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# CBU Character Report

## Character-Based Rehabilitation Unit (CBU)

### Respect as a Character Trait

by Joel Carter (Class Instructor, *Living the Social Contract*)

We are here to reexamine our awareness of the higher standards of respect and our commitment to maintaining and protecting the pro-social, rehabilitative culture that is known as CBU.

Expectations are high but can consistently be achieved and reinforced by every one of us. A conscious effort is needed, especially when our goal is to become better men.

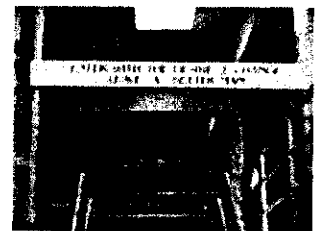
Addressing conflict now will help us in the future. Respecting others and respecting authority will produce respect (we reap what we sow).

When we reach our expectations, we then begin to set the

example for those around us and possibly be the influence they need for growth and maturity, leading them in a direction of success rather than destruction. At one time, all of us had destructive actions, contributing to negative forces that created an anti-social culture.

By living consistently to CBU standards, we rid ourselves of embarrassment, shame, and pride. The achievements we've experienced and witnessed in others can persuade others who have not yet grasped the pro-social lifestyle that is the future of Perry Correctional Institution.

Prison does not have to be the end for any of us. Even though it may be where we live, there is still a possibility of freedom for each of us who are willing to actively pursue peace by living a life based on respect.



#### Special points of interest:

- Respect as a Character Trait
- Accountability and the Engagement Log
- Special Projects from the Past
- Treatise on Ignorance
- Education Initiative
- The Healing Species and CBU

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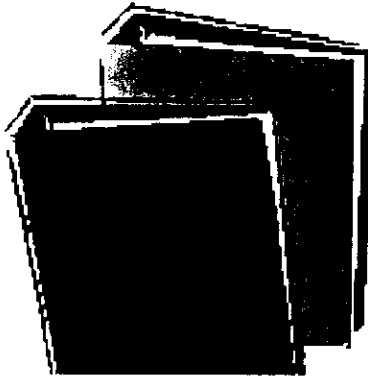
### Education Initiative

by Steve Martin (GED Graduate)

Up until a couple of years ago, my education meant nothing to me. I used to hate school so bad that I would start trouble just so they would suspend me. But other people in the CBU saw something in me that I couldn't. A requirement in the CBU is that if a resident does not have a high school diploma or GED, he must

enroll in the Education Initiative program. I fought this tooth and nail and tried my best to get out of it. I finally decided that wasn't fair to everyone else who had to take it. So I studied as hard as I could, even though I didn't hide the fact that I hated doing so. A little over a year later, I took the GED test and

passed. I had never done anything on my own that my family could be proud of me for, but now that has changed. No matter what kind of life you've led or how old you are, it's never too late to get an education and make a difference, not only in your own life but in others' lives as well.



The engagement log is used to document social contract violations.

## The Engagement Log by Joel Carter (Class Instructor)

The engagement log has more than one purpose. It originated as a way of proving that a challenge, conversation, or engagement had taken place concerning a social contract violation. The importance of this comes at each review, when issues about whether or not challenges ever took place arise. Bottom line—proof of engagements should be documented.

The engagement log is also

used to document a CBU member's willingness to abide by the social contract, holding their peers accountable to the values and standards agreed upon in the signed contract. Without proof, there are some residents who would ignore violations, or gossip and complain about them rather than confront them.

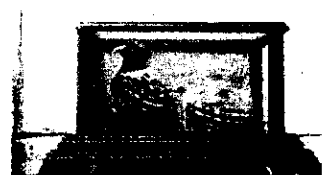
The engagement log is also used to note progress in a CBU member's attitude and

response to being challenged. It is further used to note patterns of behavior. In summary, the engagement log is simply a tool that is used to help secure the integrity of the CBU program. It must be used wisely and correctly. To be considered as a contributor during quarterly reviews, each resident of the CBU must have used the engagement (accountability) log procedure.

## Arts for Haiti Project

by John Taylor (Hobby Craft Participant)

CBU residents, in partnership with First Baptist Church Simpsonville, put together artwork (poems, paintings, and drawings) that raised \$3,000 to cover the cost of building an orphanage in Haiti in 2013.



## Bunk-Bed Project

by Ray Ward (Hobby Craft Coordinator)

First Baptist Church Simpsonville provided an opportunity for a group of CBU residents to make 28 bunk-beds for the homeless, as a way to serve the community during the summer of 2012.



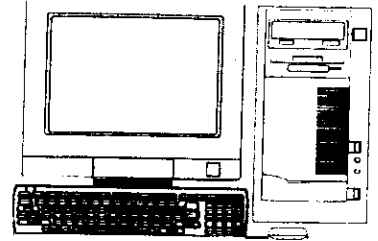
## Computer Literacy by Robert Diehl (Class Instructor)

As to Computer Literacy in general, students may sign up for future classes. This will allow them to continue their education by picking up where they left off. Residents completing the Computer Literacy course may also participate in our Graduate Initiative program. This initiative provides graduates with continued access to the computers, under instructor supervision, for up to 12 hours per week. This enables them to do

research, prepare for classes, or to simply practice the skills they have developed thus far.

Our goal is to help men become computer literate, thus equipping them with the necessary tools to help them become successful and productive citizens in society. We have structured a computer literacy program that strives for excellence, and one which we continually look to improve upon.

Our class has two immediate needs – two additional computers and Microsoft Office 2010 software. Our limitations at this point are computers and software. The addition of two computers along with the above-mentioned software will allow the CBU Computer Literacy course to advance to the next level. We feel these acquisitions are imperative and necessary for growth.



The CBU Computer Literacy course helps men become successful and productive citizens in society.

## Testimony by Carnie Norris (Class Instructor and Mentor)

Since coming to the CBU four years ago, the program has provided for me the opportunity to become an instructor of Legal Dialogue and a mentor of other residents. I've learned that to become successful you have to have determination. With this tool, thoughts and visions are actually obtainable.

I've had a great deal of time to work on personal development. CBU classes have helped me reassemble my outlook on education, relationships, and myself. The program has given me the opportunity to clear my mind and work on personal issues. Moving to the CBU from a hostile environment was a culture shock because of the

mentality I had at the time. I had to learn to confront others, as well as learn to accept being confronted. It was hard to learn, but I endured because I liked the change it brought within me. We cannot be afraid to perform self-evaluations. Growth comes with a clear mind and conscience. *Go Dawgs!*



Carnie Norris played running back for the Georgia Bulldogs (1979-1983).

## Therapy Dog Project by Charles Connor (Coordinator & Dog Handler)

Healing Species Foundation, a therapy dog program founded by Cherri Thompson, rehabilitates neglected dogs with love and obedience training. Healing Species spends their time conducting group therapy sessions within the classroom of public schools to help at-risk students cope with feel-

ings of neglect. Healing Species has partnered with the CBU to develop a therapeutic program for prisoners.

The therapy dogs are housed in the CBU and supervised by experienced dog handlers. All dog food, hygiene products, and toys are supported by donation. As the therapy dogs

help the prisoners become rehabilitated, the dogs receive obedience training and love until they can be adopted to a "Forever Home" in our "Parole a Dog" project (for more details, go to [www.PerryCBU.com](http://www.PerryCBU.com) or [HealingSpecies.org](http://HealingSpecies.org)).



CBU Therapy Dogs

## Character-Based Rehabilitation Unit (CBU)

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"Enter with the desire to change; leave a better man." — CBU Creed



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.PERRYCBU.COM](http://WWW.PERRYCBU.COM)

The Perry Character-Based Rehabilitation Unit (CBU) is a rehabilitative, residential, clustering program dedicated and designed as an educational, pro-social environment. The Perry CBU provides much more than special housing to accommodate programming. As a program itself, the Perry CBU provides the environment and opportunity for a host of other programming modules. The CBU is a stand-alone, rehabilitation program that teaches and reinforces the pro-social values necessary to live in society and avoid criminal attitudes, thinking, and behavior. As both a housing unit and a program, the CBU teaches and requires participants to learn pro-social values, attitudes, thinking, behavior, and life skills through peer-to-peer accountability and a structured educational environment. Rehabilitation, or the application of pro-social values and life skills relative to the community, is reinforced in the participant's living environment.

## A Word from the Editor by Richard K. Patterson (Coordinator)

*Ignorance* is not a negative word. Saying that you are ignorant is not self-deprecating. Saying that someone else is ignorant, when used in the right context, is not demeaning or belittling. Being ignorant of something simply means that you do not know. Too many people use the term "ignorant" when they actually mean "stupid," and vice versa.

The word "ignorant" does not, nor *should not*, carry a negative connotation. The word "stupid," however, does. To say someone is stupid demeans their character; it

is an attack on their feelings and self-esteem. To say someone is ignorant merely means that they do not know something.

For example, if I taught a class on how to play tennis, I would be teaching on a subject that I happen to know quite a bit about. If I were to teach a seminar on the different aspects of drumming, I would be able to do so, because I have played the drums since the age of six. However, I would *not* be able to teach a class on economics, comparative religions, or raising cattle, because I am ignorant of those subjects.

Since the word "ignorant" *sounds* negative, though, we often omit using it in our daily vocabulary. It's much easier to say "I don't know" or "Let me get back to you on that." Because we place so much emphasis on relationships, we must always think about others' feelings when our words come into play.

Because some people might see our use of the word "ignorant" as abrasive, we have to choose our words wisely. On the other hand, when we don't know something, it's not a crime nor a sin to state the obvious — we are

ignorant.

I'm ignorant of many things, but that is why I continually try to learn something, learn *anything*.

It is perfectly okay to be ignorant. ... Just don't be stupid.

