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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Court Seeks Mentoring Program Volunteers For Ex-offenders

Cumberland County, PA – Cumberland County Adult Probation Office, under the authority of President Judge Edward E. Guido, is partnering with Christian Recovery Aftercare Ministry, Inc. (CRAM) to provide pre-release and re-entry support services to inmates and ex-offenders who will transition from incarceration back into the community, and is seeking volunteers willing to learn and participate in mentorship. Program MENTOR (**M**entoring **E**xoffenders' **N**eeds **T**o **O**vercome **R**eoffending) aims at successfully returning these individuals to the community to effectively reduce recidivism rates and promote safer communities. The first orientation for this new program is Monday, April 3, 2017 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Jury Assembly Room, 3rd Floor of the Cumberland County Courthouse. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is invited to attend.

The program, administered by Ashley Rohm, the Cumberland County Adult Re-entry Program (CCARP) Coordinator and the Cumberland County Representative of the Leader Project, emphasizes the importance of empowering ex-offenders to be self-sufficient thereby lessening the burden on local communities. Offender reentry to life in the community is an important component to building a safe and strong community. Proper reentry into society is vital to reducing recidivism rates for individuals who have been incarcerated. Close to 67% of released prisoners are arrested for a new crime within three years, according to a Federal Bureau of Justice survey of former inmates between 2005 and 2010. Many offenders entering the community struggle with substance abuse, lack of adequate education and job skills, limited housing options, as well as, mental health issues.

Program MENTOR services are centered on several areas within an offender's life, in order to help them become a law-abiding citizen. Obtaining living quarters, official identification, and drug and alcohol counseling, as well as finding employment and reconnecting with family are all important parts of reentry

into society. Volunteers within the community are needed to provide constructive peer relationships that offer positive reinforcements for offenders to help them succeed in all aspects of their life. To learn more about Program MENTOR, or how to become a volunteer, visit www.ccpa.net/adultprobation. To learn more about the Cumberland County Adult Re-entry Program, contact Ashley Rohm at CCARProgram@gmail.com. To learn more about the Leader Project visit www.craminc.org

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