



## WCS Connection

February 2020



***From the desk of the WCS  
Executive Director:***

### Team Up for Change

The Milwaukee Bucks Basketball organization culminated a month long and state-wide screening of the recently released movie *Just Mercy*, with their second annual two-day “Team Up for Change” summit on February 8th and 9th. “Team Up for Change” is focused on addressing social injustice by exploring the intersection of sports, race, and the pursuit of more equitable communities. “Team Up for Change” was created jointly by the Sacramento Kings and Milwaukee Bucks basketball organizations. It was largely in response to separate incidents that occurred in the two cities which sparked outrage stemming from how the respective police departments handled encounters with unarmed African American men.



Clarence Johnson, WCS Executive Director with Mark Lasry, one of the owners of the Milwaukee Bucks.

In March of 2018 in the city of Sacramento, 23-year-old Stephon Clark was fatally shot by officers from the Sacramento Police Department who fired 20 rounds at him in his grandmother’s backyard because they suspected him of breaking windows and thought his cell phone was a gun. In January of the same year, 2018, Milwaukee Bucks rookie, Sterling Brown was involved in an altercation with the Milwaukee Police Department when they became confrontational, throwing him to the ground and tasing him over a minor parking violation.

The Milwaukee Bucks and the Sacramento Kings have newer and younger owners who understand that part of the responsibility of being a high-profile professional sports team comes with a sense of social responsibility. Both teams have appropriately decided to use sports as a platform to influence communities to move forward and to bring about positive social change. Both team owners could have opted to remain uninvolved and silent on issues that deserve the attention of all of us because they are unjust, and because it is way past time for change. When an innocent young man is fatally shot multiple times in his grandmother’s back yard by those who have pledged to protect us, we should all be

outraged. "Team Up for Change" will not solve all of our social injustice problems, but it will go a long way in giving voice to the demand that life should be fair and equitable for everyone. Isn't it about time that we all team up for change?



*Clarence Johnson*



## Community Building Milwaukee & Team Up for Change

WCS, along with partners Running Rebels and the Community Building Institute (CBI), provided a 90 minute Mini Community Building workshop experience as part of the Milwaukee Bucks and Sacramento King's second annual "Team Up for Change" event at Fiserv Forum, February 8th and 9th. Working in partnership with organizations like Running Rebels and CBI, WCS created Community Building Milwaukee (CBM) as an initiative to scale up Community Building workshops in the Milwaukee area.



Through this Mini Community Building workshop experience, the facilitators were able to bring youth and adults together to listen and be heard. Youth from both WCS and Running Rebels were in attendance. The adults in the room included Bucks and Kings executives and personnel, as well as key community members from both Milwaukee and the Sacramento area. Opening comments were provided by WCS Executive Director, Clarence Johnson, the Milwaukee Bucks Arvind Gopalratnam, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility, and CBM project manager, Dasha Young. The mini-workshop introduced Community Building concepts through a dyad exercise followed by a 60 minute circle which encouraged participants to speak of their own personal experience. Feedback from the event has been extremely positive. The WCS, Running Rebels, and CBI team is excited about the opportunity to conduct Community Building workshops that involve the Bucks organization.



## Success in Electronic Monitoring

WCS has been providing Electronic Monitoring services since 2005, beginning with SCRAM Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM), which is an ankle bracelet that monitors human alcohol consumption. In 2014, WCS began providing GPS location monitoring with a 24/7/365



monitoring center. That same year WCS also started offering Remote Breath which is a portable hand-held device that monitors alcohol consumption randomly throughout a 24-hour period and provides a GPS location with each test. In 2019 WCS served 2,481 individuals on various forms of electronic monitoring and since 2005, WCS has monitored over 22,000 individuals. Of the individuals monitored on GPS, SCRAM CAM and Remote Breath, 85% had zero violations during their supervision with WCS. This is 13% above the national average.

P.K. wore a SCRAM CAM bracelet for a period of 90 days as part of the WCS Electronic Monitoring Program. Prior to P.K.'s involvement with WCS, she drank daily, "All day, every day," and stated that her life revolved around drinking. SCRAM CAM helped P.K. change her life as she could not drink while on the bracelet. She started to fill her life with other activities and began to think more clearly. P.K. was able to be more social without alcohol. P.K. reflected that the services at WCS improved the quality of her life, resulting in better relationships and a more purposeful life. The ever-present reminder that she was being monitored helped P.K. stay sober for a long enough period of time to realize that she wanted to stay sober for good. [Click here](#) to learn more about Electronic Monitoring services at WCS.



## New Programming at WCS - Keys to Independence Permanent Supportive Housing Program

WCS opened a new program officially called the Keys to Independence Permanent Supportive Housing on February 1, 2020. There are currently 35 individuals in the program at scattered sites. The Keys to Independence Program provides homeless individuals with subsidized housing of their choice within Milwaukee County and offers the support needed to help them be successful in their own apartments. The program provides rental assistance funds to ensure the units are affordable. This scattered site housing program uses a comprehensive approach adding the supportive services of case managers and certified peer support specialists to help ensure stability and improved housing outcomes.



## Career Opportunities at WCS

WCS is looking for caring and dependable individuals to fill these positions:

### Forensic Specialist – Opening Avenues to Re-entry Success (OARS) Program

The specialist will provide wraparound case management services to high risk/high need individuals with mental illness who are being released from the Wisconsin state prison system. This position coordinates, plans, and ensures follow through with community treatment for program participants. Also, the specialist will develop a one-to-one therapeutic relationship with each participant. Applicants need to have a bachelor's degree in a related human service field as well as experience in case management and service coordination.

### Senior Director of Court Services

The senior director will oversee all WCS Court Services programming in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson, and

## Did You Know?

WCS is committed to investing in staff development to improve program services and agency outcomes. Staff receive training in many topics including fire safety, cultural reverence, emergency response plans, ethics and boundaries, Motivational Interviewing (MI), and Trauma Informed Care (TIC).

Kenosha Counties. This includes, but not limited to, ensuring that programs comply with and fulfill contracts, maintaining positive relationships with funding sources, ensuring that WCS policies and procedures are followed in the operation and management of programs, and seeking out, developing, and implementing new programming for expansion. Applicants need to have a bachelor's degree in social sciences or management, an advanced degree is preferred, as well as five years of experience in a managerial position and five years of experience in program management with strong budget and personnel experience.

Visit our website to learn more and find a listing of additional opportunities!



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*Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (WCS) advocates for justice and community safety, providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity.*

WCS is a 501(c) 3 non-profit agency that provides services in southeastern Wisconsin.  
WCS has been serving the community successfully for over 100 years.

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