



# Dane County's Community Service Program

Presented to the Dane County  
Criminal Justice Council

October 28, 2021

# History

- Judges Genovese and Berz conceived the idea in the fall of 2016.
- Idea was to reduce jail days and/or fines by giving individuals the opportunity to provide community service.
- Pro-social activity
- Valuable Experience
- Possible references
- Dane County Department of Human Services has funded the Community Service Program since 2017.

# The Team

- **ATTIC:** Verla Barnes, program coordinator
- **ATTIC:** Emily Goad, lead case manager
- **ATTIC:** Njemeh Barrow, area supervisor
- **Judiciary:** Judge Julie Genovese, judicial representative
- **Clerk of Courts:** Jill Anderson, criminal court manager
- **DCDHS:** Hannah Whaley, contract manager

# Target Population

- An adult sentenced by a Dane County Circuit Court to perform community service in lieu of a fine or a period of incarceration.
- Not restricted by nature of crime, except sex offenses.
- Sentence must be no more than 30 days (240 hours) and no less than 8 hours.



# Process

- Counsel recommends
- Defendant requests
- Judge suggests
- 8 hours for each jail day up to 240 hours
- \$20 per hour towards any fine



# Once Admitted

- Participant must contact ATTIC within 3 business days of sentence to schedule intake.
- Intake appointment in person at ATTIC on Park St.
- ATTIC matches participant to community service program sites.
- Goal is to allow maximum choice for participant.
- Participant reports progress to ATTIC monthly.
- Upon completion ATTIC reports hours to the court.
- Participant has up to 1 year to complete.

# Approved Sites

River Food Pantry

Madison parks

Second Harvest

Goodwill

Salvation Army

The Goodman Center

Habitat for Humanity

United Way

Capitol Charity

& More...



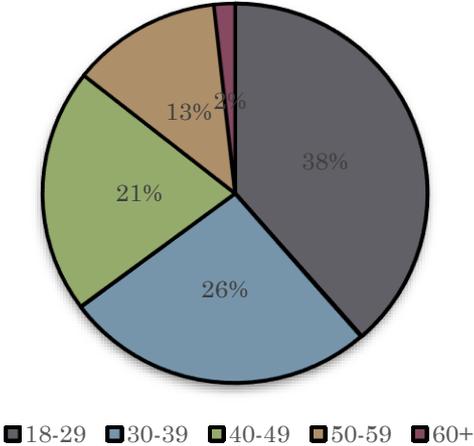
# Non-Traditional Activities

- Reading with children at the library
- Assisting a teacher in the classroom
- Volunteering at church
- Learning a trade
- Helping a coach with youth sports

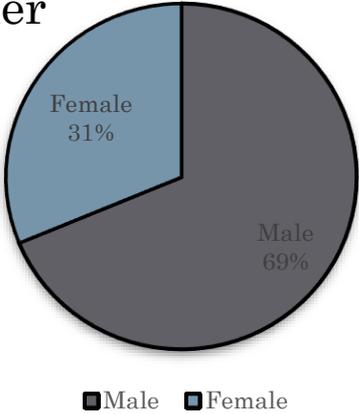


# Program Participant - Demographics

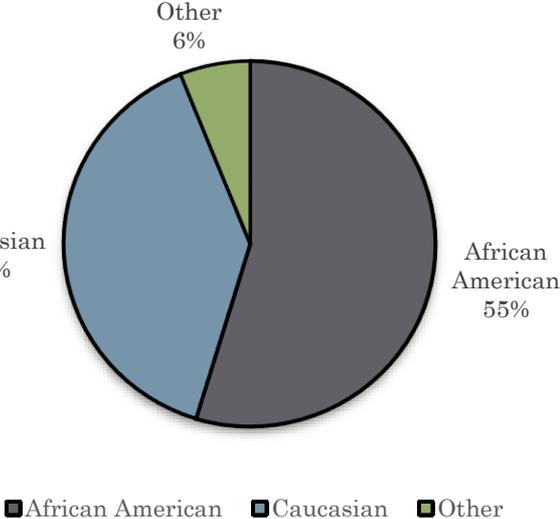
Age



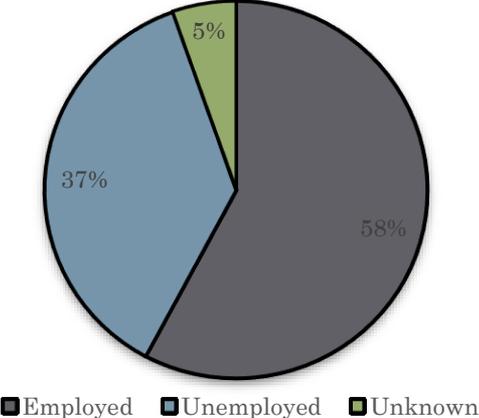
Gender



Race



Employment Status



# Program Data

Since 2019....

- 314 people admitted
- 570 jail days saved
- Over 3,474 hours of community service performed
- 40% completion rate
- \$2000 worth of fines
- Expanded to alternative court programs, including
  - Drug Court Diversion Program
  - Drug Court Treatment Program
  - OWI Court
  - VA Court
- 47 alternative court clients / 303 hours of community service

# Program Snapshot

## Current Stats:

- 103 active participants
- Total number of jail days saved in September: 99
- Total number of community service hours completed in September: 368
- Total number of successful completions in September: 7
- Total number of unsuccessful discharges in September: 2



The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced program admission in 2021. The program had been trending upward in admissions when COVID-19 hit. Prior to the widespread availability of the vaccination many community service providers ceased all volunteer activities and many participants did not feel safe to participate.

# Questions?

## Verla Barnes, Community Service Program Coordinator

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