



Fauquier County Office of Adult Court Services

Annual Report
FY2008



New Initiatives: Court Services' Litter Control Program Makes Huge Impact

The Litter Control Program is the latest addition to a host of programs that Adult Court Services offers the Courts and the community. When developing the program, the concept was simple: utilize court ordered community service workers to perform free labor by clearing unsightly litter from the landscape of Fauquier County. Minimal resources for the program were needed as the labor force was already intact. In 2007, the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors took a strong stance on the county's mounting litter problems and funded the Adult Court Services Litter Control Program. Since then, the program has become an overwhelming success and an integral part of the County's efforts to combat litter issues.

This program relies on community involvement to inform us about areas of concern. Therefore, a "Litter Control Hotline" was implemented for citizens to report "hot spots" to the new Litter Control Coordinator. Once an area is reported, it is documented, charted on a map and prioritized. Upon clean up of the affected area, the citizen is called and updated on the progress made.

Litter Control "crews" comprised of

court ordered community service workers and supervised by the Litter Control Coordinator, operate four days per week and on select weekends. To date, 172 workers have performed over 4,700 hours of free community service labor for the county. Through their efforts, we have collected over 40 tons of debris from the county's roads, watersheds and byways. With 15 tons being collected in the summer of 2008 alone.

In addition, the Litter Control Program has teamed up with other county agencies to tackle several illegal dumping sites that have developed in Fauquier. Our most recent cleanup known as the "Mt. Paran Project" netted over one hundred tons of trash, recyclables and other debris which effectively shut down one of the county's largest illegal dumping sites.

The Litter Control Program has become actively involved with other community events such as the annual Fauquier County Fair. The crews handled trash removal and recycling duties at the fair for the last two years which has resulted in a large increase in collection of recyclable materials. Last year, the Staff of Adult Court

Services teamed up with the Litter Control crews and helped them during the annual Earth Day cleanup event.

The success of the Litter Control Program has been featured in recent articles by local newspapers. Our accomplishments are measured not only by numbers, but in the positive impact the program has been on the community service workers who have participated. A recent worker, John Doe, had this to say about the program, as quoted in the Fauquier Times Democrat. *"I've been surprised at how much trash we've found and the kind of stuff we've found. It's obvious that some people get out of their cars and purposefully put the stuff on the side of the road."* Adding, that he will now think twice before he casually tosses something out of his car while he's driving down the road. *"Some people will just go through the program. But some of us will get something out of it."* Said Doe.

Litter Control Coordinator, Dan Perzanoski stated, *"I have really tried to instill a spirit of work, cooperation, and environmental awareness, in completing these projects, and motivating the workers to see the positive outcomes of their labor."*



The Litter Control "Bus" transports community service workers all over the county for litter pickup.



Orange bags and tires collected by Litter Control Crews have become a common sight in Fauquier County as we tackle the litter problem.

Program Updates: Victim Impact Panel now Standard Disposition in Most DUI Cases

In 2006, Adult Court Services began offering Victim Impact Panels to the local judiciary. These panels give the Courts additional sentencing alternatives for those convicted of Driving While Intoxicated and other alcohol related offenses. They provide a forum for victims of DUI to speak directly to offenders in hopes of preventing further alcohol related crashes. The speakers are provided and coordinated by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). What began as a new untested program, has evolved and now become an almost

standard disposition for those convicted of alcohol related crimes.

Since program implementation, 478 people have attended and successfully completed the Victim Impact Panel with 279 people completing the program in 2008. Due to their popularity, additional panels have been added throughout the year to accommodate the demand. They are now conducted in the General District Courthouse to serve as a reminder of the consequences of Driving While Intoxicated. Twelve Impact Panel Programs have been held since 2006.

Due to the increasing amount of non-English speaking offenders, Impact Panel Services are now offered in Spanish as well. Therefore, everyone is treated equally and language is no longer a barrier when determining sentencing options. Through the services of an interpreter, offenders are required to express their thoughts and feelings regarding their arrest and their observation of the impact speakers. This has allowed us to serve a larger population of offenders and expand the impact panel program.

Fauquier County Pretrial Services: Then and Now

The Fauquier County Pretrial Services Program was established in 2001. Since then, the program has become more effective due in part to a new location, technological advances and the addition of new staff.

In 2001, a Pretrial Interviewer was required to commute across town to the jail, where a handwritten interview would be conducted gathering personal and demographic information. The Officer would then commute back to the office, compile the defendant's report into a Word Document, and then return to town to appear in Court. It would not be uncommon for an Officer to make numerous trips into town each day to complete a thorough pretrial investigation. Since then, our department has moved into the heart of Old Town Warrenton. This has placed Pretrial Services within walking distance to the Adult Detention Center, Magistrate's Office, and all Fauquier County Courts saving us valuable time while processing our reports.

Advances in technology have made the investigation process more efficient. In the past, pretrial staff conducted cumbersome handwritten interviews and compiled our investigations into Word Documents. Now, in collaboration with our local jail and our Information Technology Department, we have been able to take advantage of network connectivity. This has enabled us to utilize laptops and have direct high-speed internet access to our PTCC state wide automated database of offenders. Our network allows us to have access from any computer in the county. Not only has this affected the overall appearance and quality of the Pretrial Services Court Report, but it has made a considerable effect on work productivity and the speed at which these reports can be completed.

Fauquier County Pretrial Services has also implemented the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI). This is a state wide instrument researched and developed by the Virginia Department of

Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to assist Pretrial Services Officers and Judicial Officials by identifying a defendant's level of risk, to make more informed decisions regarding bond and pretrial release. Factors such as criminal history, ties to the community, and substance abuse issues are researched to ensure public safety and potential risk of flight.

The demand for our services has also increased considerably since program implementation. In FY2002, there were 246 defendants referred by Judicial Officials and placed under Pretrial Supervision while out on bond. By FY 2008, this number has more than doubled to 522 defendants. Therefore, we now have three Officers dedicated solely to this division. We believe the increase is a direct reflection of its success, dedication of the pretrial staff and confidence in the program by the Judiciary. Fauquier County Adult Court Services will continue striving to ensure public safety and provide our Courts and community with this valuable service.



Staff News: ACS Welcomes New Team Members

The Office of Adult Court Services welcomed some new faces in 2008. With these fresh faces came a wealth of core knowledge and criminal justice experience benefitting the Courts and our clientele.

Rebecca Parsons began the New Year with our office, transitioning into a full-time Court Services Officer position. Rebecca began her employment with this office in February 2007 as a Court Services Aide, where she assisted both the Community Corrections and Pretrial divisions with intakes. She has juggled many roles during her tenure here. Most recently, she has taken on the roll of managing the entire Victim Impact Panel Program and with her assistance, it has evolved into a very successful initiative. Rebecca is majoring in Criminal Justice at George Mason University and is expected to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in May 2009.

We welcomed Court Services Officer **Stefanie Spicer** to the team in late March of this year. Stefanie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and also has a strong working knowledge of the local criminal justice system. Prior to joining Adult Court Services, she clerked at both the General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts in Fauquier County. Her contacts and institutional knowledge of the court system have served her and the department well. Stefanie's caseload consists mostly of offenders referred from the General District Court. She also serves as our departmental representative on the County's Working Together Committee.

Dan Perzanoski is our new Court Services Officer who coordinates and maintains the highly successful

Litter Control Program. Dan has worked in the local Human Services arena for nearly 20 years. He is a certified substance abuse counselor and most recently worked as a Substance Abuse Clinician. He has also previously served as a Juvenile Probation Officer for Fauquier County. His experience working with offenders and his upbeat attitude are key factors in motivating his clientele. In his short tenure, he and his community service crews have removed more than 40 tons of trash and debris from Fauquier County's highways and byways. With a military background, Dan often names his litter control assignments after famous military battles, which puts a fun "spin" on an often less than pleasant job for he and his community service crews.

Court Services Officer **Kristin Anderson** originally began her tenure with this office as a part-time Court Services Aide assisting the Pretrial Services division. In June of this year she transitioned into a full-time Officer position where she continues to assist the Pretrial Services division, in addition to managing the transfer-in and transfer-out caseloads. Kristin is a recent graduate of George Mason University, where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Administration of Justice. Kristin has experience with juvenile probation where she served as an intern with the Loudoun County Juvenile Probation Office.

In addition to our full-time staff, Adult Court Services also has two (2) new Court Services Aides. We are extremely appreciative to have **Hal Litton** volunteer his services to our office. Hal is a retired Prince William County Police Officer who brings with him over 31 years of experience working with criminal

offenders. He primarily assists the Community Corrections division with intakes and is quick to help out in other areas as needed. As a former police detective, Hal is known around the office for his unique ability to interact and deal with even the most difficult clients.

Megan Gerald, our newest Court Services Aide, recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from High Point University in North Carolina. Prior to her employment with Adult Court Services, she worked as a part-time Pretrial Investigator with Loudoun County Community Corrections. Her role with this office includes assisting with pretrial investigations, as well as pretrial case management.

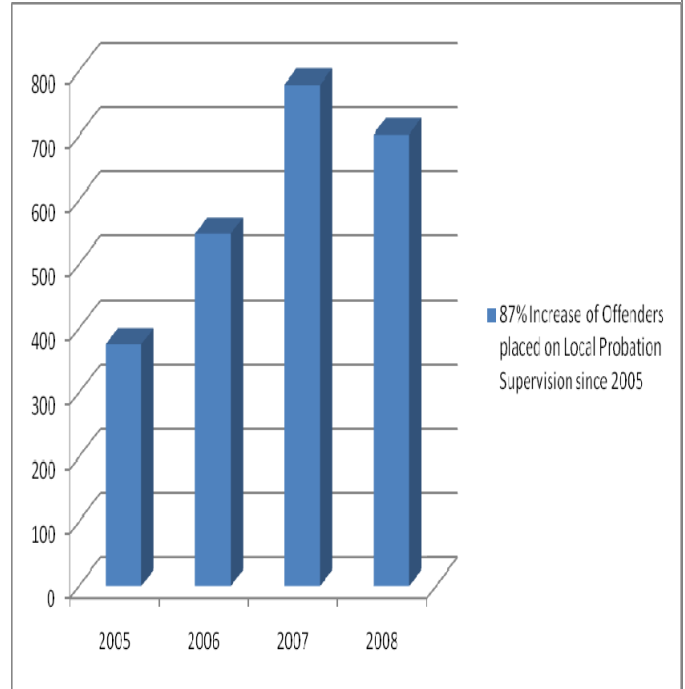
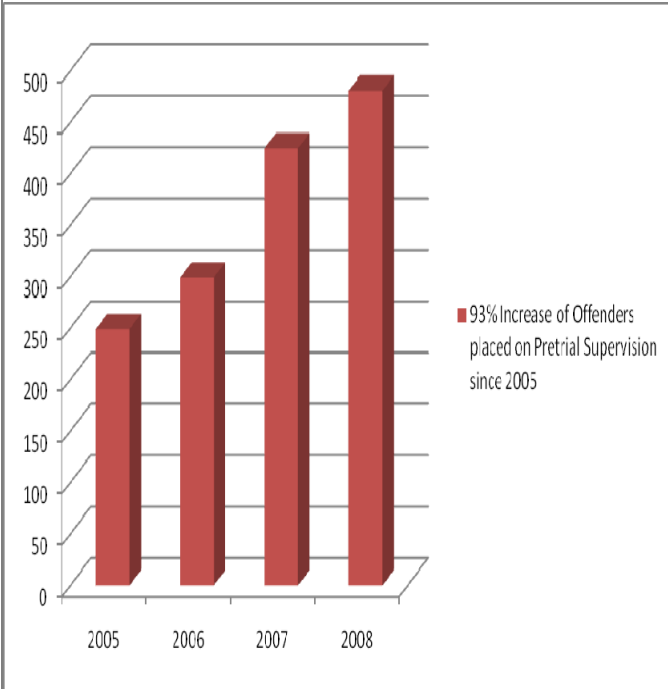
On a final note, veteran employee **Carrie Siegfried** was promoted to Senior Court Services Officer. She will oversee the local probation division.

While many of the faces are new, the experience and dedication of these staff members reflect all the characteristics of our veteran employees. Their enthusiasm and work ethic is a welcomed addition to the department and the local criminal justice system.



ACS Staff volunteered with The Litter Control Program during the annual Earth Day Clean Up

Offender Placements continue to grow



**The implementation of new initiatives such as the Victim Impact Panel and the Litter Control Program in the past few years have resulted in a substantial increase of offender placements. Pretrial Services placements are up by 93% since 2005. Local Probation placements have grown by 87% in the same time period.*

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***“Effective Alternatives for the
Courts and the Community”***



Adult Court Services Staff with The Honorable Charles B. Foley in the Historic General District Court of Fauquier County.

**We're on the web at
www.fauquiercounty.gov**