

Court Information Release



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Second C.H.A.N.C.E. participants volunteer with Greater Chicago Food Depository

CHICAGO, Ill. - On January 26, 2017, participants in the court's James B. Moran Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program and members of their program team volunteered with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD).

The Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program is designed to help former inmates reintegrate into the community and live law-abiding lives after they are released from prison. The program is supported by a dedicated team comprised of district judges, magistrate judges, probation officers, attorneys from the Federal Defender Program, assistant U.S. attorneys, and a drug treatment specialist, who all assist participants with the social, employment, and other challenges that confront individuals returning to the community from prison.

"I am extremely proud of this group of participants, not only for their progress toward achieving their personal goals, but also for making it a priority to serve others in our community who desperately need assistance," said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo, who also serves on the program's team.

"Incarceration necessarily separates our participants from their families and communities. When they 're-enter' society, that feeling doesn't just evaporate. Volunteering is one more way our participants can rediscover their self-worth and ability to contribute to their community. Working alongside other volunteers from all walks of life, as the GCFD provides, also helps to break barriers between people," said Magistrate Judge Susan Cox, who is also part of the program's team and participated in the volunteer opportunity.

Volunteering is just one aspect of this multi-faceted program. Bi-monthly court sessions address participants' progress and performance on supervision. Each participant is given the opportunity to speak about current challenges, to share experiences and to receive feedback

from other participants and from court team members. In addition to the participants' original federal supervision requirements, all participants are expected to follow through with individualized goals set by the court team and to comply with the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program requirements. Participants receive rewards, incentives and sanctions, when necessary, to promote positive efforts and encourage a drug-free lifestyle. Individuals who successfully complete the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program are rewarded with a substantial reduction of federal supervision.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository is Chicago's food bank. In partnership with agencies, pantries, soup kitchens and shelters, the Greater Chicago Food Depository provides food to hungry people while striving to end hunger in our community.

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