

CCJ Receives Grants

CCJ was awarded \$1,380 from the Alliant Energy Foundation Grant Request Program. The Alliant Energy Foundation was formed in order to help improve the quality of life in communities where Alliant Energy has a presence. The Foundation's programs reflect a commitment to play an active role in those areas and give back to future generations.

CCJ was awarded \$5,000 from the Story County Community Foundation. The Story County Community Foundation is a vehicle for charitable giving designed to benefit greater Story County. The Foundation utilizes a strategic grant making plan which includes its Community Betterment objectives. Through its grant making, the Foundation is committed to allocating resources to meet the needs of the communities and organizations in Story County.

Thanks to these foundations for their generous awards and for recognizing the service provided by CCJ. Funds will provide partial funding for technology upgrades, including new computers in the CCJ office.

Director's Message... Mark Kubik, Executive Director

Three CCJ staff members have recently completed a basic training program in Motivational Interviewing. Motivational Interviewing, or MI, is a way of talking with offenders to build their internal motivation for change.

Studies show offenders that are able to identify, accept, and talk about needed changes, are much more likely to make that change, as opposed to offenders who argue and defend their status quo. MI techniques help an offender explore and accept needed changes in behavior and decision-making, a key goal of probation.

CCJ's staff plans to attend advanced MI training in March 2008.

Excerpts from Client Letters to the Judge

"Supervision with CCJ has had a positive impact in my school work. Since the beginning of the fall '06 semester, I have boosted by GPA up with each semester and have obtained my first two 3.0 GPA semesters at Iowa State. I found it very helpful speaking to Mark Kubik on a monthly basis because he would give me the reassurance that I am smart and I have so many opportunities that don't need to be jeopardized by fighting and abusing alcohol. I think that he has given me extreme confidence to succeed in life and his guidance has helped me become a better man."

"I have come to understand the severity of my actions this past January and the unnecessary risks I took when I made the decision to drink and drive. I am so grateful for . . . a deferred judgment. It was wonderful to work with the Center for Creative Justice. My probation officer, Christy Boyer, was always available to answer my questions and provide support. I want to thank you for your willingness to give me a second chance and the opportunity to improve on myself. This experience has clarified the need for me to act as a better citizen in order for me to succeed in meeting my goals. "

"I am finally concluding my year long probationary period. It has been a rough time in my life with all the wrong choices that I made last year, but I'm happy to say that I have picked my life up and am no longer making the bad choices that plagued me in the past. Working with CCJ has been a very beneficial experience. Christy Boyer, my probation officer, has been great! She instilled the attitude inside of me to keep doing the right thing and put this mistake behind me."

Charlie Ricketts is one of our many volunteer Probation Officers. He lives in Ames, has a grown son and daughter, and is enjoying his six grandchildren. Charlie is retired after 38 years with Sundstrand, but remained on retainer with Sauer-Danfoss until 2005. He is actively involved in many areas of the community, including past president and board member of the Ames Foundation, member of the ISU Engineering Department Advisory Council and director of the Ames/Story County Cyclone Club, among others. He has been with CCJ for many years serving as past president and past interim executive director. Charlie likes the way CCJ is heading. "The Center for Creative Justice allows young people to go through the deferred judgment process and come back into the community as a better person," said Ricketts. Being part of the CCJ family has been a good experience for Charlie. "This program gives you a better look at life," he said.

News Item

CCJ would like to welcome Judge James Malloy to the District Associate bench in Story County as of October 2007. Judge Malloy earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1976, his M Ed. in 1980 and law degree in 1984 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was the Assistant County Attorney in Boone from 1984-1987, was in private law practice from 1987-2007, and was a Magistrate from 1997-2007. Judge Malloy participates in Judo at Iowa State and enjoys scuba diving in his pastime. He is a black belt in Judo, Hapkido and Taekwondo. Judge Malloy is looking forward to the challenges of his position that takes him to courtrooms in both Ames and Nevada. "Story County is a great place to live and work. I knew coming into the role that the people at the court house would be excellent to work with and I've not been disappointed."