

# Volunteer News

## New Leaf -New Life

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has”**

### 12 step Program offered twice a week

James (Jim) Miller is a new volunteer, who is bringing a twelve step program into the F Block twice a week. Jim also conducts a 12 step group outside the jail, and this will allow the inmates to continue the program with Jim when they are released. The ability to transition from the jail to the community can be easier for an inmate when they are able to continue with some of the same supportive services they received in the jail, and with a familiar face after they are released.

New Leaf-New Life appreciates the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers and we appreciate it when new volunteers such as Jim join us in our work!



**Thank you!**

*New Leaf-New Life would like to take this opportunity to thank the donor, who would like to remain anonymous, for the chessboards that were donated to all of the cell blocks.*

### Now working with Hal!

Janet Bell has joined Hal Taylor and is volunteering with him as he conducts his Intake Group with the various cell blocks. Janet has created a great interest among the men as she shares her life with them. She has even brought in copies of her latest book, which are being passed among the men.

Janet is the mother of one son, who was recently named the Best Comedian for 2008 in San Francisco, and she is currently working on another book. We are very pleased that Janet has joined our group of volunteers!

<http://janetcheathambell.com/>



### Emotional Needs of Inmates

On September 9, 2008, Bill Breeden will be speaking on *Addressing the Emotional Needs of Inmates*. This will occur at the U.U. Church, after the Minister’s Lunch at 1:15pm.

This topic is an important one, due to all of the different emotions encountered by an incarcerated person.

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### IMPORTANT

The voice mail in the New Leaf-New Life office is currently unavailable due to technical changes by the county. Messages are currently able to be left, but office staff are unable to retrieve them. If you have recently left a voice mail, please be aware that we have not received it. Please feel free to contact us by email if you are unable to reach us by phone.

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## Visitors to Women's Block

Craig Brenner and Charlotte Zietlow

The Women's Block had two very special guests visit and inspire them this month.

On August 8, Charlotte Zietlow spoke to the women about the challenges that she faced as she set out to reach her goals in life. She spoke to the women about her work in creating the businesses, Confidential Document, and Food Works. The women were impressed that these businesses are geared at hiring women who may not have much job experience, but are in need of employment. Charlotte

Zietlow told the women that they all have a special talent and that they should use their talents to create a better future for themselves.

The feelings of hope that were inspired in the women during this visit were obvious. Charlotte Zietlow just has a special ability of making women feel as if they can do anything!

To the delight of New Leaf-New Life, Craig Brenner made another visit to the Monroe County Correctional Center. This time he performed in the

Women's Block. The women had hoped that he would come play for them after they had overheard his performance in F Block. While enjoying Mr. Brenner's music, two women tested their skill at swing dancing, while another demonstrated her "hand jive" talent.

New Leaf-New Life appreciates Craig Brenner taking time out of his busy schedule to share his talent with the inmates. It is truly a gift when he shares his talent with others!

## Where Is New Leaf-New Life?

Many people realize that New Leaf-New Life is in the jail. In the jail we have many volunteers working hard to help the inmates, but did you know that released inmates, or families of inmates can find us at many other locations?

Families of inmates have the opportunity to meet with New-Leaf Staff and Volunteers during sign-ups for visitation on Sundays. Here

families can receive information about resources that are available to them, have a snack, or have their children entertained by David White's puppet.

All released inmates have the opportunity to attend a weekly Support Group, called *Cross Roads*. Inmates released from the Therapeutic Block have the opportunity to also attend the *A+* Support Group.

New Leaf-New Life also has an office at Work-One, where any released inmate can get help in their job search by a professional who is familiar with which employers are willing to hire individuals with a record.

New Leaf-New Life is making themselves available at the Shalom Center every Tuesday from 12:00 to 2:00 to those in need of services or support from the organization.

## KEEP UP TO DATE AND MARK YOUR CALANDER

### SEPTEMBER 6, 2008

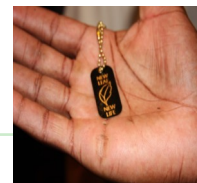
The next AIR graduation ceremony for the men in F Block/Therapeutic Block, will take place Saturday, September 6, 2008 at the Monroe County Correctional Center. The ceremony begins at 2:00 p.m. Please notify Tania or Debra if you plan to attend to assure that you are on the list. Please bring identification and arrive 15 minutes early.

### SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

Nick's English Hut will be hosting a benefit to support New Leaf-New Life from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on September 18, 2008. Tips given during this benefit will all be donated to New Leaf, as well as 20% of the food sales. So, enjoy a great meal and support a great organization! New Leaf-New Life appreciates Nick's support!

You can now purchase New Leaf-New Life pendants and show your support. These are available for a suggested donation to New Leaf-New Life of \$10.00. They come in assorted colors and they are starting to pop up all over town. Don't miss your chance to show your support!

For more information, contact Tania.



## Work-One and Job Coaching

When inmates are released from jail, one of their main concerns centers around finding employment. New Leaf-New Life has a office at Work One where Joe Castle meets with released inmates and help them create resumes and find suitable employment. Our organization appreciates the opportunity to work with our clients during their job search and to share their pleasure when they find employment.

New Leaf-New Life is pleased that

other organizations are also hard at work helping released inmates find employment. RSVP operates the RSVP Employment Program. They conduct Job Links at the Shalom Center and Job Coaches at the Amethyst House, Martha’s House and Area 10. They “coach” individuals searching for work employment regardless of their age or background, and this includes released inmates.

Pertaining to the RSVP

Employment Program, Christina McKenna states that “we are in tremendous need of job coaches to help inmates once they are released.” Adult volunteers, of any age, who are interested in helping this program are encouraged to contact Christine McKenna 812-935-2514 or [cmckenna@area10agency.org](mailto:cmckenna@area10agency.org).



## Opportunity Spotlight

New Leaf-New Life is currently in need of a volunteer who would like to work in our office, which is located inside the Monroe County Correctional Center. Duties would include various tasks which include answering the phone, light filing, and entering information into computer databases. Volunteers should be willing to commit to at least 2 hours a week. The minimum age for this position is 21 and volunteers must go through the application process which includes a background check. This position is perfect for someone who would like to try volunteering in the jail, but would prefer to not work with the inmates.



### Are You a 55+ Volunteer?

If you are 55 years or older and are a volunteer for New Leaf-New Life, do not miss the opportunity to be a member of RSVP. This program “provides ongoing support, recognition, free supplemental insurance, and access to a growing community of like hearted citizens.” For more information contact Christine McKenna at 812-935-2514.

*Is this the volunteer position for you?*

*New Leaf thanks all of their volunteers for their hard work in August!*



## New Leaf -New Life

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*New Leaf~New Life, Inc.*

**We are on the web:**

**[www.newleaf-  
newlife.org](http://www.newleaf-newlife.org)**

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*New Leaf~New Life is a non-profit organization that assists inmates in the Monroe County Jail during incarceration and after release. We encourage personal growth and self-efficacy, helping inmates make a successful transition back into the community, in accordance with Article 1, Section 18 of the Indiana Constitution:*

***The penal code shall be founded on the principles of reformation and not of vindictive justice.***

## As Summer Ends....

The days are getting shorter, students are returning and the late summer flowers are blooming. While I walked outside and noticed these changes, I could not help but think of those who have been incarcerated during this entire, beautiful summer. To them, summer has been viewed through windows, or briefly felt during outside recreation.

It then occurred to me, that the inmates did feel the warmth of the sun from our New Leaf – New Life volunteers, every time you smiled at them. They saw the flowers through your eyes, every time you shared yourself with them. The most important part of summer that New Leaf-New Life volunteers have brought to the inmates is hope for next summer.

The skills and encouragement that you have planted this summer gives the inmates hope that next summer will bloom with new

beginnings and a new outlook.

As the summer ends rapidly, it is my hope that each and everyone of you realizes that your impact on the inmates this summer will last for many seasons to come!

Debra



To suggest ideas for this newsletter, please contact:

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David White, Vice President

Charles Pope, Treasurer/Secretary

Lib Buck, Marc Haggerty, Jim Hart, Wain Martin, and Charlotte Zietlow