

KODIAK AREA MENTOR PROGRAM, INC

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OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Kodiak Area Mentor Program Inc., or KAMP, is a non-profit, faith-based program sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His love and forgiveness with our brothers and sisters who are lost in sin here in Kodiak; by building relationships with individuals we can help them overcome difficult situations and set-backs. KAMP works with those who are, or have been incarcerated with a plan to re-enter the community in a healthy, safe, sober and more successful way.

KAMP does not compete with other programs but rather encourages individuals to use existing programs within and outside the community. We take the time to educate participants on accessing available resources.



A HUGE THANK YOU!! - TERESA SLAUGHTER, TREASURER

KAMP is so grateful for our newly acquired office. We are excited about how this office space will make reaching out to those wanting/pursuing recovery and their families much easier. We have looked forward to having a place to meet individuals in an environment that is private and relaxed.

The KAMP Board would like to say a sincere thanks to our bank, First National Bank Alaska, for financially guiding our organization from the beginning. In addition, First National Bank Alaska is in the process of remodeling their facility and thought of KAMP to donate much needed furniture to our office. We so appreciate this donation.

Thank you also to Ben and Hazel Ardinger for taking the time to talk with Jonathan Strong and listening to the office space needs of our organization. As a result of this discussion a wonderful rental opportunity was developed. We are so pleased to begin this new phase of our growth with a Landlord that is so understanding of our needs and vision.

We thank each and every person for their financial donations and for all the helping hands that have come together, at Donna Ruch's tireless direction, to set up the office space and get it ready for work.

We would also like to thank Community Baptist Church for allowing us to use their facilities for our Friday night support group — thank you for being so gracious and understanding.

Thank you to Thia Falcone's "Introduction to Sociology" class for their help with our open house as well as Subway, Java Flats and Harborside Coffee & Goods.

Most of all, we thank God for blessing us with this next phase of our growth and we ask that He continue to keep His hand upon each individual participating in KAMP as we do our best to reach out to others wanting to make healthy changes in their lives. We will continue to network within the community to ensure that each individual we come in contact with is guided to the right organization, church, landlord, employers and others in an effort to propel the individual forward into a healthy future.



A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM A PARENT WITH AN ADDICTED CHILD

I have never been arrested or jailed. Yet here I am in a courtroom with my husband waiting for our daughter, dressed in an orange jumpsuit, to appear before the judge for charges related to drugs.

I cannot relate to what she is going through. What is she feeling? Is she scared? I'm scared. I feel like a stranger in a strange land. They say addiction is a family disease and I understand why. All of our lives changed when Meth got ahold of our daughter. My husband and I would ask each other, how do parents deal with this if they don't have a strong faith in God? So much was out of our control. We felt so alone and helpless. Many nights we sat on the couch holding hands speechless.

It still is hard to think back to those early days without getting a lump in my throat. Now, several years have passed and we are still on this journey. What has changed, however, is we no longer feel alone. KAMP is our support system. A couple of years ago our daughter was invited by a member of KAMP to come to a Friday night meeting at the basement of the Community Baptist Church. She went and liked it. After a few months she told my husband and I she was getting a coin for remaining sober and invited us to the meeting. We attended and found a supportive group of people, of all ages and reasons for being there. Some were Mentors, others family members and many were individuals just trying to maintain sobriety as they rebuild their lives. We felt welcomed and began attending on a regular basis. Now our goal is to go through Mentor training.

We know everyday there are parents sitting in the courtroom just like us with the 'deer in the headlights' look on their faces. To those parents, I can relate. I want them to know they are not alone. I want them to know about KAMP.



A MESSAGE OF RECOVERY FROM JANICE ALEXANDEROFF

When I was in jail, I was invited to go to a Saturday night faith based support group but hesitant in going at first because it was a faith based group. I didn't want to open up to people because I didn't think there were people that were actually interested in how I was doing. After about five Saturday meetings, I felt comfortable enough to open up and I continued going to the meetings while in jail. I was in there a long time!

I tried out one Mentor but wasn't ready to be open and honest about my struggles. By then I was released from jail and back into my addiction, arrested again and then went into a treatment program off island for four months.

When I completed treatment and came back to Kodiak, I asked about the KAMP program and how I would get a Mentor because I was finally ready to be open and honest with my life. I found a Mentor I connected with and now I can speak with her openly and honestly without feeling like I'm being judged.

KAMP has helped me be able to find myself. When I'm struggling, I know I can contact my Mentor or someone from KAMP to talk to. They are willing and ready to listen, even if I'm not in the right frame of mind. KAMP has helped me see that I am worth more than I give myself credit for and if I keep working on myself, I can have a different life.

I would recommend KAMP to anyone who is struggling with any sort of addiction and is serious about stopping and is willing to be honest and do the work. KAMP points people in the right direction but doesn't do the work for them. You have to do the work yourself!

***KAMP GROUP is held on Friday evenings from 6pm to 8pm at the Community Baptist Church, 216 Mill Bay Road.
A meal and free child care provided for those attending.***



A CHALLENGE TO THE FAITH COMMUNITY FROM THE KAMP BOARD

IF YOU COULD HELP CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE FOREVER WOULD YOU?

Every day we connect with individuals who need to know that they are not alone and that God cares for them. They need someone to point them to the hope found in Jesus. **Why not you?**

Sharing Christ is easier than you may think! Let me count the ways:

- ⇒ You really can do it!
- ⇒ KAMP offers training, coaching and support.
- ⇒ Be that person that is willing to show up time after time.
- ⇒ Over time, build real relationships that can be counted upon.
- ⇒ Real relationships that speak love, truth and affirmation.
- ⇒ Model an authentic faith.

Help change our community!

KAMP is looking for a few good Christian men and women that would like to support our program by being a personal mentor, job coach, employer, landlord or financial coach etc.. We are looking for individuals in the community that we can network with that would be willing to take on one of these roles or even a portion of a role.

KAMP 's desire is not only to mentor individuals in need but to mentor and develop leaders. Our desire is to see talent in individuals that may not currently be seeing it and to nurture this talent. **We are individuals willing to step out of the way to allow others to rise up when needed.** Each of us have had that person who saw "something" in us and we are doing our best to pass the gift given to each of us on to others.

Do you have a gift of speaking? Would you consider sharing with our Friday night group your expertise on a life topic that would help move an individual forward on finances, housing, career or educational choices? Please consider connecting with one of us to set up a time to convey to you what you can do to help individuals and our community. If you have a busy life and feel you do not have much time but would like to contribute - give us a moment to find that "one thing" that you could do that would be very needed and meaningful but would not require a huge time commitment. Please call our KAMP office #907-486-2919 to set up a time for one of us to connect with you.

Thank you for considering this opportunity and should you not be able to personally get involved please consider adding our program to your prayer list and also supporting us financially as we continue to work with individuals.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11 NIV



MENTOR TRAINING COMING IN FEBRUARY, 2019!

Training for mentors is scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 2019 at the KAMP office. Trainers will be Rev. Jim Duncan, Department of Corrections Statewide Chaplaincy Coordinator; Kristine Gugel, Transitional Living Community Staff and Coordinator of Mentor Net in the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center in Eagle River; and Jill Bunting, Probation and Parole Supervisor for Department of Corrections Kodiak and Dillingham Districts. This training is for all current KAMP mentors as well as anyone who is interested in becoming a mentor with the Kodiak Area Mentor Program. Two sessions will be held in order to accommodate busy schedules. The morning session will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30; and the afternoon session will be held from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. This training is required for all KAMP mentors. To register to attend this training or for more information, email: kamp@kodiakmentors.org; or call 907-486-2919.



THE SECOND ANNUAL REENTRY RECOGNITION KODIAK EVENT— MARCH 16, 2018

On March 16, 2018 Kodiak Area Mentor Program (KAMP) and PO III Jill Bunting teamed up to hold the Second Annual **Reentry Recognition Kodiak** event at the Roy H. Madsen Justice Center in Kodiak, Alaska.

Department of Corrections recognized Threshold Recycling for their partnership in employing one of the speakers as an intern at their facility. Threshold Recycling has been a partner with Department of Corrections for decades as a community work service location. Last year Threshold took their involvement to the next level by employing one of the speakers as an intern and subsequently as a paid employee. Through this work experience, the individual was able to obtain full time employment at a local business. Two local employers were also recognized for their partnership in reentry efforts. However, they humbly wished to remain anonymous, expressing the desire to continue to assist this population with no recognition.

Before the speakers took the podium, Probation Officer Bunting recognized Teresa Slaughter for her service as Kodiak Area Mentor Program founder and Executive Director. Teresa is leaving the island and her position will be taken over by Jonathan Strong. Teresa, in partnership with Probation Officer Bunting, founded the Kodiak Area Mentor Program in May 2014. Since then the program has grown into a non-profit networking organization that assists people through faith-based mentoring relationships in the Kodiak Jail, in the community, and through letter writing to individuals in prison.

Probation Officer Bunting began the next part of the program with an explanation of how this event to recognize reentry successes began in 2017 and how speakers are selected. The genesis of this event arose from a desire to recognize some individuals who, through their hard work and determination, have experienced successful completion of probation and far beyond that goal. This recognition has also proved valuable to the Court, law enforcement, the legal community and others who have interacted with these individuals and been a part of their journey. The qualifications to be a speaker at this event were: successful completion of probation, no criminal matters pending, employment, housing, transportation and living a changed life. Probation Officer Bunting emphasized that although public speaking is not comfortable for everyone, each of the speakers has an important message for the community and this is a skill that can help them communicate this.

Four speakers told moving stories of how they worked to achieve sobriety and how their experiences have impacted their friends and families. Each speaker was given three minutes to address Judge Steve Cole and the members of the audience that packed the courtroom. They told their stories of recovery and victory over substance abuse. They recognized the people in their lives that helped them in their journey. Each speaker was presented with a Certificate of Achievement by Probation Officer Bunting. After the speeches were presented, the floor was turned over to Judge Cole who spoke to the audience and speakers about how moved he was at hearing each individual's presentation. Afterward, a reception was held with cookies, coffee and conversation where members of the audience could talk with the speakers individually and learn more about them.



Jami Gibson,
Desiree Manues,
Sheila Majors,
Fawn Anderson,
Judge Cole,
PO Jill Bunting

**YOU ONLY FAIL
WHEN
YOU STOP TRYING.**