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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteers Needed to Make a Difference for Ex-offenders

Cumberland County, PA – Positive peer relationships make a difference for ex-offenders trying to reenter society. The Cumberland County Adult Probation Office is seeking volunteers willing to give their time, talents and support to inmates and ex-offenders who are transitioning from incarceration back into the community.

The Cumberland County Adult Re-entry Program (CCARP) aims to successfully return these individuals to the community, in an effort to reduce recidivism rates and promote safer communities.

“The mentors are there for guidance, support and encouragement,” said Ashley Rohm, CCARP coordinator. “It can be overwhelming for an ex-offender to return to the community and our mentors are there to offer support.”

But the program can’t operate without mentor volunteers.

“Anyone living in Cumberland County, who has a genuine desire to encourage, inspire and support a fellow human being by offering hope and caring guidance, can be a mentor in this program,” Rohm said.

An orientation session (info session) for the CCARP program will be Thursday September 6th from 6-8pm in the Jury Assembly Room (third floor) of the Courthouse located at One Courthouse Square, Carlisle, PA 17013. Anyone interested in becoming a mentor is invited to attend. For those who would like to become a mentor, a training session will be held Thursday, September 13th from 6 – 8 p.m. in the same location as the orientation session.

Nearly two-thirds of released prisoners will recidivate within five years of their release, according to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics. 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. The CCARP program works to reduce recidivism rates by empowering ex-offenders to be self-sufficient, lessening the burden on local communities.

The CCARP program encompasses several areas within an offender’s life, in order to help him/her become a law-abiding citizen. Securing housing and employment, obtaining official identification, drug and alcohol counseling, and reconnecting with family are all important parts of reentry.

Community volunteers are needed to provide positive, constructive peer relationships for offenders, to help them succeed in all aspects of life. To learn more about CCARP or how to become a volunteer, visit www.ccpa.net/adultprobation or contact Ashley Rohm at (717) 240-6522 or CCARProgram@gmail.com.

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