



# Center for Self-Sufficiency

*Inspiring Hope, Fostering Growth*

October 2016 CFSS Community Newsletter

## *CFSS Launches New Website, Logo, Mission and Vision*



### **VISION:**

**Community revitalization through individual transformation**

### **MISSION:**

**To provide a foundation for people to actualize their hope and motivation to access a good life.**

We're proud to share our new logo, vision, mission and updated website with you today. Visit [www.centerinc.org](http://www.centerinc.org) to find out more about all the [programs and services](#) we offer to support the Milwaukee community, meet our [staff](#), learn more about our [events](#), and [support](#) our mission with an online gift to the Center for Self-Sufficiency. (Special thanks to AFFIRM Agency for its design work on website and branding, and photographers Lila Aryan, Corey Hengen and Deniene Powell.) **Check it out for yourself today and visit often!**

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## ***CFSS receives U.S. Department of Justice "Strengthening Relationships" award***

CFSS was one of only four organizations throughout the country to receive the three-year grant that focuses on fathers returning from the Racine Youthful Offender Correctional facility. The program is designed to:

- reduce recidivism;
- support responsible parenting; and
- improve economic stability & self-sufficiency among young fathers (age 15-24) returning to society.

The revitalization services provided will include healthy relationship, parenting and employment-related instruction, mentoring, visits and activities for fathers and children. In addition, participants will have access to job training, employers, legal aid, support services and assistance with custody issues which they will access from project partners.

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## **Upcoming Events**

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### ***Our Community, Our Solutions Career Fair***

***Weds., October 26, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.***

***COA Youth & Family Center***

***2320 W. Burleigh St., Milwaukee***

CFSS is partnering with Job Services, NAACP, Job Corps and Vanguard Group LLC to host a Career Fair featuring employers in the areas of Manufacturing, Construction, Retail, Welding, Housekeeping, Drivers, Warehouse, Production Associates, Call Center Representatives, Management Jobs, Hospitality, Administrative, Childcare, Food Industry, General Labor and Many More.

Please share with those who may be interested in attending -- they should bring their resumes and dress to impress. For more information contact Shawn Williams at 414-270-6923 or [shawn.williams@centerinc.org](mailto:shawn.williams@centerinc.org).

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## Share Your Heart!

*Heart of Canal Street* is Potawatomi Hotel & Casino's community program that raises funds for children's charities - and CFSS is in the running to be a beneficiary. *Heart of Canal Street* has raised nearly \$16 million for hundreds of area children's charities since 1994. The program honors the Potawatomi tradition of nurturing younger generations so they grow to lead healthy, productive lives.



Half of each \$3 or \$7 Canal Street Bingo game purchased goes to the *Heart of Canal Street* fund, which totaled more than \$1 million last year! Once again this year, CFSS has the chance to receive an award from this fund to support our youth programs, so we thank you in advance for your support. Share your heart by playing the Canal Street Bingo game now through December 15. Visit [www.paysbig.com/heart](http://www.paysbig.com/heart) to learn more.

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## Our Happy Hour Fundraiser at Blu Was a BIG Success!

Thanks to everyone who attended and supported our celebrity bar tenders at the September 27 fundraising event at Blu Bar & Lounge at the Pfister Hotel. We are especially grateful to Shaleta Dunn, Thomas Harris, Kalan Haywood and Mac Weddle who encouraged the crowd to be so generous -- their enthusiasm helped us raise nearly \$2,000 to support our programs and services. (See more photos on our [Facebook](#) page.)



*CFSS President and CEO Carl Wesley (center front) and Board members (from left) Kalan Haywood, Tammy Belton-Davis, Thomas Harris, Shaleta Dunn, Lamarr Franklin and Tijuandria Smith at the fundraiser on September 27, 2016 at the Blu Bar & Lounge in the Pfister Hotel.*

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## Additional Events

*Wednesday - Thursday, October 26-27, 2016*

### **The Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG) Site Visit at CFSS**

Representatives from the Council of State Governments Justice Center will be on-site to meet with CFSS and partner staff. CSG is a policy organization that offers nonpartisan recommendations and consensus-driven strategies to local, state, and federal governments on criminal justice issues. This visit provides CSG representatives an opportunity to gain a better understanding of how CFSS' mentoring program fits into our work overall. CSG staff will meet with community mentors, mentees and staff at Racine Youthful Offender facility as well as discuss program data and components of the program's independent evaluation.

*Monday, November 14, 2016, 5:30 p.m.*

**CFSS Board of Directors Meeting**, CFSS Offices, 2nd Floor CLUB

*Wednesday, November 16, 2016*

### **Community Partnership Outreach Program (CPOP) Informational Session**

CFSS will host an exclusive Community Partnership Outreach Program (CPOP) informational session for Department of Corrections Region 3 and Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility staff. The sessions are designed to further strengthen the delivery of CPOP services to CFSS members.

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## Employee Spotlight

### **Becky Redmond-Walker, Mentor Project Coordinator**

It is no surprise that Becky Redmond-Walker has chosen to serve her community through mentorship. Born as the youngest of 11 children in Isola, Mississippi, Becky was fortunate to be surrounded by a loving family who taught, supported and mentored her. Becky's strong family was led by parents who celebrated more than 65 years of marriage. When she was a child, her family moved to Racine and Becky has called Wisconsin home ever since. Becky graduated from Washington Park High School in Milwaukee where she proudly still holds two school track records for the long jump!

Early in Becky's career, she worked for the Kaiser Group where she was an integral part of the team that worked to restructure the welfare system into the W-2 Program that we know today. After nine years with the Kaiser Group, she worked for MAXIMUS for 15 years in various positions including Educator, Facilitator, and Manager. In January 2012, Becky joined the CFSS team as a Resource Coordinator. Becky has served her community in many CFSS positions, and currently is Mentor Project Coordinator. Becky truly understands some of the difficult trials and challenges that CFSS Members face daily. Before the



age of 40, Becky fought and conquered breast cancer; in May 2017, Becky will be a 15-year cancer survivor! She and her husband Jack have been married for 8 years, and she is the proud mother of Shirelle and Brandon, who are following her lead by working for two community nonprofits, House of Peace and Community Advocates.

Becky believes in building bridges with CFSS Members. She understands that the bridges can support Members on their journeys, but we cannot force them to cross those bridges. When our Members feel supported by their mentors and their community, they can focus on making positive changes in their lives.

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## Welcome to New Staff

**Gwendolyn "Gwen" Hall** joined the CFSS team in August as the Employment Support Services Specialist at the Marshall Sherrer Correctional Center.

We welcomed **Diana Rhyne** in September and **Danny Parker** in October as Member Services Coordinators for the Community Partnership Outreach Program (CPOP).

**Jasmine Taylor** also joined the staff in October as Administrative Coordinator.

Visit [www.centerinc.org](http://www.centerinc.org) for list of staff members and their contact information.