



Second Chances... Chapter One



A LIFE IMPROVEMENT BUSINESSSM

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Berks Connections/Pretrial Services



MISSION STATEMENT

Berks Connections/Pretrial Services improves lives and creates safer, more prosperous communities by providing services, support, and community reintegration to individuals involved in the justice system and to their families.

VISION STATEMENT

The communities we serve are safer and healthier because people in the justice system have the tools and support to live productive, law-abiding lives.

Gold
Transparency
2023

Candid.



Berks Connections/Pretrial Services is proud to be certified by the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO) through its Standards for Excellence certification program. BCPS completed this certification program by voluntarily opening itself up to scrutiny by a "jury of its peers" who examined our organization for compliance with PANO's Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector. Standards of Excellence are based on fundamental values such as honesty, integrity, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility, and accountability. BCPS's programs and services, management, fundraising, and financial practices were examined in depth before the certification was awarded. *BCPS was one of the first organizations to be certified under the Standards program that began in 2002.*

BCPS earned the 2023 Gold Seal of Transparency from CANDID (formerly Guidestar), the leading source for nonprofit and foundation financial, leadership, and mission information. Our financial details and agency information can be viewed at <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/23-1969810>.

JAMES came to BCPS in early 2022 looking for new opportunities. Soon after, he joined the R3 program with Cohort 25. Throughout the 8-week program, James's interest in welding grew, leading him to pursue further education at Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC). With the support of CareerLink and a generous donor, BCPS facilitated funding for his welding classes—a crucial stepping stone toward his goals. Right after graduation, James found employment at Van Industries.

For the first couple of months, James worked full-time and attended welding classes at BCTC after work. He not only excelled in his professional career but also diligently attended Treatment Court, successfully completing all four phases in December of 2022.



Most recently, James graduated with his welding certification. This achievement reflects his hard work, perseverance, and dedication to honing his craft. He now possesses the skills and qualifications to further excel in his chosen field of work.

“ I just can't tell you enough how good it feels to be back on my feet and working again and putting that bad part of my life way behind me. I can't believe it all sometimes. ”
-James



40,000 BARRIERS

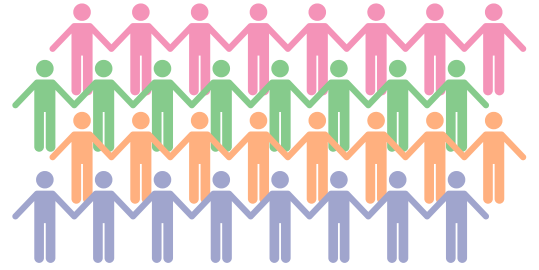
Research has shown a past conviction history can raise over 40,000 barriers, including employment, education, housing, and professional licensing. These barriers not only impact individuals but also have far-reaching consequences for their families as well.

2022 STATISTICS

2,807

TOTAL CLIENTS ASSISTED

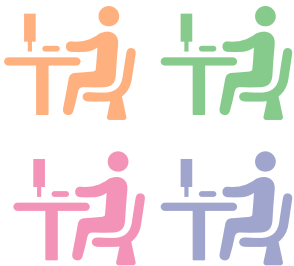
Males 2,448
Females 359



5,069

BUS PASSES

5069 all-day bus passes were given to clients so they could go to job interviews and for the first week(s) of employment until they could begin covering the cost of transportation after receiving their first paycheck. Clients were also given taxi/ Uber/Lyft passes totaling over \$2,400.



994

UTILIZED COMPUTER-BASED LEARNING CENTER

Clients use the Computer-Based Learning Center (CBLC) to update resumes, search for jobs, and improve their basic skills.

2,089

PAIRS OF WORK BOOTS

Needing work boots often creates a barrier to employment. By providing work boots, clients can accept job offers sooner.



637

RECEIVED BASIC NEEDS ASSISTANCE

Clients struggling with housing and food insecurity can receive full-size toiletries and personal care items. Having access to hygiene products helps with self-confidence and social acceptance.



6,950

WALK-IN CLIENTS SERVED

2021 = 4,604

Welcome!

Dear Friends of BCPS:

First and foremost, we would like to thank you for your support of and interest in BCPS. We hope you will take the time to read through this year's Annual Report. You will learn about our life-changing outcomes across all program areas – a story told not just in statistics and data – but one told over and over again by individuals whose lives were impacted through their involvement with BCPS. And you will learn about several new initiatives that launched, see how our culture renovation has transformed our work, and you can get a glimpse of what is ahead for BCPS in 2023 and beyond.

In 2022 we were excited to welcome Berks County's Forensic Diversion Program back. This innovative, groundbreaking program serves as a model for other jurisdictions. We hope to grow this program and its impact in the coming years. A brand new initiative that launched in 2022 is Level Up, which brings our friends at the Literacy Council of Reading and Berks on-site to provide much-needed ESL and GED classes to our clients right here in our office! We love partnering with great organizations to remove barriers and ensure our clients reach their full potential. 2022 also saw the launch of Reentry Works through funding from the United Way of Berks County. Reentry Works has fulfilled a dream of ours to be able to provide our successful and comprehensive workforce development programming to ANYONE in Berks County that has or ever had a criminal record. Hundreds of Berks County residents have already been served through this innovative program.



PEGGY & NIKKI

We continue to be extremely proud of all of our programs, the supportive services that we provide, and most importantly our amazing team who are changing lives each and every day! We thank YOU for all of your support in making this possible! We wouldn't be able to do all of this important work without the help of our Board of Directors, volunteers, donors, second-chance employers, and community partners. Thank you for helping us to ensure that BCPS's essential services continue to be the source of hope, opportunity, and second chances for those that need it most!

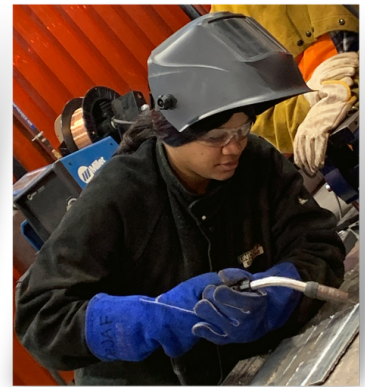
Peggy Kershner

Nikki Schnovel

CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



DEJA graduated from R3 with Cohort 29 this past winter. Post-graduation, Deja immediately started looking for employment opportunities. A couple of weeks later, she landed a job in customer service. She enjoys this new role and the stability it provides to help support herself and her two kids. She recently moved to a women's shelter, where she is now able to have more space and privacy for her family.



GLENN has been a client with BCPS Work in Progress Program for almost two years. He has maintained stable employment for over a year at Wyomissing Family Restaurant, taking on multiple roles. Last year, he was able to save up enough money to move into an apartment.

Most recently, Glenn had been having transportation issues, due to the bus schedule not always aligning with his work schedule. Thankfully, we had some generous donors donate bikes to BCPS. Glenn was a grateful recipient of one. Glenn is now able to maintain his employment without disruption.



\$15,465

CLOTHING ASSISTANCE

When having the right clothing becomes an obstacle to accepting the job, BCPS steps in to ensure our clients are able to accept the job.



In 2019, JAIME struggled to find employment due to his background. Motivated to turn his life around, he discovered BCPS through Facebook and decided to take a chance. Soon after, he interviewed for the R3 program and immediately got accepted. At graduation, he received the R3 Leadership Award.

Shortly after graduating from the R3 program, Jaime welcomed his son. This fueled his drive to secure stable employment to provide for his growing family. He worked closely with his case manager and our Employment Development Team to find new employment opportunities. Less than three months after graduation, he got hired by Reading Bucket Services LLC, where he has thrived for the past four years. He highly enjoys being in the construction sector and the people he works with. Along his journey, Jamie was able to obtain his driver's license and purchase a new car.

“ R3 provided me with a bucket of tools and paid me to be in it. It was a win-win situation. I am very happy and fortunate to have been part of the program. -Jaime ”



“ I love the stability that my job provides and being able to provide for my family. I have a good woman, a job, and a car. I am very grateful for the opportunity BCPS gave me. I didn't think I was going to come this far. -Jaime ”

Follow client stories like these on our social media platforms



\$9,830 ID ASSISTANCE

A valid ID is required to work in the state of Pennsylvania. To get an ID, clients need to provide their social security card, birth certificate (or other form of ID), and two forms of proof of residency (utility bill, lease agreement, etc.)

2022



Culture Renovation

In the summer of 2022, BCPS began an intentional, transformative journey to renovate our culture. What is culture renovation? It's all about keeping what works – those core tenets that make us who we are – tossing out what doesn't work, and adding new things that enhance and challenge the culture that we aspire to.

To maintain this focus, we provide ongoing comprehensive training to our leaders and staff. This training program not only showcases what these behaviors look like but also empowers our team to model the behaviors and hold each other accountable to these shared expectations.

An intentional focus on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) is a key component of this renovation. As a team, we defined specific behaviors that embody our DEIB beliefs. We encourage our staff to infuse DEIB-focused beliefs and behaviors into our practices, policies, procedures, decisions, and interactions so that DEIB is not a stand-alone “thing to do,” but rather a part of who we are.

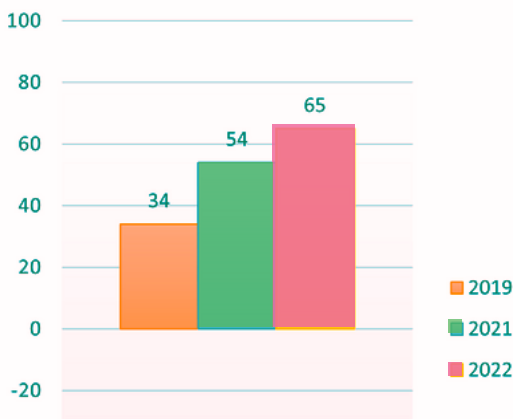


Many of our core beliefs and behaviors are DEIB-Focused!

- We surround ourselves with others who look and think differently than we do.
- We check our biases when making judgments and decisions to make sure they are not getting in the way of our beliefs.
- We are there for each other and are willing to step into another role or help a coworker when that's required for success.
- We are solution-focused rather than problem-oriented.
- We understand that a psychologically safe environment fosters diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.



BCPS eNPS Scores



WHO LOVES BCPS? OUR EMPLOYEES!

Our eNPS score is consistently on the rise!

Each year, we conduct a confidential survey to gauge our employees' experience and measure our Employee Net Promotor Score (eNPS). This score helps us gauge the organization performance through the eyes of the staff. The eNPS can be as low as -100 or as high as +100. An eNPS that is positive (higher than zero) is considered to be good. An eNPS of +50 is considered excellent.

In 2022, our eNPS came in at a whopping +65! While our score of +65 is outstanding, we are mindful not to become complacent. We are even more motivated to continue on the path of culture renovation, focusing on our core beliefs and integrating them into our day-to-day behaviors, policies, practices, decisions, and interactions.

BCPS Ambassadors

Hamid Chaudhry
The late Dr. Constance Dent
Elsayed Elmarzouky
Linda Faye Epes
The late Dr. Ann Gundry
Althea Harmon
Megan Huesgen

Kate Hoh
The late Paul Hoh
Ruby Martin
Craig Poole
Scott Rehr
Mark Stone
Eric Savage



Michelle Tomczak
2023

2023 Paul J. Hoh Life Improvement Awardees

Kim Johnson
Jack Williams
MDJ Tonya Butler & MDJ Carissa Johnson
PLSE - Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity
**RMCTC - Reading Muhlenberg Career &
Technology Center**
Eric Kahler
Sweet Street Dessert



Kip Frasso was a beloved part of our R3 Team and positively influenced hundreds of individuals in this role. He was empathetic, patient, and had an extraordinary way of helping people embrace the hard work it takes to transform their lives. Along with his impact on BCPS clients, Kip also served as a role model, mentor, and friend to the rest of the team.

Kip passed away in 2022 after a brief illness. Given Kip's legacy of service to individuals involved in the Criminal Justice System, we are proud to honor his memory by naming our client recognition after him – the Kip Frasso Outstanding Transformation Award.

Sha Burden **Jeremy Geissler** **Stanley Gracius**
**2023 Kip Frasso Outstanding
Transformation Awardees**

REENTRY PROGRAMS

DOC MENTORING



The Department of Corrections (DOC) Mentoring program is designed to help an individual realize how a positive, productive outlook toward overcoming barriers and negative situations can lead to increased success in their reentry.

Mentors coach and help individuals in accessing resources in the community for needs such as medical benefits, social security benefits, mental health, substance abuse, and food resources. Mentors also assist in early intervention strategies to aid those reentrants who are at risk of relapsing and/or recidivating.

DOC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The DOC Workforce Development program is designed to equip returning citizens with the tools and support necessary to become productive members of our community. Services include case management, employment readiness, essential skills training, financial literacy, assistance with basic needs for employment (ID, bus passes, work boots), job search assistance, and retention support.



REENTRY WORKS

Thanks to a focused grant from the United Way of Berks County, BCPS was able to implement Reentry Works in 2022.

Reentry Works expanded our workforce development services to all individuals in Berks County with current or past justice system involvement. The program is designed to help clients become reliable and successful employees and helps to address issues of unemployment and underemployment. The program uses a case-managed approach and creates individualized employment plans for the clients. The program's curriculum includes skill, education, and experience assessments, financial literacy, employment preparedness, computer labs, and employer recruitment.



RECOVERY WORKS

Recovery Works is a new workforce development program funded through the Council on Chemical Abuse. Recovery Works is BCPS' first prevention program! Individuals served in this program will be referred from partnering behavioral health providers and do not need to have justice involvement to participate!

This program was made possible in whole by funds received through the Berks County Opioid Settlement Agreement.



REENTRY PROGRAMS



REENTRY RESOURCE CENTER

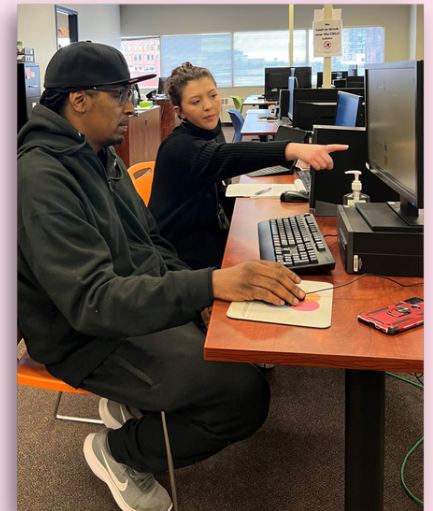
The Reentry Resource Center (RERC) is a single point of contact for individuals with current or prior justice system involvement. BCPS staff conduct a brief assessment to aid in determining which of their needs require immediate attention. Assistance for basic needs, along with information and referrals to services in the community, is provided. Services are available in the BCPS office and at the Berks County Jail with a referral from a treatment counselor.

The RERC was initially funded through a COVID-19 Response Grant from the United Way of Berks County. It is now funded through a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

WORKING TOWARDS CHANGE (WTC)

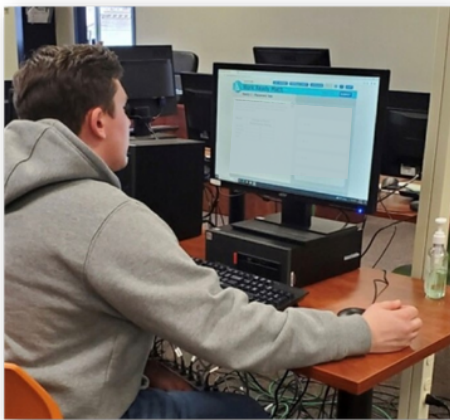
Working Towards Change (WTC) provides case management both pre- and post-release from the Berks County Jail System (BCJS). Individuals who score moderate/high or high on the Ohio Risk Assessment Prison Intake Tool (ORAS-PIT) and who meet other eligibility requirements are referred to WTC for case management services. BCPS staff completes a thorough assessment with the client, which, along with the results of their ORAS-PIT, help prioritize targets for change. The client and their case manager work together to develop a case plan, set goals and objectives, and identify resources needed to achieve them.

Post-release, clients continue to work with their Case Manager to address any immediate needs, such as housing, ID, food, clothing, and medication. They will complete an employment curriculum, including resume building, interviewing skills, proper job search, completing applications, financial literacy, and job retention. All participants have access to the Computer Based Learning Center (CBLC) as well as employment opportunities cultivated by the Employment Development Specialist. Case management services continue for one year after release from BCJS.



WORK IN PROGRESS (WIP)

WIP is a comprehensive reentry workforce development program for current or former justice-involved individuals who have a mental health diagnosis and are currently receiving case management services from a mental health provider. BCPS staff work with WIP participants on a one-to-one basis to prepare them for entering employment. The program includes job readiness and essential skills training, financial literacy education, and cognitive-based workforce sessions. Our Employment Development Specialist enlists the support of local employers to provide job shadowing and volunteer opportunities for WIP clients. Once programming is completed, the participant receives assistance with job search and job placement. Additionally, case management and retention support are provided to each participant for a minimum of one year following their enrollment in the program.



LEVEL UP

Level Up is a new collaboration between The Literacy Council of Reading-Berks and BCPS. The program provides GED and ESL classes in our office to participants in our workforce development programs. Level Up is funded through a Venture Grant that the Literacy Council received from the United Way of Berks County. The educational achievements experienced in Level Up will assist our participants to gain employment and advancement opportunities.



REBUILDING REENTRANTS & READING

R3 is an 8-week registered pre-apprenticeship program in the construction trades.

The R3 program is comprised of three components to achieve optimum results.

- **Technical Education:** BCPS partners with the Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center (RMCTC) and Berks Career and Technology Center (BCTC), where clients receive an overview of construction, electrical, plumbing, masonry, and welding.
- **Hands-On Learning:** Clients put their new woodworking skills to use at GoggleWorks Center for the Arts Woodshop, constructing little Second Chance Libraries for the community.
- **Employment-Focused Cognitive Curriculum:** BCPS staff deliver interactive lessons to teach clients how to identify and manage high-risk situations related to obtaining and maintaining employment.

R3 is the only registered pre-apprenticeship program in PA exclusively serving reentrants!



R3 CLIENTS CAN RECEIVE:

- Up to \$2,300 stipend over 8 weeks
- Case Management & Mentoring for one-year post-graduation
- Job search and placement assistance
- Flagger and OSHA Safety Certifications
- Credit toward Associated Builders and Contractors Keystone and Eastern PA Chapters PLUS select Berks Career and Technology Center Apprenticeship Programs

DID YOU KNOW

- Since its inception in October 2017, 263 individuals have completed the R3 program.
- 60% of the R3 graduates are maintaining stable employment.
- R3 graduates' recidivism rate is 2.3%. In comparison, Pennsylvania's recidivism rate is 46%.

PRETRIAL SERVICES

Pretrial Interviews and Assessments

Pretrial Officers conduct post-arrest interviews and assessments of criminal defendants and furnish the verified assessments to the judiciary, either prior to bail being set or at the preliminary hearing. BCPS utilizes the Pretrial Assessment Tool of the Ohio Risk Assessment System (PAT-ORAS) to assess the risk of a defendant committing a new offense while under pretrial release or failing to appear in court. BCPS also assists with jail population management. Pretrial staff conduct a monthly review of the jail population to assure that low-risk defendants are not needlessly incarcerated due to their inability to post bail. We are pleased to see that on average, the true pretrial population (those held only on a bail) hovers around 25%, which is well below the national average. For those defendants that are classified as low risk and are deemed appropriate for pretrial release, Pretrial Officers will provide the assessments to defense counsel and recommend that a motion is made to modify the bail to release the defendant on unsecured bail.



Pretrial Supervision

BCPS provides a supervised release for criminal defendants who would otherwise remain in jail until the final disposition of their case. Pretrial Officers utilize the results of the PAT-ORAS to set conditions that are based on the risk that individual poses and to ensure both court appearance and public safety. Pretrial Officers provide drug and alcohol program referrals for individuals facing drug-related charges and for those identified as having a drug or alcohol problem. BCPS also oversees the Community Release Bail Program, which was designed to ensure that the economic circumstances of a person will not subject him/her to punishment before trial.

Treatment Courts

BCPS provides personnel and support for the Berks County Treatment Courts, which include DUI, Drug and Alcohol, and Mental Health Courts. BCPS interviews and assesses most treatment court applicants and provides referrals for drug and alcohol testing and treatment. Our Reentry Coordinator provides case management and workforce development programming for participants in the DUI, Mental Health, and Drug Treatment Courts. The Treatment Courts provide an intensive combination of court-ordered treatment and regular interaction with the Treatment Court Judge and the team, including the Public Defender's Office, Adult Probation Office, TASC, SAM, Inc., the District Attorney's Office, treatment providers, and BCPS.

FORENSIC DIVERSION TEAM

The Forensic Diversion Team acts as a liaison among various criminal justice entities to decrease the incarceration rate of non-violent, mentally ill offenders. This is accomplished through the use of various alternatives, such as diversion into appropriate treatment plans, instead of extensive jail time. The goal of the program is to reduce incarceration rates while ensuring the safety of the community to reduce the costs of incarceration.



Verified
interviews and
assessments



Monitoring
Pretrial
population in
Berks County Jail
System



Providing
pretrial
supervision



Assistance with
Treatment
Courts - DUI,
Drug and Alcohol
Mental Health



Forensic
Diversion

Pardon Project of Berks County



WHAT IS PARDON PROJECT?

The main goal of the Pardon Project of Berks County is to assist individuals with a criminal record who have served their sentence and are seeking a pardon of their records. The Pardon Project connects eligible applicants with trained volunteer Pardon Coaches to assist them in completing the pardon application and aid them in their journey.

The Pardon Project offers individuals a life-changing opportunity to finally break free from their past mistakes and live their lives according to their current potential. BCPS is thrilled to coordinate the efforts of the Pardon Project of Berks County and serve as the official Pardon Hub for Berks County.

Did you know...

Over a ten-year period, pardons brought over \$16.5 million in higher wages to Pennsylvania communities!

WHY ARE PARDONS IMPORTANT?

People change, but records don't! Pardons give people who have changed their lives the opportunity to stop being defined by their worst mistakes. Pardons restore the rights and privileges that were lost as a result of a conviction. Not only do they open the door to greater employment and educational opportunities and increased housing options, but they also can have a positive economic impact on the community.

IS YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD HOLDING YOU BACK?

Eligibility:

- Cannot have a conviction for a sex crime
- Must reside in or have a conviction in Berks County
- At least 2 years have passed since the completion of the sentence (including probation and parole)
- Cannot have any open criminal cases
- Must have all restitution paid in full and be active with a payment plan if there are outstanding fines and court costs

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A MEANINGFUL LIFE-CHANGING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY? CONSIDER BECOMING A PARDON COACH!

WHAT TO EXPECT AS A PARDON COACH:

Pardon Coaches increase applicants' chances for success by providing guidance on writing detailed essays demonstrating how they have changed their lives for the better since their convictions. The total time commitment is approximately 4-5 hours (depending on the applicant's needs), which includes a one-hour training. Meetings with the applicant can take place either virtually or in person.

TO SIGN UP TO BECOME A PARDON COACH, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW:



Where can I learn more?

BerksConnections.org/PardonProjectofBerksCounty

“Mistakes made long ago shouldn't follow you for the rest of your life.”
– PA State Senator Judy Schwank

Growing up, PHAZON was constantly moving from place to place. By the time he was 15, he decided to be on his own and make his own path. From 2012-2022, Phazon found himself in and out of jail for various reasons. By mid-2022, he was ready for a change. After being referred to BCPS by his wife, Phazon started to slowly transform his life.

BCPS provided him with assistance to obtain a new birth certificate, social security card, and ID. Soon after, he enrolled in the R3 program with Cohort 28. At graduation, he was awarded the R3 Superstar Award for his outstanding achievements during the program. Phazon still keeps in contact with some of his classmates.



R3 was awesome. I have been to a lot of programs since childhood, but none are like this. Since the first day that I came to BCPS, I knew that everyone cared, and everyone just had high spirits. I wanted to be around that since childhood, so I decided to change and do the program.

-Phazon

After completing the R3 program, Phazon applied to work at a local recycling company, and within a week he was hired. He has been working there since February of this year. He loves his job and the opportunity to progress that it provides. So far, he has gained an OSHA Forklift certification through his job and is in the process of receiving a certification to work with heavy machinery.

Most recently, Phazon moved into a new apartment with his wife. He is currently studying to take his driver's license exam and is saving to buy a new car.



I feel safe and secure now - I have peace of mind. I am happy to have a job and somewhere to go in the morning. This is exactly what I asked for while I was incarcerated. It has been the best.

-Phazon



\$13,875

COMMON SENSE CASE MANAGEMENT

Our clients' success is often one unexpected financial obligation away from crashing down on them. By paying a utility bill, a client can stay in their current housing situation. When BCPS covers the cost of phone minutes, a client can schedule interviews and accept the job offer. By funding just one financial obligation for them, we help them maintain their stability while searching for jobs and after gaining employment.

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT



Obtaining stable employment at a living wage is important to one's reentry success. BCPS's Employment Development Team (EDT) builds mutually beneficial relationships with employers, educators, and other service providers, ensuring there are open doors for employment and growth for our clients.



It is the EDT's goal to learn what is important in the job market and grow the agency network, providing clients with the best possible services.

Employers Looking for a New Talent Pool: Dive In Here!

Returning Citizens Career Fair
DoubleTree by Hilton Reading
Monday, October 23rd
9:00am – 12:00pm

kstone@bcpsreentry.org / 484-260-3860 ext 3024

Helping clients bridge the jump from our R3 registered pre-apprenticeship program to registered apprenticeships in the construction field continues to be a focus. R3 graduates wanting to explore an apprenticeship will experience increased exposure to education, better wages, and lifetime careers. With the help of our affiliates, ABC Keystone and ABC Eastern PA, and Berks Career and Technology Center, clients can move into the apprenticeship role.

BCPS hosts bi-annual Career Fairs, open to all individuals with a justice-involved background. The Employment Development Team's outreach and networking efforts result in well-attended events by employers, educators, and other providers. Increasing agency and program visibility has also resulted in a large number of job seekers attending these career fairs.



CAREER FAIRS - February & October



“In my ongoing conversations with local employers across all industries, the need to attract and retain talent in a challenging labor market remains their major barrier to full business recovery and future growth. Local employers will want to consider registering for the BCPS Returning Citizens Job Fair where they will meet with a diverse group of eager job-seekers who might be a good match for their current and future needs.”

~ Dan Fogarty, Chief Operating Officer
Berks County Workforce Development Board

Thank you to the employers, community partners, educators, and volunteers who provide hope, second chances, and resources to those looking to improve their lives.

Thank you!



Career Fair Sponsors



**PERFORMANCE
TOYOTA**



COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Berks County Forensic Task Force

In 2020 the Community Resources Network merged with Berks County's Forensic Coalition to form the Berks County Forensic Task Force (BCFTF). The BCFTF mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning of services for the justice involved in Berks County to support the reintegration of returning citizens into local communities, lower recidivism rates, reduce the number of victims of crime, and increase the safety of our communities.



Blankets of Hope



Blankets of Hope supports BCPS clients by providing blankets to individuals who are homeless or are at risk for homelessness, and beds and bedding for those who are getting off the street and moving into a home. Blankets of Hope also provided blankets that were given to the children who received holiday gifts through the BCPS Holiday Gift Project.



Reform Alliance

Reform Alliance is a national organization that brings together bipartisan experts, system leaders, advocates, and policymakers to work on common sense solutions for the justice-involved to create clear and fair pathways to work wellness and stability as well as safer communities. BCPS received funding through Reform Alliance's first community grant opportunity to support our Pardon Project.

The Forge

The Forge collected new and gently-worn suits, dress shirts, and ties, and donated them, sized, and matched them to BCPS R3 graduates. Owning a suit will enable them to put their best feet forward in their interviews, or whenever a suit would be appropriate. The Forge anticipates this as an ongoing donation for each of the graduating R3 cohorts. Their mission is to help men become the version of themselves that our culture needs, focusing on positive imagery, service, and fellowship!



Power of the Purse

Power of the Purse is a women's giving circle whose focus is to improve the lives of women and children in our community, by funding programs that help them break the cycle of poverty. In spring 2022, BCPS was the recipient of a \$10,000 grant to remove obstacles to employment and education for women with justice involvement. BCPS received this grant again for 2023.



New Journey Community Outreach

BCPS and New Journey partner to assist reentrants who are getting back on their feet. New Journey provides a daily soup kitchen, weekly food pantry, and weekly clothing center for individuals and families in need in the city of Reading. Most recently, New Journey has given BCPS clients volunteer opportunities, to not only get valuable work experiences, but also give back to their community.



Berks County Library System

The Berks County Library System provided laptops at the Career Fair in February. These enabled applicants to update their resumes and to go online to apply for positions advertised by employers at the Career Fair. Additional laptops will be provided at the October Career Fair.



UNITED WAY OF BERKS COUNTY

United Way of Berks County

As a United Way of Berks County partner, BCPS receives funding to support the Reentry Program at the Berks County Jail System as well as ongoing funding to staff our Computer Based Learning Center.

In 2020, the United Way of Berks County funded BCPS's Reentry Resource Center, to help our clients seeking resources within our community. Assistance for basic needs, along with information and referrals to services in the community, is provided through this initiative.



Over the years, many BCPS initiatives and events have been made possible thanks to the generous financial and volunteer support of the United Way of Berks County.



In April 2022, the United Way of Berks County awarded a \$1.2 million focused, 3-year grant that will allow BCPS to operate Reentry Works.

Reentry Works has expanded BCPS workforce services to all individuals in Berks County with current or past justice system involvement. The program helps clients become reliable and successful employees in addition to addressing issues of unemployment and underemployment. The program uses a case-managed approach and creates individualized employment plans for our clients. The program's curriculum includes skill, education, and experience assessments; financial literacy; employment preparedness; computer labs; and employer recruitment.

Funding for this grant is through a \$10 million gift the United Way of Berks County received from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

Thank You!

LIFE
IMPROVEMENT
AWARDS
BREAKFAST



Featured Speaker - Shuja Moore
Director, **PARDON ME**, documentary



BCPS Board President, Tom Renschler and
Michelle Tomczak, 2023 Life Improvement Ambassador

On April 18, 2023, we recognized our Ambassador and Awardees at the annual Life Improvement Awards Breakfast. Attendees heard how individuals have written **NEW CHAPTERS** to change the direction of their stories.

Mistakes do not define an individual; they are just a chapter, not the entire book. The **EPILOGUE** is never set in stone.



2023 Client Awardee and speaker, Stanley Gracius
with staff members Michelle and Lindsey



Deb Antol & Nicole Henry, Sweet Street, Awardee (left)
with Robyn Hoh Cavanaugh & Scott Hoh,
daughter & son of the late Paul J. Hoh





MDJ Carissa Johnson & MDJ Tonya Butler, Awardees (center) with Nikki Schnovel & Peggy Kershner



Toby Oxholm, PLSE, Awardee (left) & Vanessa Starr, Development Director



Jack Williams, Awardee (right) with Robyn Hoh Cavanaugh & Scott Hoh, daughter & son of the late Paul J. Hoh



Kim Johnson, Awardee, (left) with Robyn Hoh Cavanaugh & Scott Hoh, daughter & son of the late Paul J. Hoh



Jeremy Geissler Awardee (right) with Jeffrey Wawrzyniak



Sha Burden, Client Awardee (center) with Nikki Schnovel & Peggy Kershner

Eric Kahler RMCTC Awardee

THANK YOU, SPONSORS

Build HOPE

Create OPPORTUNITIES

Provide SECOND CHANCES

Strengthen CONNECTIONS

Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center

Elsayed Elmarzouky & Family
and Heidelberg Family Restaurant
Emerald Advisers LLC
Rivera and Leinbach for Commissioner

Council on Chemical Abuse (COCA)
Customers Bank
Reading Area Community College (RACC)
Reading Hospital - Tower Health
Rentschler Law LLC
Santander
Spark Solutions and Support

Offick Solutions, LLC
Resolution Law Group
Stone Financial
Weik Capital Management



One door prize winner received a gift card to Barnes and Noble and the opportunity to choose the location for the next Second Chances Library. Pictured left to right: Vanessa Starr & Nikki Schnovel, BCPS, Dan Leppold, local author and book donor, & Daphne Klahr, Executive Director, Reading Recreation Commission.



SAVE THE DATE
Awards Breakfast
Tuesday, April 16, 2024

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mother's / Father's Voice Program

The Mother's/Father's Voice program is back!* Volunteers record incarcerated parents reading stories to their young children. The book and DVD are sent to the child for them to watch their parent reading while following along in the book. This provides a sense of closeness between the parent and child that would otherwise not be possible while fostering a love of reading.

**Mother's/Father's Voice volunteers returned to the jail in May. Since September 2022, BCPS staff have been administering this rewarding program.*

392 children received books and a recording of their parent between September 2022 - June 2023



Mock Interviews and Career Fair Volunteers

Mock Interview Volunteers work one-on-one with BCPS clients to allow them to practice their newly learned interview skills, which is hugely beneficial to individuals who are embarking on their new lives! Volunteers provide instant feedback so that our clients can show their best selves to future employers.

At the Career Fair, (held in February and October) volunteers assist with application completion, mock interviews, and providing moral support to individuals with justice involvement who are looking to re-start their careers.

Holiday Gift Project

BCPS enlists individual volunteers and volunteer groups throughout the community to provide holiday gifts for children whose parents are incarcerated or involved in the criminal justice system. For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic started, we were able to hold our Holiday Care and Share Party in person for children with incarcerated parents. The event was coordinated by Alice Moyer at West Lawn United Methodist Church. The families that attended the party decorated gingerbread houses, created festive arts and crafts, and had a meet-and-greet with Santa Claus. But that was not all! They also received blankets from Blankets of Hope and teddy bears donated by Godiva. And, Barbara Witman coordinated with the Nice Knitters at the Highlands and friends in Florida to knit scarves and hats for the children. At the end of the event, parents picked up the gift-filled Santa sacks, which were donated by individuals in our community.

The remaining families were able to pick up their gifts at the drive-through event, which took place after the holiday party. Slapshot from the Reading Royals made the drive-through more lively and fun for the children.

925 children received gifts in 2022!

For more information about BCPS programs and how you can volunteer to help or donate holiday gifts, please visit www.berksconnections.org or email Development@bcpsreentry.org



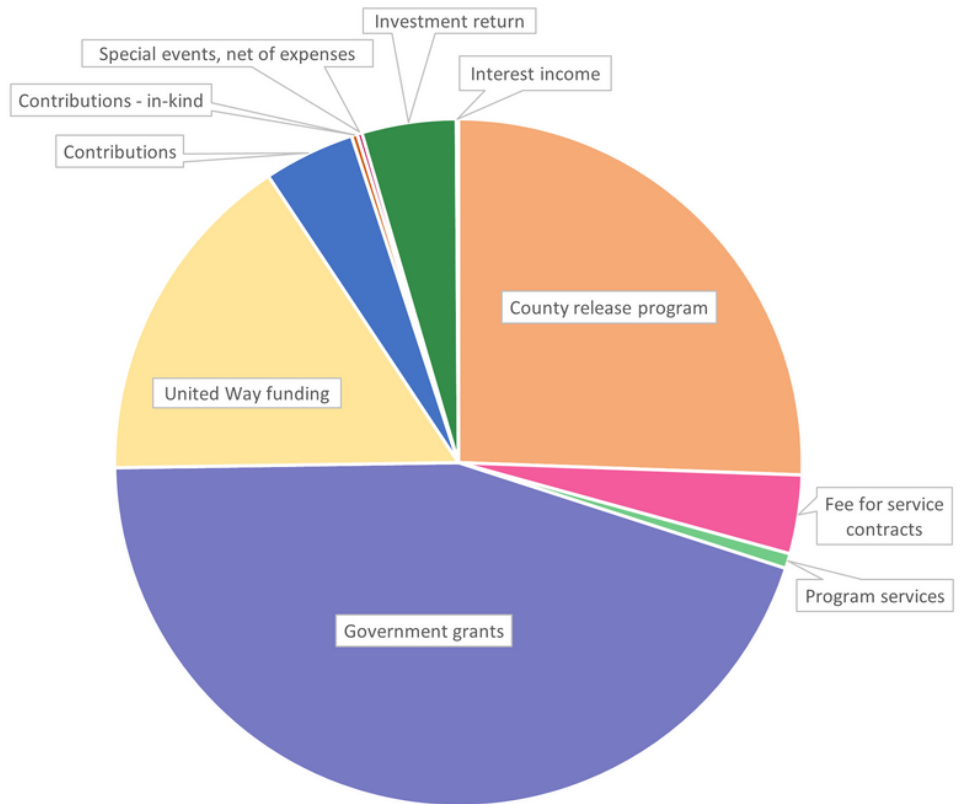
BCPS Revenue and Expenses For Calendar Year 2022 January 1 - December 31, 2022

FINANCIALS

REVENUE

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| County release program | \$665,282 |
| Fee for service contracts | \$96,262 |
| Program services | \$18,299 |
| Government grants | \$1,164,993 |
| United Way funding | \$414,016 |
| Contributions | \$111,534 |
| Contributions - in-kind | \$7,216 |
| Special events, net of expenses | \$5,798 |
| Investment return | -\$115,505 |
| Interest income | \$2,463 |

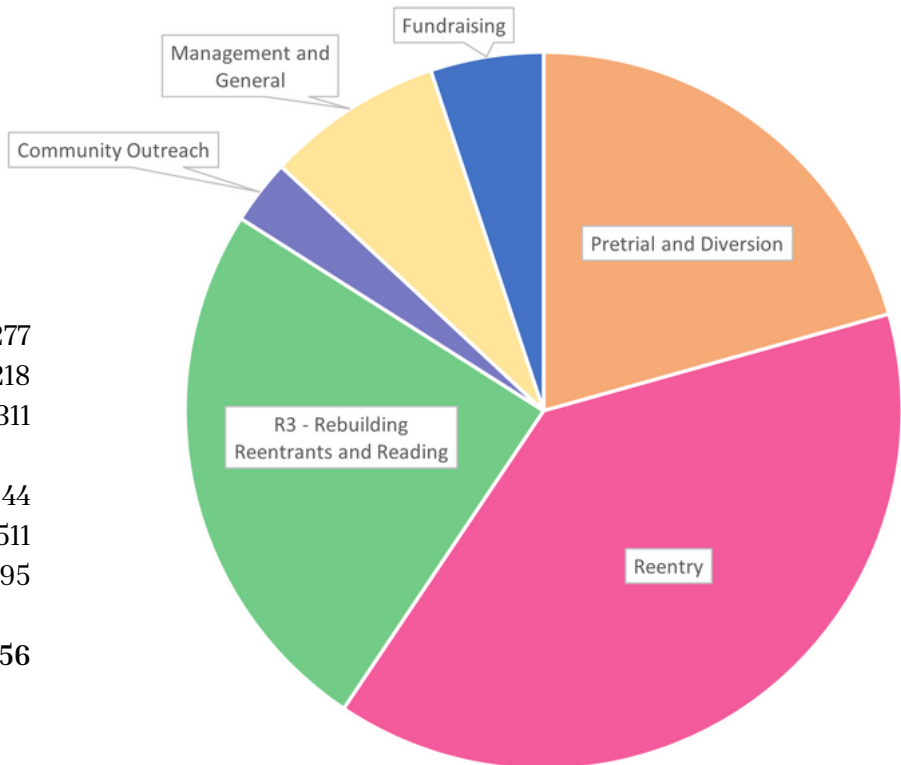
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT \$2,370,358



EXPENSES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Pretrial and Diversion | \$524,277 |
| Reentry | \$984,218 |
| R3 - Rebuilding Reentrants & Reading | \$624,311 |
| Community Outreach | \$74,244 |
| Management and General | \$202,511 |
| Fundraising | \$129,395 |

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,538,956



THANK YOU 2022 DONORS!

\$15,000+

Peter and Mary Terranova

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Anonymous Donor

Henry Janssen Foundation

Power of the Purse

Reform Alliance

\$5,000 - \$9,999

First Energy Foundation

Jerry and Carolyn Holleran

Penn State Health St. Joseph

Performance Toyota

Jeannie Savage

Thank you to our 2022 donors!
Your financial support provides
HOPE, OPPORTUNITY and
SECOND CHANCES
to our clients and their families
when they need it the most!



\$2,500 - \$4,999

E.G. & Klara M. Smith Foundation

United Methodist Women,

Eastern Penna. Conference

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Berks County Bar Association

Council on Chemical Abuse

Customers Bank

Emerald Advisors

Stanley Furrow

Peggy & Lee Kershner

Craig & Melissa Poole

Alexia Pursley

Scott & Yvette Rehr

Santander Bank

Nicolle & Leroy Schnovel

Lawrence Snow

Spark Solutions and Support

Starbucks Foundation

James Stocklas

Stone Financial

Viwinco



\$500 - \$999

Anonymous Donor
Russel Becker &
Janet Winter-Becker
Carmela & Steve Bobick
Christ Episcopal Church
Every Soul Vegan Bakery
Christine Guistwite
Megan & Matthew Huesgen
Morgan Stanley Wealth
Management
Robert Myer
Penske Truck Leasing
Renewed Spirit Lutheran
Church
Rentschler Law, LLC
Vanessa Starr & Bradley Seltzer
Anthony & Michelle Tomczak
Tompkins Bank
Anna Weitz
Kent & Sara Weymouth
Bob Williams

\$250 - \$499

Donna Conrad
First Unitarian Universalist
Church
Bradley & Barbara Hall
Phyllis & Mike Hechinger
Herbein & Company, Inc.
Jason & Stacy Mensch
Rick Morris
Oxholm Family Fund
Brian Pinto
Virginia Rush
Robert & Martha Spezialetti
Ronald Velez
Tweed-Weber-Danks, Inc.
J. William & Jody Widing
Mark Yoder

\$100 - \$249

Logan Albrecht
David & Carey Babczak
Patty Bell
Erin Brown
Calvary United Methodist
Church
Renee Dietrich
Sharon & Malcolm Dreibelbis
Kathy & Greg Galtere
Marianne Garrett
Elizabeth B. Gaul
Joseph & Dana Hartz
Ann Marie Haus
Mahfuzul I. Khondaker
Sydney & Gerald Malick
Daryl & Susan Moyer
Chad Moyer
Denise & Douglas Myer
Jessica & Pablo Nunez
Linda Rentschler
Karissa Rodriguez
David & Jane Rohrbach
Renee Ruhlman
Judith Schwank
William Seaman
Trudi Sheetz
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Kathleen & Mark Stone
Lori Stoudt
Thompson Group
Carol & Mark Troutman
Peter Valenteen
Warren Weik
Francis & Lucy Williamson
David Winchell



We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. If you discover an error, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us at 484-260-3860 ext. 3043 so that we may correct our records.

A special thank you to Weaver Associates for the in-kind printing of the BCPS Awards Breakfast program



STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leadership Team

Peggy Kershner _____ Co-Executive Director
Nicolle Schnovel _____ Co-Executive Director
Patty Bell, SHRM-CP _____ Human Resources Director
Christine Guistwite _____ Director of Programming
Jason Mensch _____ Director of Programming
Denise Myer _____ Finance Manager
Jessica Nunez _____ Director of Programming
Brandon Sands _____ Forensic Diversion Director
Vanessa Starr _____ Development Director

Team Members

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Rosa Alvarez-Guzman | Stephanie Martinez Valle |
| Lindsey Aukamp | Jacinda Maus |
| London Barber | Ashley McGee |
| Josie Basile | Elith Moscoso |
| Kristy Belschwinder | Chad Moyer |
| Erin Brown | Genesis Munoz Arias |
| Kevin Brumbach | Mark Myers |
| Jackie Checo | Desiree Negron |
| Taylor Cipolla | Amy Nichol |
| Russell Clineff | Brianna Perez |
| Amanda Deiser | Casey Schmidt |
| Kathy Galtere | Saoni Segura Alcantara |
| Maria Gonzalez Lara | Kathleen Stone |
| Miriam Hernandez | Lori Stoudt |
| Mike Keiser | Christina White |
| Michelle Little | |

Board of Directors

Tom Rentschler, Esq.
President

Brian Pinto, CFRE
Vice President

Matt Spezialetti, CFA, CFP
Treasurer

Alexia Pursley
Secretary

Abhi Amatya

Sharon Mast

Joe O'Neill

Karissa Rodriguez, Esq.

Yamil Sanchez-Rivera, Ed. D

Jeannie Savage

Larry Snow

Leonette Stocker

Ron Velez





Thank you for your support!



Support BCPS - Scan here to give today!

BCPS

19 N. 6th St.

4th Floor

Reading, PA 19601

484-260-3860



Berks Connections/Pretrial Services

A LIFE IMPROVEMENT BUSINESSSM

Connect with Us

berksconnections.org

