average margin for a 12-month assignment is \$2,500 and our average workforce (during ordinary economic times) is 50. More is at www.ceiworks.net

- **Stephen's Table** is a network of church-based committees that mentor Hamilton County residents serving prison terms in Tennessee. When fully established, the project will manage committees at 100 churches and, by expanding our Lenten Cross Project to these churches, bring in \$75,000 for the organization. More information is at www.stephenstable.net

Both CEi Works and Stephen's Table directly impact our mission by helping former offenders become contributive members of society. Plus – unlike typical nonprofit work which costs more to do more – they benefit from scale.

Leadership Council Role

Many hands make light work

Our Leadership Council contributes to the organization's success by opening doors to new opportunities.

They do this by recommending us for speaking engagements, helping to create sponsorships for Bella Sera, introducing us to prospective members for our Brennan Society, helping us to find employment opportunities for our participants, and putting us in touch with churches for our Stephen's Table.

Many hands make light work! And in this way, members do what they can to help – none being called on to carry more of the load than they can comfortably bear. Their contributions, although

small in number, leverage significant resources, helping the organization to achieve its mission for the community.

Chattanooga Endeavors

New skills, new jobs, new hope

Established in 1999 as the successor to Dismas House, CEi is a publicly supported charity based in Chattanooga with a mission to improve public safety by restoring former offenders to productive roles in society. With a special emphasis on recently released State prisoners, we prepare participants for work, support them in their job search and offer limited opportunities for remunerative work training through an alternative staffing program called "CEi Works." We serve approximately 250 former offenders a year.

The premise of our programs is that helping former offender obtain family wage jobs is a simple and cost effective way to prevent repeat crime and re-incarceration.

Contact Information

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