



# Spokane County Detention Services Community Corrections Newsletter

Acting Director Michael Sparber

Geiger Lt. Jason Robison

Winter 2019



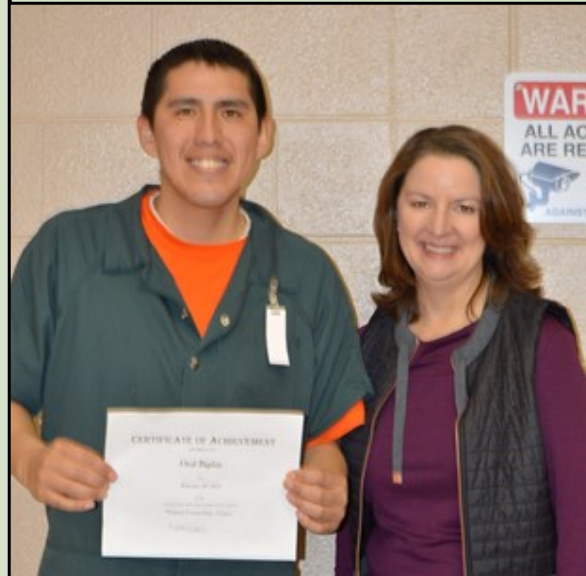
## Our Mission:

Providing services for adult offenders to enhance public safety through effective and innovative programs supporting positive choices, constructive behavior and accountability, thereby reducing repeat criminal behavior.

## Our Principals:

- We believe change is possible, and it begins internally.
- We believe all people are equal and diverse individuals having intrinsic worth who deserve personal attention, support, humor, empowerment and recognition.
- We believe in creating a challenging environment that emphasizes individual growth, exploration and strength.
- We believe in being proactive participants in societal, environmental, political and individual change to promote a safer community.

## Building A New Beginning—And Cabinets—On Work Release



Oral Bigday was recognized for IOP Treatment completion at Geiger's Feb. 28 Breaking Barriers graduation. Spokane County Commissioner Mary Kuney attended to celebrate the graduates and their accomplishments.

Barb told him his objective at Geiger was to give total concentration to IOP. "IOP is nine classroom hours a week, plus homework. Often we'll start somebody in Treatment to see how they fare before allowing Work Release. We authorize Work Release to help people keep their job and housing while serving time, but only as long as it doesn't interfere with their Treatment progress. In Oral's case, you could tell he was committed to succeeding in IOP, so we decided to let him start Work Release right away. Kirk Douglas of Huntwood is a long-time supporter of offender re-entry and Geiger programs, so it was fortunate Oral was working for him while finishing IOP. Kirk worked at Geiger as a Corrections Officer until 2006, and has come back to Geiger in the past to talk the offenders about re-entry, job search and how to keep a job."

Oral's Treatment counselor, Linda Gurtner of Pioneer Human Services, commented he's worked to understand his unique personal challenges and has set a good example in his Treatment group. "The IOP Treatment regime really is "intensive," so to do well while working full time takes determination and ambition."

Asked about working full-time while completing Treatment, Oral felt staying busy helped make the time pass more quickly. "I didn't have time to think about much else besides work and IOP. I'd get back to Geiger from Huntwood just in time to make it to group, then head to the dorm and do homework as long as I could stay awake. This time in Treatment I was better able to relate the lessons to my own circumstances."

Besides displaying a great attitude on his housing floor, excelling in Treatment and having no infractions while at Geiger, Oral is optimistic. "Completing Treatment while at Geiger was easier than trying to do it on the outside, so I don't regret my time here. In all, this has been a 210-day respite to work on myself. Thanks to everybody at Geiger—especially Barb and the Treatment counselors—and thanks to two very helpful friends who supported me from the outside. One of them even drove me to work one day each week."

Oral Bigday came to Geiger Corrections Center late last fall to serve time on a pair of 2018 DUI convictions—one citation each from the city and the county. His first arrest was on New Year's Day of 2018. He collected another DUI arrest scarcely two months later, then spent more than two months in jail on the combined charges, followed by alcohol Treatment in the community.

"I had no driver's license, so I either walked or took the bus everywhere—to work, to Treatment and to U/A testing," he recalled. "I was doing really well, but then I missed a U/A because I arrived right after the testing facility closed for the day."

He was brought back to jail for missing the U/A, re-sentenced to 210 days and ordered to complete in-custody Intensive Outpatient (IOP) Treatment. "They told me to report to Geiger the next day."

Meeting with Geiger's Case Manager, Barb McGlothen, Oral explained he's employed at Huntwood Industries (cabinetry manufacturing) in Liberty Lake, and wondered if it might be possible to arrange Work Release.

## 2018 Geiger Garbage Patrols Rustle-Up 615,000 Pounds Countywide

Geiger's seven inmate Work Crews collected and disposed of more than 615,000 pounds of refuse in 2018. Geiger Work Crew Sergeant Lewis Wirth explained litter and refuse pick-up is a big part of what the crews do every day. "We have contracts for garbage collection and disposal with the road engineers, City of Spokane Code Enforcement, City of Spokane Valley, and the Department of Ecology. Work Crew inmates expended nearly 25,000 hours dealing just with garbage last year. A lot of that was picked up by crews walking along the side of the road. Work Crew helps maintain the majority of the county's 2000 miles of roadway."

## February Snow Stalls Litter Projects, Keeps Work Crews Busy Busting Berms

Last year during February, Geiger Work Crews collected and disposed more than 35,000 pounds of garbage and roadside litter. Work Crew Sergeant Lewis Wirth will be surprised if February 2019 is even a small fraction of that. "Like everybody else, we were gearing up to start our spring projects when February weather made a U-turn. All that unexpected snow gave us an opportunity to help client non-profits and public agencies that assist elderly and shut-ins. We were also pleased to help STA keep some of their busier bus stops clear. We never tire of watching inmates delight at joy they bring from something as simple as clearing a berm from somebody's driveway or mailbox."

With the March weather prospects less wintery-looking, Sgt. Wirth is relieved. "We've done the Convention Center setup and teardown for girls' PNQ volleyball tournament



A recurring problem for many county residents during snow season is keeping their mailbox access clear. Geiger Work Crew supervised by Officer Todd Rosengrant are shown clearing mailboxes buried by snowplows.



Geiger Work Crews helping keep walkways open, including Spokane Valley railroad bridge under- and over-pass routes.

for several years, and it's a huge tourism event for Spokane hotels, restaurants and stores. The tournament lasts two full weekends, and brings teams of various age groups from across the Pacific Northwest. Before that, though, we'll do the Convention Center setup and teardown for the State Middle School Basketball tournament. Then, as the snow melts, all that litter collecting along county roadways will become visible again."



Geiger Work Crew inmates under the direction of Officer Cruz Morales haul items from an illegal dump site for proper disposal.



Geiger Work Crews were in constant contact with STA last month, helping keep bus stop shelters accessible. Work Crew did an excellent job all month, despite several days of single-digit temperatures.

## 2019 Geiger EHM Numbers Off To Fast Start

Geiger Electric Home Monitoring (EHM) was re-started in 2014. Barb McGlothen, EHM Case Manager, reports that 2018 EHM numbers were similar to 2017. "Most of our EHM clients are serving time on DUI infractions. The state has a standard DUI sentencing framework, so Judges don't have a lot of discretion. After your first DUI, the sentencing escalates pretty quickly."

Geiger EHM Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Days Served	2601	4396	4869	4677	4698

While the number of EHM days served (and jail bed days saved) have mostly remained steady, 2019 has started out very busy. "Just during the first two months of 2019, offenders have already served 1308 days on Geiger EHM. I have 32 active EHM clients right now, and that's more than ever before."

## Geiger Recidivism Trends Tracking Shows Value In Offender Programming

### 3-year tracking completed

Geiger Recidivism Trends For Those Released In 2015					
2015 Incarceration Group	Time frame 2015	Sample Size	1-yr Recidivism (felonies & sig misd.)	2-yr Recidivism (fel. & sig. misd.)	3-yr Recidivism (fel. & sig. misd.)
IOP--Substance Disorder Treatment	2015	84	27.38%	34.52%	40.74%
Breaking Barriers	2015	113	39.82%	46.02%	53.09%
Fulcrum (≥30 classroom hrs.)	2015	86	43.52%	56.47%	60.00%
A-2 (Work Crew)	Sept. 2015	140	48.57%	57.86%	59.28%
B-2 (Kitchen Workers)	Sept. 2015	141	47.44%	59.85%	66.42%
B-3 (SCJ overflow)-- <b>control group</b>	Sept. 2015	156	49.36%	56.41%	<b>61.53%</b>
6-W (SCJ Max classification)	Sept. 2015	89	57.30%	67.06%	69.24%

Significant misdemeanors exclude DWLS, liability insurance, seat belt, sidewalk sitting, bus conduct, disorderly language. DUI, DV and theft are significant misdemeanors.

### Year 2 of 3-year tracking completed:

Geiger Recidivism Trends For Those Released In 2016					
2016 Incarceration Group	Time frame 2016	Sample Size	1-yr Recidivism (felonies & sig misd.)	2-yr Recidivism (fel. & sig. misd.)	
IOP--Substance Disorder Treatment	2016	87	26.43%	32.94%	
Breaking Barriers	2016	146	30.14%	37.67%	
Fulcrum (≥30 classroom hrs.)	2016	78	39.74%	51.28%	
A-2 (Work Crew)	Sept. 2016	134	41.79%	48.48%	
A-3 (Kitchen Workers)	Sept. 2016	110	40.00%	50.00%	
B-3 (SCJ overflow)-- <b>control group</b>	Sept. 2016	165	40.60%	<b>50.09%</b>	
6-W (SCJ Max/Med classification)	Sept. 2016	109	49.60%	71.56%	

### Year 1 of 3-year tracking completed:

Geiger Recidivism Trends For Those Released In 2017					
2017 Incarceration Group	Time frame 2017	Sample Size	1-yr Recidivism (felonies & sig misd.)		
IOP--Substance Disorder Treatment	2017	71	23.94%		
Breaking Barriers	2017	127	25.19%		
Fulcrum (≥30 classroom. hrs.)	2017	77	37.66%		
A-2 (Work Crew)	Sept. 2017	114	46.96%		
SCJ overflow at Geiger-- <b>control group</b>	Sept. 2017	136	<b>50.73%</b>		
Spokane Co. Jail Max/Med classification	Sept. 2017	101	56.43%		

As the objective of Geiger programs is to help people stop committing new crimes, and that is the exact criteria this study uses: jail bookings from new crimes.

New arrests for some low-level misdemeanors are filtered out. Those crimes are obstructing, unlawful bus conduct, pedestrian interference, sidewalk sitting, DWLS, seat belt violations and automobile liability insurance—infractions typically not fomented by criminogenic intent.

All theft, assault, DV, and DUI arrests are considered significant misdemeanors.

The above numbers indicate “trends” rather than a scientific analysis, as only crimes committed within Spokane County are included.

Geiger's community corrections re-entry programming began in 2012 with the objective of stemming victimization by helping offenders break the revolving jail door syndrome. Besides drug and alcohol Treatment, Gei-

ger chose the re-entry program “Breaking Barriers,” focusing on conflict resolution, cognitive behavioral growth and personal finance basics. Also added were stand-alone re-entry courses from Fulcrum in Anger Management, Job Skills, Relationship Management, Fatherhood, Leadership, Stress Management and Emotional Intelligence. Recidivism is defined in different ways. Some consider any re-arrest as a recidivistic act, others only consider new convictions.

## Former Geiger Inmate Now Geiger Building Trades Instructor

AGC Headstart To Construction Trades instructor Jesse Wharton, a former Geiger inmate, delivered the keynote address to Geiger's Breaking Barriers graduates on Feb. 27. Jesse is also currently leading a group of 8 Geiger inmates in basic framing, carpentry and heavy equipment operation.

Jesse told the grads that his problems started in 2009. “I destroyed my marriage with alcohol, and it nearly destroyed me. I ended up literally dying from an overdose in my driveway in front of my family. I was resuscitated, remained comatose for three days, was sent to rehab and decided I was never drinking again.”

Jesse remembers the day he left prison. “Prison wasn't the best time, but it was a time I'd never give back. When I left prison after 2-1/2 years, my whole life was contained in a cardboard box I carried out the front gate, but I had hope and ambition. Having destroyed my marriage, I moved into an Oxford house. Oxford houses are safe and sober residences for recovering addicts, and they're run by the residents. I caught on doing construction work. After about a year, I met Mike Ankney of AGC and was offered the opportunity to instruct in construction trades. By the grace of God, my wife and I are doing great again, and we have a new baby. We're in the process of buying a house with land, and I'm part of a program that allows me to influence others in a positive way.”

Jesse told the grads he not only was in Breaking Barriers while at Geiger in 2015, but took every class and training program available. “I even studied Microsoft Office in prison. I figured I'd never need it; I just wanted to stay busy. Now as an instructor now, I spend more time planning, tracking, writing and reporting with Office programs than I ever imagined. You can look at Geiger as punishment, or you can look at it as a blessing. You'll never have the time and opportunity to work on yourself and be honest with yourself as you do in here. You won't have time to think about the good things in your life, or reflect on what put you here. I was at Geiger for 90 days, but this is where my path back to life started. I hope you can see Geiger as an opportunity and not a punishment, because it's all about your mindset. Geiger means a lot to me. It's still makes me nervous being here, but this is where my direction and attitude changed. You might have a ton of barriers in front of you, but they aren't impossible to overcome with the right attitude and always doing the next right thing.”



Jesse Wharton, Inland NW Associated General Contractors “Headstart To Construction” trades instructor, and former Geiger inmate.

## Geiger GED Sectional Testing Success Hits 70% Again

Geiger's GED preparation and testing program began in 2006. Through 2018, 1744 inmates have participated. Of those, 479 earned their GED before release.

In 2018, 139 participated at Geiger and 37 earned their GED. To earn their GED, a person must pass all four sectional tests: math, language arts, social studies and science. For the year, 273 sectional tests were taken and 190 passed. That 70 percent passage rate is the same as 2017 when 302 sectional tests were attempted and 211 passed. The hardest section is math, with a 62 percent passing rate. Those beginning their GED at Geiger, but not finishing before release, may continue at many of the Community Colleges of Spokane locations.

## Comments From Breaking Barriers Graduates...

Offender “Nicholas,” at the Jan. 17 Breaking Barriers Graduation, explained how he learned new coping strategies in Ms. Butterfield's Breaking Barriers series. . “When the only tool in your toolbox is a hammer, you tend to treat every problem as a nail. Thank you for the new tools.”

Intensive Outpatient Treatment graduate “Dean,” at Geiger's Feb. 28 Breaking Barriers Graduation, told the grads and guests that dreams without goals will only ever be just dreams. “Thank you to everybody making these programs a reality, because you have shown me how life-long change is possible. Thank God I landed at Geiger.”

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Newsletter questions,  
comments?

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We're on the web:  
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