



REENTRY

National Media Outreach Campaign

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FILMMAKER PROFILE—TOD LENDING

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign congratulates Chicago filmmaker, **Tod Lending**, on his **Emmy nomination for Best Documentary for the campaign documentary, OMAR & PETE!** The 27th Annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards will be presented on Monday, September 25th at a black-tie ceremony at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City.



Mr. Lending is an Academy Award® nominated and national Emmy winning producer/director/writer/editor/cinematographer whose work has aired nationally on ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, and HBO; has been screened and awarded at national and international festivals; and has been televised internationally in Europe and Asia. He is the president and founder of Nomadic Pictures, a film and television production company based in Chicago.

Mr. Lending began his journey to documentary filmmaking when he received a camera at age 12. He loved still photography at an early age and became interested in telling stories through images. Says Lending, “I grew up in a household where we were keenly aware of people who were struggling. I was interested in the underclass – outsiders, those out of the mainstream.” After high school, challenged by the limitations of photography, Tod became interested in film.

Taking two years off to work and travel through Europe and the Middle East, Lending returned to the U.S. and began college at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he majored in film studies. After college, Tod Lending began to freelance, primarily working on feature films in New York and Los Angeles. His first jobs were in editing, where he learned about directing, crafting scripts, and positioning all of the elements to tell compelling stories. After ten years, he grew disenchanted with feature work and decided to produce his own documentaries. A return to Chicago launched this work in 1991.

Mr. Lending’s feature length documentary, LEGACY, which he produced, directed and wrote, was nominated for an Academy Award® in 2000. The film aired on Cinemax/HBO in the summer of 2000, was a critical success at the Sundance Film Festival, and received a prime-time national PBS release in the fall of 2002. LEGACY is about the Collins family who for four generations were trapped in urban poverty, dependent upon welfare and living in one of the oldest and most dangerous public housing projects in America — Chicago’s Henry Horner Homes.

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FILMMAKER PROFILE—TOD LENDING, CONT.

LEGACY tells the inspiring story of how family members, filmed over a five year period, recovered from the loss of their child, broke free of welfare, overcame addiction, and escaped the specter of violence in their community. In addition to the national HBO broadcast, educational and international distribution, LEGACY affected communities on a grassroots level through a groundbreaking three year outreach project, culminating in federal housing legislation to assist grandparents rearing their grandchildren.

In 2001, Lending began interviewing men for the project that was to become **OMAR & PETE**. “When I initially started the project, my hope was to demystify the experience of black men who are incarcerated. The public has really strong stereotypes, mostly negative, about who these men are. There’s a tremendous fear factor. I wanted to explore the causes and effects that lead these men into this kind of life.” The Maryland Division of Corrections (MDOC) offered Tod complete support and access to its new and unprecedented prison release and reentry program, the Maryland Reentry Partnership Initiative (REP) for men returning to five of Baltimore City’s most impoverished neighborhoods. This pilot program marks the first time that a state department of corrections had partnered, to this extent, with city and community agencies. Over one hundred organizations and agencies are working hand in hand with MDOC to explore models and find solutions that will help inmates transition back into their families and communities. Whereas the purpose of MDOC was once thought of as securing public safety solely through the incarceration of offenders, MDOC now believes that it must extend its reach beyond the walls of the prison. Their approach to crime control is shifting from one that is reactive to one that is holistic and preventive.



Lending’s next production is AIMEE’S CROSSING, which joins the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign in October 2006. In the film, juvenile Aimee Myers is profiled at home, school, work, and through several stays of incarceration. Lending filmed her therapy sessions and examined how the juvenile justice system contends with her history of sexual abuse, substance abuse, and mental health issues. “In making this film, and with OMAR & PETE, I realized the tremendous potential of individuals being wasted in prison. Many inmates have so much personal pain. One answer is not just to throw any kind of help or any kind of counseling, and see if it sticks, but to get the right kind of counseling and programming,” says Lending.

You can read more about Tod Lending’s Emmy-winning and Academy-Award nominated films at <http://www.nomadicpix.com>.

A limited number of community screening copies of OMAR & PETE are available through the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. OMAR & PETE was broadcast September 13, 2005, on the landmark PBS series, P.O.V. Please check local PBS listings for rebroadcasts in your area. To apply for a copy of the community version of the film, **please download and submit the application form at www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/r**. You may also purchase the feature-length version at www.nomadicpix.com.

OMAR & PETE has been used in numerous venues, with a wide array of audiences, throughout the country. Some of these screenings include:

- The Federal Bureau of Prisons at FCI McKean screened OMAR & PETE several times to inmates as well as to corrections personnel and community members and leaders as part of its offender transition program. Offender Employment Specialist, Gary Ransom, reported, “This film has become one of our most frequently requested programs with both offenders and community members alike. One individual who works for a Community Corrections Center (halfway house) stated that OMAR & PETE is now required viewing for all new residents.”
- Rappahannock-Rapidan CSB screened Omar & Pete to people in three different groups: male inmates, female inmates and an outpatient substance abuse group. After watching the film they discussed the importance of support in reentry and recovery, the mistakes Omar made and the far-reaching impact of drug use and incarceration. Substance Abuse case manager, Debbie Ball, commented, “This film depicts the reality of integrating into society from jail for someone suffering with chemical dependence. We will use it as a teaching tool, hopefully, to motivate audience members to begin to seriously think about how they will support their recovery and avoid relapse. Thanks for the film. I thought it was phenomenal.”

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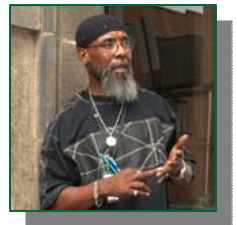
FILMMAKER PROFILE—TOD LENDING, CONT.

- Raw Media hosted a screening and discussion of Omar & Pete as part of a series of films that will provide discussion for people who are struggling with substance abuse, criminal histories, and participation in gangs. They partnered with the Springs Rescue Mission, a Colorado Springs faith based non-profit organization that takes care of the less fortunate people of their community.

Here are some ideas you can use to plan your own screening event:

- Conduct a screening and discussion at a local transition house whose residents include individuals who were formerly incarcerated and/or are in recovery.
- Conduct a screening and discussion as part of substance abuse treatment programs or meetings related to recovery, especially engaging former offenders.
- Present a workshop for organizations planning to begin or enhance housing ministries or programs to assist men and women reentering their communities.
- Organize a program in a jail or prison that includes a screening and discussion. Your program could focus on some of the topics listed above or on preparing men and women for a productive life upon release.
- Lead a screening/discussion or workshop for organizations and coalitions planning to begin or enhance community programs/services for formerly incarcerated adults and their families. OMAR & PETE could be used to generate program ideas or as the basis for a needs assessment.
- You may want to engage a local facilitator or assemble a panel of local experts to debate the merits of reentry programs vs. the rehabilitative nature of incarceration.
- Screen and discuss OMAR & PETE in the context of a mentoring program to assist men and women who are returning to their communities following incarceration. Use the complete film or the outreach clip reel.

AN INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM “PETE” DUNCAN, one of two men profiled in the documentary, OMAR & PETE



William “Pete” Duncan is a lifelong resident of Baltimore, Maryland -- except for the numerous times over more than 30 years that he was incarcerated. During those periods, he resided in every prison in the state of Maryland, as well as short stints in prisons in Pennsylvania and California.

Five years ago, Pete felt blessed to join the pilot program of the Maryland Reentry Partnership, where he received 22 weeks of intensive transition preparation for six hours a day, five days a week. For the first time, he began to take seriously the opportunity to change his life for good.

Pete has been participating in a number of presentations around the country for the documentary, OMAR & PETE. Now clean for almost ten years, and out of prison for more than five, Pete Duncan shares his thoughts on life on the outside.

Denise Blake, Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign: Hi, Pete. We’ve been traveling the country for over a year now with this film. How has your life changed since you’ve been involved with the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign?

William “Pete” Duncan, OMAR & PETE Documentary: Well, I survived by first plane trip (laughs). But, really, I’m humbled that I’m able to share my story to those who want to hear it. I never thought that I would ever speak in front of people who would listen to anything I had to say. For over 30 years of my life, I didn’t care about myself, let alone expect anyone else to care about me.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM “PETE” DUNCAN, CONT.

DB: I know people ask you this all the time, but what finally led you to transform your life after such a long history of incarceration and substance abuse?

WPD: Well, Denise, you know my favorite saying, “Programs don’t fail people; people fail programs.” In my long time in prison, I had plenty of programs that came my way. If you completed them, most of them offered time off your sentence, or other incentives. But, I never thought they were truly there to help us.

With the Maryland Reentry Partnership, they caught my attention. There was no time off our sentence, or any other freebies for participating. Being the skeptic that I was, I repeatedly asked my friend, Gerald Hill, who I used to rob with and get high with, and who was now a trainer with the program, “What’s the catch?” He would just say, “Come back tomorrow, and find out.”

By the end of the program, I had learned a lot – about myself and about what I might expect on the outside. Whenever I was released in the past, I always had one of my “big ideas.” I fantasized grand plans for giant heists, selling and using massive amounts of drugs, and getting rich. This time, I didn’t have a plan. I was like a child. When I came home in 2001, I depended on my case manager, LaTanya – that’s my heart – to help me do everything.

I realize that I was more fortunate than most in getting a job. When I arrived at the transition house, where I would stay for the next three years, there was a man who got me a job two days later. In fact, I still work there, at the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives.

DB: Tell us about your job, Pete. It’s the first time you’ve worked in a legitimate job, right?

WPD: Yeah, I’d never worked before, and as I always say, I’m lazy (laughs). But now, I love what I do. I’ve been promoted to supervisor of a house for clients with emotional and mental disabilities. I stopped taking for granted what the God of my understanding has given me. I have to teach grown men the importance of bathing, brushing their teeth, saying “please” and “thank you.”

DB: Speaking of God, what does your faith mean to you?

WPD: I learned to stop playing with religion. Although I initially converted to Islam quite a while ago, I used religion only when it was convenient for me. It was only when I truly embraced my faith and allowed God to direct my course in life that I began to change. I also believe that the God of my understanding places people in my life who continue to help me grow – LaTanya, my sponsor, Maxi, Tod, you and the Outreach Extensions team, the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The list goes on and on.

In turn, I now help others too. My Narcotics Anonymous network is probably 200, 300 people who have my number. My phone is never off. You know how tickled I was when I received that letter from the high school kid in Wisconsin? Those things make me feel great.

DB: What’s the last thing you’d like to say to everyone?

WPD: Those in prison need to put that prison culture aside. Don’t be afraid to ask for help or admit your fears. I stayed 14 years old for over 30 years, ever since I started using. When I didn’t get my way, I threw a fit like a child. Now, I know I’m a man. And I like myself.

*Have you missed an issue of the Reentry e-newsletter?
Past issues can be found on the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign Web site
(<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/enewsletter.htm>)!*

REENTRY PROGRAM PROFILES

Hillsborough House of Hope, Tampa, FL

Margaret Palmer, founder of Hillsborough House of Hope in Tampa recognized the revolving door syndrome of women being released from prison, only to return repeatedly. Her response was to create a Christian-based residential program for such women coming from the Hillsborough County jail system. Working through a network of volunteers and partnering agencies, Hillsborough House of Hope offers women leaving the jail a temporary residence that offers job placement and training assistance, Bible study, and classes in nutrition, self-esteem, women's health issues, and parenting skills.



The ministry works, in large part, because of the organization's vast array of partners, each contributing an essential element to create a successful reentry strategy for the women at Hillsborough House of Hope. Some of these partners include:

- The Center for Women - Provides outpatient drug programs and seminars to raise individual self esteem
- Dress For Success - Provides suitable apparel for interviews and jobs
- Erwin Vocational Center - Provides evaluation and training for future careers
- Hillsborough Health Care Program - Provides health services
- Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan - Provides life changing support groups
- Francis House - Provides HIV and AIDS awareness
- Unique Lady's of Character - Inspirational Speaking
- ACTS - Assistance with Permanent Housing
- Tampa Community Health Center - Provides Medical Assistance
- Work Force - Provides guidance into job placement
- DACCO- Provides assistance for substance abuse treatment before and during their stay

For more information about Hillsborough House of Hope, including how to volunteer or how to establish a similar program, please visit <http://www.hillsboroughhouseofhope.org> or call 813.231.5122.

Faith in Community Ministry for Choices, Inc.



In Indianapolis, a new collaborative effort brings together the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) of the United Methodist Church, the South Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, and Choices, Inc., a private non-profit with a history of serving at-risk populations in Marion County (Indianapolis). The GBGM provides approximately half of the salary and annual maintenance (housing, utilities, etc.) for a full time Church and Community Ministry worker, who essentially is a domestic missionary. The local community provides the other half of the salary and maintenance. Currently, Mary Z. Longstreth, a South Indiana Conference diaconal minister, is the director of *Faith in Community Ministry* for Choices, Inc., the parent organization for Faith in Community Ministry. Says Longstreth, "We provide a way for congregations – folks in the pews – to minister more comfortably and easily to people who have been incarcerated. Commonly people fear those in prison. Although some need to be in prison for a lifetime, 97 percent of those incarcerated return to our communities as neighbors. We need to understand how to relate to them, instead of shunning them or pushing them aside, saying, 'not in my neighborhood!'"

Faith in Community Ministry dovetails with the Indiana Department of Correction's new reentry programming entitled PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve). Inmates who take part in our ministry are volunteers who have completed programming offered through one of the PLUS units. PLUS is a 16 month transition program in which inmates choose to learn from either character-based or faith-based materials. PLUS inmates are housed together and learn core fundamental values that focus on strengthening spiritual, moral, and character development as well as the developing of life skills.

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REENTRY PROGRAM PROFILES, CONT.

Faith in Community Ministry is divided into three phases: relationship building, community re-entry, and reintegration and reconciliation.

Relationship building

Six to 12 months before an inmate is released, he or can volunteer to partner with a faith care team. These care teams are comprised of six to eight individuals from one congregation in the community, who are committed to developing a supportive, caring relationship with an incarcerated person who will be returning to their community. Trained care team members regularly visit and correspond with the incarcerated neighbor and help him/her prepare for release. Prior to release, the care team and neighbor develop a covenant agreement of expectations and commitment to activities necessary for successful reintegration. The care team provides practical, emotional, and spiritual support throughout the transition to community life.

The inmate must be recommended by a Department of Correction chaplain or reentry coordinator and interviewed by Faith in Community Ministry staff before being matched with a trained faith care team. The team then works to build a relationship with the inmate and the inmate's family through regular correspondence and visits.

Community reentry

At this point, the inmate is referred to as "neighbor." During this 30-day period, the new neighbor calls a faith care team member every day and visits face-to-face with a member at least once each week. The team carefully attends to their neighbor's immediate needs, including housing and employment, and helps him or her secure identification, medical care and counseling services.

Reintegration and Reconciliation

The Reintegration and Reconciliation phase lasts a minimum of one year post release. During this time, monthly meetings with the full care team and weekly visits and calls with individual care team members help the neighbor stay focused on goals and objectives. The care team also provides monthly progress reports to the Faith in Community Ministry staff.

For more information about sponsoring a faith-care team, contact Mary Z. Longstreth at 317-205-8255 or by e-mail at mzlongstreth@choicesteam.org



DeeEllen Davis (right) has led a team of volunteers to assist former inmate Buddy Stapleton (left) transition back into society.

Photo courtesy Wesley UMC

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice is holding its 11th National Conference. "INSPIRING EXCELLENCE" is an event sponsored by the Association for Women Executives in Corrections (AWEC), the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC), and the Arizona Probation, Parole & Corrections Association (APPCA). The conference will be held at the Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort, Phoenix, Arizona, **September 10—13, 2006.**

The conference will host criminal and juvenile justice professionals from across the nation, the southwest, and the state of Arizona. Line to executive level staff in state, federal, local prisons and jails, parole and probation, juvenile justice and the judicial system will come together to collaborate, network, address issues, share ideas, and participate in professional development workshops.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS, CONT.

National TASC is hosting its 13th National Conference on Drugs and Crime, **September 17—20, 2006**, in Birmingham, Alabama. This year's theme, *Recovery, Rights, Responsibility*, is being represented by five specialized conference tracks, each featuring workshops, training programs and networking opportunities to help you and your organization learn, grow, share and serve your clients better:



- Leadership
- Recovery & Special Needs Populations
- Clinical Skills and Case Management
- Reentry
- Drug, Mental Health and Problem Solving Courts

Featuring leading speakers and state-of-the-industry research and technology, National TASC's conferences serve as a major hub for its attendees, including leaders and professionals in the reentry, drug treatment, criminal justice, mental health treatment, criminal justice and addiction science fields.

Learn more about the TASC Model, drug courts, recovery techniques and government inroads into the reentry field. Keep yourself updated on the latest research being done in the field of addiction science. Form connections with other members of the field so you can better serve your clients.

To register, please visit <http://www.nationaltasc.org>.

Sixth Annual Transitional Jobs Conference in Atlanta

The 6th Annual Transitional Jobs Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA, **October 12-13, 2006**. The National Transitional Jobs Network advocates for better outcomes for returning offenders through the expansion and promotion of transitional jobs (TJ) as an employment strategy for reentering offenders.



The 6th Annual Transitional Jobs Conference will highlight TJ programs working with offenders and provide resources for providers and advocates to continue to promote better outcomes for those reentering communities across the country. Registration information is available at www.transitionaljobs.net.

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign will present a workshop entitled *Using Media to Frame the Reentry Dialogue* at the **5th Annual Transition of Prisoners National Prisoner Reentry Conference** in Dallas, TX, **October 13 – 15, 2006**, the country's largest faith-based reentry conference. The conference provides:

- A chance to meet hundreds of people from across the country committed to serving the formerly incarcerated population
- Opportunities to view program models covering various prisoner reentry areas
- A panel discussion by formerly incarcerated people who will talk about challenges and victories during their transitions
- Over 20 workshops covering various reentry issues
- Videos highlighting reentry programs and other invaluable reentry resources
- Testimonies by former prisoners
- Inspiring praise and worship and much more!



To find out more about this conference or to register online, please visit <http://www.topinc.net>.

REENTRY NEWS AND RESOURCES *(selected articles provided by the New Jersey Reentry Digest: <http://www.njsj.org/NewJerseyReentryDigest-71306.html>)*

W. Wilson Goode, Sr. Nominated for Purpose Prize

Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.! Rev. Goode is one of 15 finalists for a new award, known as the Purpose Prize which is given to Americans over 60 who have reinvented themselves in what are traditionally retirement years and who have dedicated themselves to solving America's problems in innovative ways. "I had success as mayor, but what I have now is significance in this point of my life," said Goode of his work with the **Amachi** program, designed to mentor children of incarcerated parents. "I achieved many successful things as mayor. But beyond success is a state in life, finding real purpose beyond any titles, and getting real, true meaning out of what you're doing. That's my definition of significance."

Goode was elected Philadelphia's first black mayor in 1983 and served eight years. In 1996, Goode entered the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary; in May 2000, he earned a doctorate of ministry. If named one of five winners in September, Goode will receive \$100,000, which he said he would pour back into his efforts to mentor children.

Amachi (http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/sp_faith_am.htm) is featured on the Reentry Campaign outreach production, *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community-Based Prisoner Reentry Programs*. Copies of the production are available in VHS and DVD formats. You may apply for a copy by downloading and completing the application form: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/otworder.htm>. If approved, please allow two weeks for shipping.



Reentry Policy Council Develops New Resources to Promote Law Enforcement Involvement in Reentry Initiatives

To identify and promote a range of effective strategies for law enforcement involvement, the Re-Entry Policy Council (RPC) has partnered with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office). The RPC, PERF, and COPS Office are developing a toolkit to help law enforcement leaders and their partners identify which practices and policies can be used in a jurisdiction to improve prisoner reentry procedures. The toolkit is designed for both law enforcement agencies that are planning a reentry initiative and agencies that already have such an initiative. Additional information about the toolkit is available at <http://www.reentrypolicy.org/rp/AGP.Net/Components/DocumentViewer/Download.aspxnz?DocumentID=1135>. The Urban Institute has also released a new report on Prisoner Reentry and Community Policing. The entire report can be downloaded here: <http://www.urban.org/publications/411061.html>.

California Lawmakers Amend Proposition 36

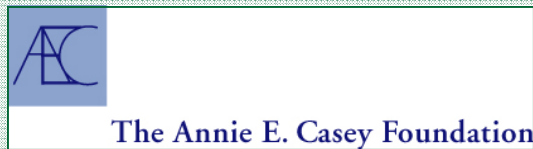
California lawmakers approved a measure that will modify state law passed under Proposition 36, which directed the state to provide addiction treatment rather than prison for low-level drug offenders. The new measure will give judges the ability to sentence drug offenders to two to five days of jail time if they fail a drug test or miss treatment. Governor Schwarzenegger had threatened to veto the \$151 million treatment budget under Proposition 36 unless the jail measure was passed. Treatment advocates plan to sue the state for violating the voter-approved proposition, which did not encompass incarceration as a punishment for relapse. If the court challenge succeeds, the new law requires that the issue be put before California voters. Read the entire bill at http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_1101-1150/sb_1137_bill_20060628_enrolled.pdf.

New Report on Prisoner Reentry in the City of Philadelphia

A new report from the Urban Institute examines the prisoner reentry phenomenon in the city of Philadelphia, focusing on the return of prisoners from the Philadelphia Prison System (PPS). As part of the mandate given by the PPS, the report, "Instituting Lasting Reforms for Prisoner Reentry in Philadelphia", describes the process of prisoner reentry in Philadelphia by examining trends in incarceration and prison releases within the city, the characteristics of the city's returning prisoners, self-reported experiences with rehabilitative programming while incarcerated, prisoners' expectations for their post-release experiences, the geographic distribution of returning prisoners, trends in community supervision, and characteristics of selected neighborhoods with high concentrations of returning inmates. Read the report at <http://www.urban.org/publications/411345.html>.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) is supporting the **Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign** as part of the Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative (MCMOI), which is designed and managed by Outreach Extensions. This vital effort links media broadcasters to local stakeholders and their diverse constituencies, providing outreach strategies and media resources that support their efforts to strengthen youth and families and build effective communities.

The Making Connections Media Outreach Initiative offers media support to local coalitions that are part of AECF's *Making Connections*, a multi-faceted, long-term effort to improve the life chances of vulnerable children by helping to strengthen their families and neighborhoods. The Foundation's intent is to stimulate and support a local movement that engages residents, civic groups, political leaders, grassroots groups, public and private sector leadership, and faith-based organizations in an effort to help transform tough neighborhoods into family-supportive environments.



This e-Newsletter is an electronic publication intended to keep you informed about news and events relating to the Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign. **Please let us know how we're doing through the feedback form on the Reentry Web site (<http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/contactus.htm>).**

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We welcome the names/e-mail addresses of your colleagues so that we can send copies of this e-Newsletter to them as well.