

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Mark Kubik
Executive Director**

Last year the Department of Corrections total budget was \$356 million, the majority going to support the prison system. The fact is, incarceration will always be needed.

All offenders must be held accountable for their actions and some are a direct threat to public safety. But is there a way to decrease the number of people who commit serious crimes, or who are repeat offenders of non-violent crimes? Is there a way to reduce the need for incarceration?

Probation accomplishes two goals, rehabilitation and increasing public safety. Providing probation to first time and low risk criminal offenders just makes sense. This simply is not happening in the State of Iowa. However, it is in Story County because of CCJ. Historically 85% - 87% of CCJ's clients do not reoffend following their successful completion of probation. The positive effects of this outcome are many: increased public safety, decreased victimization, less stress on our justice system, an improved quality of life for our communities, the improved lives of the offenders and their families, and a major savings to you, the taxpayer. Thank you for your continued support.

Probation is 1% of the cost of incarceration

	One Year in jail or prison	One probation case at CCJ
Cost	\$30,000	\$300
Paid by	Taxpayers (you)	Client (offender)



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Dedicated to positive change in our communities...one life at a time



CCJ is sponsored through major funding by:

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SAVE THE DATE

Come and show your support for CCJ on Tuesday, April 5th at the French Toast Feast! Our board members will be serving French toast, sausage, juice, and coffee. Doors open from 5-7 pm at the First Baptist Church located at 200 Lynn Avenue, Ames. The cost is only \$5 per person and children under 5 eat free! As an added bonus, The Ames Fire Department and Becca the Ballon Lady will be joining us from 5:30-6:30pm!

A CLIENT'S STORY

By: Ashley Schmuecker
CCJ Intern

Last December, I had the opportunity to speak with an exceptional and enlightened young man who had been a client of CCJ twice. When I asked him about his most recent experience with CCJ, he stated that his probation officer “really sat down with me and we came up with a plan to accomplish everything... he really did a good job.” He was on probation for a year and a half, and during that time he felt that he was given positive direction and opportunities from his probation officer. “He was always there giving me other options, trying to find some other information that he could help me figure out what I needed...I felt that the overall experience was pleasant. Not very many people can say that about probation.” When I asked this young man how his life has been different after his time at CCJ he detailed some remarkable changes.

He has taken full responsibility for his finances, and currently has paid off all of his outstanding bills and even stays ahead of them by paying off the next month’s bills long before they are

due. He has taken charge of his overall health and wellbeing by working with his therapist and getting treated for his anxiety and ADHD, which makes it hard for him to focus and concentrate. However, despite his struggles with anxiety and ADHD, he has raised his grade point average from a 0.67 to a 3.0! He spoke excitedly about graduating after one more semester and obtaining his degree. He said, “CCJ was what I needed when I got in trouble to move forward in life and accomplish what I need to accomplish. My probation officer really set those stepping stones that helped me to accomplish those goals.”

This insightful young man saw probation as “more of a reward than a punishment”. His rewards from working hard as client of CCJ with the direction of his probation officer include a stellar grade point average to finish his degree this year, and taking full responsibility for his education, his health, and his finances. He understood that forward progress and accomplishing your goals takes more than just showing up to meetings with your probation officer; it takes willingness to change and dedication.

It is clear that his experience at CCJ contributed to his ability to move forward with his life. As the interview came to a close, he reflected, “I think that what it comes down to is that people on probation are looking at it as a punishment, and it is a punishment for the things that you’ve done, but it’s also an opportunity for you to become what you want to become and to change what you are doing...because you’re just gonna be doin’ the same thing your whole life. It’s always about movin’ forward, that’s what it comes down to and if you have the opportunity to do that then I feel like you should take that opportunity into your hands and you should accomplish that goal.”

CCJ's Impacts:

- 1,400 low-risk and first time offenders are supervised by CCJ each year
- 75% of all probation cases in Story County are handled by CCJ
- 79% of CCJ's clients successfully completed all requirements of probation in 2009
- 87% of probation clients that have successfully completed their probation did not re-offend within the following year

How can I help?

- Assist with CCJ projects or events
- Volunteer to assist clerical staff
- Make a monetary donation to CCJ.