

2015 Jail Best Practices Award Official Entry Form

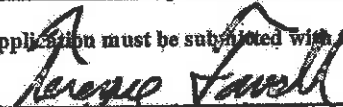


This form must be attached to all entries. Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered complete. A copy of this official entry is available electronically at <http://www.pacounties.org/ProgramsServices/Pages/CriminalJusticeSystemBestPractices.aspx>

County Name <u>Chester</u>	County Class <u>THIRD</u>
Address <u>501 S. Wawaset Road</u>	City <u>West Chester</u> Zip <u>19382</u>
Contact Name <u>D. Edward McFadden</u>	Title <u>Warden</u>
Department <u>Prison</u>	Phone (<u>610</u>) <u>793-1510</u>
Fax (<u>610</u>) <u>793-1483</u>	E-mail <u>dmcfadden@chesco.org</u>

Project Information

Title Chester County Prison Food For All Start Date 4/8/2014

Each application must be submitted with two signatures. Place appropriate signatures on two of the lines below:

	
Chair of the Board of County Commissioners	County Chief Executive Officer
	
Chair of the county Prison Board	

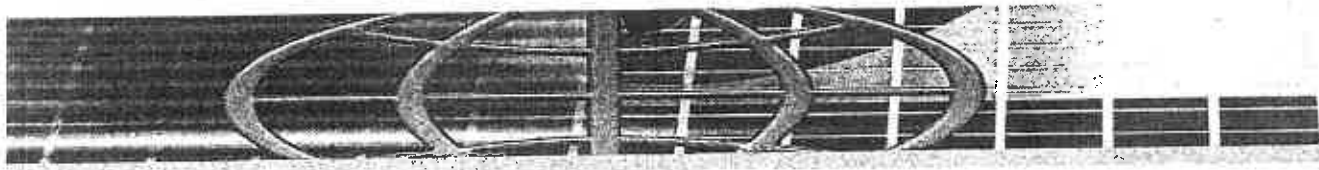
Program Narrative

A separate program narrative document must be attached to this form that answers the following questions in the order presented. This must be typed in a Word-document, Times New Roman, 10-point type.

- **Need:** a description of the identified need and the background including what programs were in place before the current project, if any, and how it led to this effort
- **Program/policies:** a description of how the project enhanced general operations programs/policies, treatment, and custody
- **Approach:** a description of the project, including any evidenced-based approaches to jail diversion, community involvement strategies, formation of stakeholder groups, county-wide planning strategies, etc.
- **Evaluation:** a brief description of how the project was evaluated and any lessons learned
- **Stakeholders:** a brief description of the community, including a description of key stakeholders, organizations, and county departments that were involved in the project
- **Processes:** a description of how the activities or processes utilized in this project were altered or will be continued based on experience, including plans for leveraging additional resources
- **Costs:** a description of any costs associated with the project and how it was funded; cost savings, if any and any change in community acceptance, reductions in insurance costs, or inspection improvements that resulted from the program.

Scoring will be based on the elements as described above.

Please attach supporting documents, forms or other information that support the award entry. Entries must be received by close of business on February 13, 2015. Winners will be announced during the CCAP Spring Conference, March 22 - 24 2015. More information: Brinda Carroll Penyak, bpenyak@pacounties.org or (717) 526-1010.



- **Need:** Supplement to existing programs / employment opportunities targeting female inmates in a minimum security correctional facility. Most of the inmate labor positions in the Chester County Prison Correctional Center have to be filled by the male inmates due to operational constraints. Also male inmates have the opportunity to obtain a “*Serv-Safe*” certificate which is acknowledged in the community. Currently any sort of equivalent does not exist for the female inmates.
- **Program/policies:** Triskeles Inc. (an agency dedicated to organic gardening) has partnered with The Chester County Prison Correctional Center in establishing a high yielding vegetable “garden” in an area of the current athletic yard. Produce grown is in turn donated to the Chester County Food Bank. Virtually all of the needed materials to establish said garden were donated. One of the staff associated with Triskeles is an instructor that teaches at one of the local universities. It is a long-term goal to establish a certificate program for the female inmates that would be acknowledged in the community. Operations of The Chester County Prison Correctional Center were enhanced by: 1) The “garden” yielded a tangible (over 2,000 lbs. of organically grown fresh produce) result of the inmates’ efforts, 2) Staff associated with Triskeles taught the inmates a potentially marketable skill. I say this to emphasize that along with the programming that is available and beneficial to the inmate population, and despite its apparently simplistic nature, the establishment of/maintaining the “garden” is an excellent complement. Anybody, either in the business of Corrections or not, when engaged in dialogue with the female inmates who have participated in the “garden” can see not only the pride in its success that the inmates expressed, but more importantly, in its most basic sense, all of these inmates took on a noticeable level of responsibility. They wanted the garden to succeed. After all, is not one of the goals of corrections to establish a sense of personal responsibility on the part of the inmate population upon returning to the community?
- **Approach:** The “garden” consists of twelve raised-bed plots, each with 48 sq. ft. of surface area. Under the guidance of the person associated with Triskeles, various seeds and starter plants were planted throughout the year to maximize yield. Inmates and some prison staff were taught such things as: plant maintenance, fertilization, insect/disease control, harvesting techniques (all via “organic” principles). Produce, once harvested was donated to the Chester County Food Bank shortly thereafter. Some of the inmates were nominally compensated for their labor, but many volunteered to assist as well.
- **Evaluation:** Per the Program Coordinator of Triskeles (Ms. Lauren Blood), the “garden” at The Chester County Prison Correctional Center the ratio of amount produced per square footage available was one of the highest of the sites they monitored.
- **Stakeholders:** The targeted community that immediately received the benefits of the “garden” in 2014 is the low income population of the county that has to rely on such organizations as The Chester County Food Bank to supplement limited food purchasing ability. The Chester County Food Bank itself is also a community served as well as a stakeholder in the sense while it is the conduit for getting the food to the population that it assists, it is also reliant on outside sources to obtain the goods that it in turn distributes. The third community that benefits from the “garden” is the female population housed in The Chester County Prison Correctional Center that provided the labor (either in a compensated position or as a volunteer). Through the efforts of the individuals associated with Triskeles, they are learning a potentially marketable skill. It is a long-term goal to establish a curriculum that would culminate in the awarding of a certificate program that would be recognized by the community. For purposes of disclosure, while Triskeles is also involved with a “garden” located on the site of the near by Chester County Youth Detention Center, activities are independent of each other.
- **Processes:** Since it is projected that Triskeles will continue to supply the seeds, starter plants and on-site expertise for 2015, basic operations of the “garden” are not expected to change. From a recent meeting w/ Ms. Blood, it was asked of that organization to provide (if possible) written materials and/or videos re: aforementioned plant maintenance, fertilization, insect/disease control, harvesting techniques (all via “organic” principles) to provide a better mode of instruction given the expected turnover of the inmate population.

- **Costs:** Other than incidental hand tools (shovel, rake, hose, insecticide, spray applicator) , all other materials to construct the “garden” were donated.

P: 2015 Jail Best Practices Award akaTriskeles

Pictures from the Food For All Program:



ERC youth building the raised beds



Residents planting seeds





Outside our shelter unit



Inside our detention yard area

Commitment Letter
Food For All

Chester County Youth Center agrees to provide an area for the installation of raised garden beds by Food For All, a program of Triskeles. This organization commits to maintaining a volunteer group sufficient to manage all necessary garden, record keeping, and food distribution tasks required. Clear leadership channels will be identified and contact information provided to Triskeles personnel, so they are able to communicate electronically.

The raised garden beds shall be installed at the organization's site at a mutually agreed upon time. Food For All shall provide all the materials for building the raised garden beds, soil and plants for the gardens for the first two years. The garden beds shall be maintained by the undersigned for the growing year. If the garden is neglected, and Food For All needs to maintain the garden, we agree that there will be a \$40.00 maintenance fee remitted to Triskeles.

It is agreed that when the produce is harvested, a minimum of one-half of said harvest shall be donated to the Chester County Food Bank, or a local food pantry or food kitchen serving people in need.

Triskeles agrees to provide education and support for those committed to the gardening program through the first two years.

After two growing years, it is the responsibility of the organization to obtain plants and continue the gardening program. Triskeles may be requested to provide plants and provide consultation for an agreed upon fee.

The organization will continue to donate a minimum one-half of all produce grown to the Chester County Food Bank or local food pantries. If at any time the garden is discontinued, Triskeles shall be offered the opportunity to move it to another site.

We appreciate your commitment to this program and to providing fresh, healthy food to people in our community who are in need.

Lauren Blood, Food For All

Food For All
c/o Triskeles
707 Eagleview Blvd, Suite 105
Exton PA 19341
610.321.9876
foodforall@triskeles.org

Carol M. Hood

Representative

James J. Smith

Representative

Chester County Youth Center

Organization

505 S. Wawaset Rd.

Address
West Chester, Pa. 19382



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS
Ryan Costello
Kathi Cozzone
Terence Farrell

CHESTER COUNTY YOUTH CENTER
505 South Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382
610-793-5910 FAX: 610-793-4538
GARY L. BLAIR
Director

November 12, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I have become aware that we have an opportunity to have a green house as a part of our Gardening Program, here at the Youth Center.

The addition of a green house would be extremely beneficial to our program. We would be able to increase donations to local community shelters and food pantries. The green house would be a sustainable life skill, especially for our urban youth that have no basis for this type of learning. The green house would also help to increase a youth's ability to obtain community service hours.

The ripple effect of a green house would include teachable moments regarding giving back, and helping our community. It would also help with the establishment of building blocks; such as planting seeds and our kids being able to witness the end results.

As a facility, our staff and youth have shown that we are committed to this program.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary L. Blair".

Gary L. Blair
Director



Triskeles
PRACTICE ALIGNED WITH PURPOSE

November 12, 2014

Attn: Carrie Avery and Jim Smith
Chester Youth Center
505 South Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382

Dear Carrie and Jim,

Greetings to you both, and a sincere wish that you are well and enjoying the autumn weather. We recently received a request that Triskeles act as an agent for a financial donation of \$100.00 to be made in honor of a volunteer and gardener at Aerzen USA, a Food For All partner site.

Jacob Bortman was the steward for the garden at Aerzen, and is leaving the company for another position. Jacob's coworkers wanted to honor his dedication and volunteer work in the garden by donating funds to be used to purchase plants and seeds for a Food For All garden that needs financial assistance in the upcoming year.

Due to the dedication and hard work that the Chester Youth gardening team has demonstrated, the large group of young people the garden serves, and your ongoing commitment to making a difference in the lives of those in need in your community, we thought you would be a worthy recipient of this honor.

Jacob and the Aerzen family offer you this gift for the 2015 growing season, and we extend our gratitude for all you do to feed, educate and serve young people while addressing food insecurity in Chester County.

In appreciation,



Clemens Pietzner
Executive Director

Thank you for your good work!

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