



THRESHOLDS OF CHESTER COUNTY

Spring Cycle Completes!

Our Spring sessions have completed with the following results:

- Men’s Prison graduated 4 students
- Women’s Correctional Center graduated 4 students
- Women’s Prison graduated 13 students

That’s a total of 21 students who have learned how to make decisions with our process!

As always, we welcome our micro teachers to attend the Macro graduations. Each graduation is a true celebration of their accomplishment with the presentation of their “gift cards” and cake for everyone to enjoy.

For those of you who have not experienced the macro graduation, each student is presented with a list of positive attributes that is compiled from their peers in the class.

It is wonderful to see the looks on their faces as they see how valued and respected they are.

Our next session will begin again in September!

We didn’t forget the Youth Center – see Page 3 for more details!!

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

On Saturday June 8, we held our first appreciation breakfast for all our Micro and Macro teachers. There were 15 volunteers in attendance from both the adult and youth programs.

The breakfast had two objectives: to have the opportunity to thank our volunteers and to share experiences and thoughts with other volunteers.

Our second objective is to provide an additional opportunity to meet others volunteers in the organization. We talked about different strategies volunteers use with their clients and feedback about how to make the cycle even better in the future.

We look forward to making this an annual event!

Mission Statement:

Thresholds of Chester County (Thresholds) is a non-profit organization that teaches decision making skills to interested inmates by developing and maintaining a group of volunteers. Through this program, Thresholds builds a constructive relationship between the Chester County Prison, Chester County Youth Center and the community.

Spring Newsletter 2013

**Looking for
Volunteer
Opportunities with
Thresholds
Outside the
Prison?**

**See page 4 for
more information**

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**NEWS AND
UPDATES**

New Men’s Macro Lead Teacher

Congratulations to Dona L. for being named the new Macro Lead Teacher for the Men’s cycle starting in Fall 2013. We are very excited to have her join the Lead Macro teacher team!

Dona is a retired educator with 35 years of experience being a teacher, principal and Director of Curriculum. She has been volunteering with Thresholds for 5 years as a Micro Teacher and Women’s Assistant Macro Teacher. She also serves on the program committee which is part of the Strategic Planning Committee for our Thresholds. Outside of Thresholds, Dona is an avid reader, volunteers with Chester County Literacy tutoring in English as a Second Language and has a small dog sitting business.

The VTW Gets a Makeover

As some of you know, we have started a Strategic Planning Committee within Thresholds to review and forward the mission of our group. One of the first accomplishments of the group was to successfully form a program committee and review the structure of the Volunteer Training Weekend (VTW).

The VTW used to be a day and a half, it has now been streamlined into a one day program with a shifted focus into practical day-to-day information a micro teacher will need to know as well as the six steps.

The program committee learned a lot from producing the content for the Spring Volunteer Training and they continue to reflect on the training and enhance it.

Sponsor an Inmate Program Raises \$280

Did you know we launched our first fundraising campaign? The Fund Raising committee has put together the “Sponsor an Inmate” Program.

We started the campaign at our general member meeting in April have already raised \$280 which sponsors 18 inmates! The form is included at the end of this newsletter and can be passed out to anyone who may be interested in donating.

This program was designed and implemented by the Fund Raising committee that was formed from the Strategic Plan. If you are interested in joining this committee, see page 4 for more details.

**Know Someone
Interested in
Volunteering with
Thresholds?**

Contact Amber at:
volunteer@thresholdschesco.org



**Have a
Question?
Need
Information?
Don’t know
who to call?**

Email the [President](mailto:President@ThresholdsChesco.org) at
President@
ThresholdsChesco.org

Youth Corner

Threshold's delivers three programs at the Youth Center: Shelter, Detention and Evening Reporting Center (ERC).

Thresholds is still very strong at the Youth Center. We had 63 youths graduate from the program this school year!

The shelter program is conducted the 1st Saturday of the month from September to May, the Detention program is done the 2nd Saturday and Sunday of the month from September to May and the ERC program is currently on hold until we can get more volunteers involved in the program.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Youth Center programs please contact Alison at alisonmurphy333@gmail.com.

Everyone is welcome to come and observe the program to see if you might be interested in volunteering.

- Article contributed by Alison M.

Strategic Plan is Complete

We have completed our Strategic Plan for 2013-2014. We have formed four committees to help implemented the goals and objectives stated in the document. These committees are: Volunteer, Program, Fund Raising , and Publicity/Marketing. At this time both the Fund Raising and Publicity committees are looking for additional committee members. Contact the president if you are interested and want more information.

For anyone who wishes to view the document, please email the President@ThesholdsChesco.org and we will send you the electronic file.



Re-Entry Program

We have a re-entry session that is conducted the week after graduation for a class at their regular date and time. This is provided for Men and Women, both at prison and corrections center.

Just like with our program, this is an optional program that the student can elect to participate in. Connie leads this program and she reviews the guide contents and answers questions for the students.

Each student receives a copy of the manual. We encourage clients to become familiar with the contents of the manual that might be useful to them upon release.

The program is designed to provide information about programs and services, mostly Chester County based, that people being release from prison might find helpful. This was compiled by a small group of people who diligently update the material every year.

Referrals are also made to Jim Lindsay, the Chester County probation and parole officer, of inmates who would like to meet with him before their release.

Anyone interested in participating in the Re-Entry program can contact the President for more information.

- Article contributed by Connie and Jenny



Dear Thresholders,

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you and first thank you for your work with our organization. I am proud to be a part of such a unique group of people that truly exemplify what it means to be of service in our community.

We are very blessed to have such wonderful and dedicated volunteers from the micro teachers all the way to our Executive Board. Every hour you give to Thresholds is a generous donation of your time and I thank each and every one of you for what you do.

Our volunteers on the Strategic Committee did an excellent job of coming together and producing a document that truly will guide us into the future. A future where Thresholds is known in the community as a leader and a necessary service for those in prison.

I mentioned this at our annual meeting in the beginning of the year and I want to restate that I really believe in what we do. When I lead the organization, I am leading as a person who believes that every life matters and that everyone has a say in matter of the quality of their life. I am honored that I get to work with all of you.

As Dick always said, "see you in prison",
- *Jenny Schuff, President of Thresholds of Chester County*

Volunteer Opportunities

For all opportunities listed, please contact the president for more information at President@ThresholdsChesco.org.

Below is a list of opportunities to volunteer with our organization. This is in addition to our one-on-one tutors at the prison and youth programs.

- **Prison Macro Teachers for Adults** – if you are interested in teaching the class on a weekly basis to the large macro sessions, there is an opening for new macro teachers to be trained.
- **Publicity/Marketing Committee** – Part of the Strategic Planning Committee, this committee works to get the word out about Thresholds to other organizations through speaking engagements and other methods of communication. Someone who is interested in marketing or passionate about the organization would be a great fit for this role. There are 2 openings for this committee.
- **Re-Entry Program** – This group reviews and updates the Re-Entry manual at least once a year to make sure the information is accurate and relevant. This team also delivers the manuals to the recently graduated Thresholds students for both men and women at the prison and women at the Correctional Center. During this session, they will walk through the manual and explain how to use this information as a resource upon re-entry. There are 2 openings for this team.
- **Fund Raising Committee** – Part of the Strategic Planning Committee, this committee is working towards raising funds through grants, donations and the newly launched Adopt-An-Inmate program. We are looking for 3 new additions to the team to help in raising these funds.

Yes – I would like to sponsor an inmate! Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for:

_____ \$15 to sponsor an inmate _____ \$30 to sponsor 2 inmates
_____ \$75 to sponsor 5 inmates _____ to sponsor _____ inmates

Please make checks payable to: Thresholds of Chester County

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

____ I would like my gift to be anonymous.

____ My employer, _____, will match my gift.

Enclosed is their matching gift form.

www.thresholdschesco.org

Please mail your donation to:

Thresholds of Chester County
P.O. Box 1703
West Chester, PA 19380