

MEDIA RELEASE

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Faith-Based Mentors and Mentees of the Year--February 21

Testimony of Challenges and Successful Reentry--Dynamic Faith-Based Choir

Media Interviews Available--Hundreds in Attendance

New television show (*with footage from last year's event*) available at <http://media.csosa.gov/podcast/video/2012/09/faith-based-initiatives-for-offender-reentry-dc-public-safety-television/>

New radio show (recorded Wednesday) on CSOSA's faith based program available at <http://media.csosa.gov/podcast/audio/2013/02/faith-based-mentoring-dc-public-safety-radio/>

WHO: Faith-based mentors and the men and women they assist.

WHAT: A focus on those returning from prison that made successful transitions with the assistance of faith-based mentors.

WHEN: Thursday, February 21, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: St. Luke Church Center, 4923 East Capitol St. SE, Washington, DC 20019. Parking available in the rear.

WHY: Each year, approximately 2,300 men and women return from federal correctional institutions (via CSOSA supervision) to the District of Columbia. Faith-based volunteers provide support, encouragement, fellowship and resources. Many credit mentors for their successful adjustment. CSOSA supervises and assists approximately 15,000 people on parole or probation daily.

Background: As of September 30, 2013, 312 faith institutions have been certified as mentor centers, 193 mentors are engaged with the program and 276 reentrants are matched with a mentor. Approximately 764 mentees have successfully completed the program since August 2007.

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