

Press Release

Annual Prisons and Volunteerism Awards

January 15, 2015

The National Coalition of Community-Based Correctional and Community Re-Entry Service Organizations (NC4RSO) is the national network of prison nonprofits.

Every January, we recognize important community contributors within jails, prisons, and community reentry during the previous calendar year. We coordinate this recognition with the National Day of Service on Martin Luther King Day to acknowledge civic engagement.

This year, 2015, the National Day of Service is recognized on January 19, 2015.

For more information about the National Day of Service, see: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/days-service/martin-luther-king-jr-day-service-0>

Our award recipients for 2014 are presented on the following pages. This year, awards are bestowed upon the following:

- Freedom Project Seattle
- Newark, New Jersey Mayor #
- Potomac, Maryland Attorney Kim Reed
- Seattle #

Contact Us

NC4RSO

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2014 Award Recipients:

NC4RSO Organizational Member of the Year

Our 2014 Organizational Member of the Year Award goes to *Freedom Project Seattle*. *Freedom Project Seattle* was chosen as *NC4RSO's* member of the year for two reasons:

- For supporting networking and coalition-building among prison nonprofits in the Seattle area.
- For providing *NC4RSO* with the idea of a rotating series of *Why I Volunteer in Prisons* articles that now appear on the *NC4RSO* website. *NC4RSO's* mission includes public recruitment of new volunteers to join jail-prison-reentry groups around the country. Members of the general public often feel trepidation about the idea of volunteering in prisons; these *Why I Volunteer in Prisons* articles from experienced volunteers help in overcoming this trepidation.

About Freedom Project Seattle

In their own words, “Freedom Project transforms prisoners into peacemakers. We offer programs teaching mindfulness and the concrete skills of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) designed to lead to reconciliation with ourselves, our loved ones, and the larger community. We teach prisoners how to heal relationships ruptured by violence and how to improve their capacity to serve as family members, workers and citizens.”

Contact Information:

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Phone: (206) 325-5678
Website: <http://freedomprojectseattle.org>

NC4RSO-Acknowledged Individuals of the Year

NC4RSO selects individuals to recognize each year. These individuals include prison volunteers and/or other individuals who make various kinds of other relevant contributions to communities and organizations.

This year, we recognize two individuals:

- **Newark, New Jersey mayor Ras Baraka**
- **Potomac, Maryland lawyer Kim Reed**

Newark, New Jersey Mayor Ras Baraka: Recognition for Community-Based Solutions

In addition to our primary focus on community programs in jails, prisons, and re-entry, this year we recognize **Newark, NJ Mayor Ras Baraka** for bringing about community-based solutions for crime reduction - thus reducing dependence upon incarceration. In October, 2014, **Mayor Baraka** - as described by NPR news coverage - held a meeting that “included activists, ministers and gang members, as well as victims of violence” as a mechanism for reducing crime. This effort is generating results.

An NPR article about his efforts is available here:
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2015/01/04/374606971/newarks-new-mayor-on-policing-crime-and-police>

We applaud Mayor Baraka for his meaningful community-based approach to crime reduction.

Potomac, Maryland lawyer Kim Reed

Organizations of every kind succeed as a result of individuals who contribute to organizational well-being. **NC4RSO** is no exception.

As the national network for community groups engaged in jails, prisons, and reentry, people are the whole focus of **NC4RSO's** existence – connecting community groups with one another, engaging volunteers with jail-prison-reentry volunteer opportunities, and transforming lives of people who experience incarceration.

Since **NC4RSO** was founded in 2010, one of our consistent supporters has been our external pro-bono lawyer, **Ms. Kim Reed** of Potomac, Maryland. She has supported us on several levels, including:

- **Ms. Reed** helped us successfully file for nonprofit status with the IRS, thus resulting in **NC4RSO** becoming a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization.
- **Ms. Reed** answers periodic organizational development questions as **NC4RSO** develops nationally.
- **Ms. Reed** provides moral support when our developmental efforts “stretch” the **NC4RSO** team.
- **Ms. Reed** periodically provides support to our communications and fundraising efforts.

Ms. Reed's availability and contributions have been important supports toward **NC4RSO's** development. **For this, we thank you.**