



Friendship House Prison Outreach Ministries 2008

In 2008, Friendship House ministered to more than 4,500 unduplicated clients, 35% of whom were involved with the criminal justice system at some level (e.g. still incarcerated, recently released from prison, on probation or awaiting trial). While access to the men’s prisons is very limited, the women’s ministry team is able to make monthly group presentations and conduct regular personal interviews at both the Baylor Correctional Center and the Women’s Work Release Treatment Program.

Services to prison ministry clients varied from meeting basic survival needs for food, shelter and clothing to providing intensive, full service residential programs. An ever increasing percentage of prison ministry clients are poor people who have been incarcerated on relatively minor charges for which they could not make bail. If they are in jail for longer than 90 days, they will very likely have lost their housing, their job, their possessions and their sources of identification.

Survival Services:

Both the Men’s and Women’s Day Centers continue to see a steady stream of newly released prisoners. Most have no possessions, no I.D. (often not even discharge papers) and nowhere to go. Many are still on probation and are given 72 hours to report to their probation officer with a permanent address. Despite Friendship House’s attempts to contact inmates before their release date, the staff is still expending a large amount of time and resources scrambling to deal with the survival needs of the victims of these periodic prison “dumps.” In the last year, Friendship House has supplied 1,397 such clients with various survival services:

2008 Statistics:

Client No.	Service Rendered
943	Used Friendship House as their mailing address.
1,121	Made phone calls or received phone messages at the Day Center.
86	Stored their valuable documents in the Day Center depositories.
247	Saved money through the Friendship House escrow savings fund.
398	Enrolled in the locker program and stored their belongings for a limited time.
957	Were assisted with bus tickets for appointments and/or job interviews.
94	Were issued Friendship House picture ID cards.
897	Were assisted with birth certificates, social security cards and/or state I.D.s.
1,598	Were assisted with donated clothing from the Clothing Bank.

15	Were assisted with new work boots and/or work-required uniforms.
247	Were assisted with medical prescriptions.
19	Were provided with emergency shelter at Andrew's Place.

Employment Services:

The Prison Outreach Program provides its clients with employment services at three levels.

- Through the New Job Program the Day Centers assist clients looking for work with resumes, online job searches and applications, transportation and appropriate apparel. For clients just beginning a new job, the Day Center can provide work-required uniforms, shoes or equipment, bus tickets and emergency housing.
- The Transitional Housing Programs provide job counselors who help newly released clients acquire first temporary and then permanent employment while they participate in an intensive recovery program that addresses their other life issues.
- Friendship House's Clothing Bank of Delaware offers a two stage, paid 120 day employment training program to incarcerated or recently released women inmates. At Stage One, they work as clothing sorters and customer service representatives at the CBD warehouse. At Stage Two, they serve a 30 day internship with local employers. Roughly 50% of such employees also participate in the Women's Transitional Housing Program after their release from prison.
- Friendship House provides housing and living stipends to prison outreach clients who are participating in retraining programs through the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.

In 2008, the Day Centers assisted 957 prison ministry clients through the New Job Program.

- The Clothing Bank employed 19 prison ministry clients with employment training and on-site entry level jobs, 11 of whom graduated to full-time employment and independent housing.
- Of the 860 prison ministry clients assisted through the New Job Program at the Day Centers, 295 are known to be employed and housed; another 63 are known to be in residential treatment programs; 74 are known to have returned to prison; and 212 remain homeless clients of Friendship House. Since most Day Center clients who get jobs and housing are out taking care of business during the week, the Day Centers tend to lose contact with their success stories.
- Of the 87 transitional housing clients who were ex-offenders, 78 needed to find employment on entering our programs. Of these 78, 65 were helped to find temporary employment or enter into vocational rehabilitation programs with the Department of Labor. Of these 65, 32 graduated to full time jobs and acquired independent housing.

Housing Services:

The Prison Outreach Program assists its clients with housing both through its own shelter/transitional housing network and through matching grants to pay the security deposit required by public subsidized housing programs. The greatest challenge in recent years has been finding housing for former inmates who are registered sex offenders and are therefore barred from most shelters and housing programs.

In 2008, 119 prison outreach clients were assisted with housing.

- 19 recently released male prisoners were given emergency shelter at Andrew's Place, which offers short-term emergency shelter to graduates of residential rehabs and long-term emergency shelter to homeless men over the age of fifty-five.
- 87 male and female clients who were still on probation with the Department of Corrections were offered transitional housing at one of Friendship House's nine halfway houses.
- 13 prison outreach clients were provided with matching grants for security deposits or first week's rent for either subsidized housing or long-term transitional housing programs.