



RIVERSIDE Today!

Riverside House • 968 NW 2nd St., Miami, FL 33128

Oct/Dec 2011

We're now on Facebook and Twitter

Stay up-to-date on prisoner reentry initiatives and help us spread the word about our programs!

Are you on Facebook or Twitter? So are we! Join us on our mission to help offenders become productive citizens. The more people connect with us, the more people we can reach. Whether an offender, family member, or community member concerned with the cause, each one of us has the ability to get involved.



Facebook.com/MiamiRiversideHouse



Twitter.com/Riverside_House



Former Riverside House and SAP clients, Lisa Jackson and Desmond Meade

Lights, Camera, Action!

The widespread use of the Internet and social sites such as Facebook and YouTube, mean that virtually anyone can be a star. Riverside House may not be destined for the walk of fame, but we are taking advantage of advancements in multimedia to give insight as to what goes on inside our doors. Our first video, set to launch later this year, is an overview of our facility and services. We invite you to go behind the scenes with us for an inside look at what's to come:



Former clients Roberto Sanchez, Mario Torres and Lisa Jackson

Florida Prison Privatization Update

Initial bill was ruled unconstitutional in September and is currently being appealed

The great debate over Florida's prison privatization continues on. September 30, Judge Jackie L. Fulford ruled that the proposal to privatize 29 prisons in South Florida was unconstitutional. The reason? According to an article in the NY Times the Legislator determined that, "The Florida Constitution says major policy changes cannot be enacted through budget bills."

It seemed that the ruling would stand when Governor Rick Scott announced that he would not appeal. However, that same week, the Department of Corrections said it would reopen the bidding for 29 prisons in South Florida. The announcement stated that Attorney General Pam Bondi appealed the ruling at the request of legislative leaders.

Regardless of the final decision, our goal as an organization is to stay involved with the prisons and transition along with them. We will communicate updates with you as they happen.

Sources:

- New York Times, "Judge Stops Florida's Plan to Privatize 29 State Prisons," Lizette Alvarez, 30 September 2011
- Miami Herald, "Florida Reopening Prison Privatization Bidding," Associated Press, 4 November 2011

Letter from the Executive Director

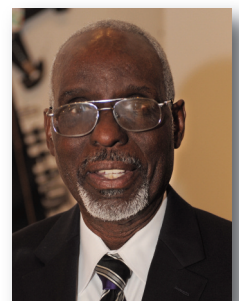
Dear Friends:

Next year Riverside House will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Throughout our history we have been in an ongoing stage of growth as we strive to change the lives of as many offenders as possible. In the spirit of growth, it became apparent that our organization could benefit from a branding makeover. It's kind of like updating your wardrobe, the décor of your home or even changing something in your lifestyle to improve the quality of your life. Change can be great!

What began as a marketing task quickly turned into an exercise in focusing on one question: "What is Riverside House?" Our board members and executive leaders spent weeks discussing the question, which ultimately strengthened the heart of our organization. With great pride, we present our branding update to you in this edition of Riverside Today.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,
Cleveland Bell III
(305) 326-9799



Test your knowledge of Riverside House.

Services

See if you can match the new service names to their correct descriptions.

P1: Comprehensive Residential Reentry

P2: Non-residential Support

P3: Community Partnerships

P4: Spiritual Development

Answer key: P1 & D3, P2 & D4, P3 & D1, P4 & D2

D1: This program strives to bring together a variety of organizations for the purpose of providing support and educational programs within institutions and beyond.

D2: Through this non-denominational, faith-based program, we offer individuals who are imprisoned in mind or spirit a place of refuge while providing spiritual and social guidance.

D3: During enrollment in this program, residents live at Riverside House. In addition, they must participate in support services that may include educational opportunities, individual and group counseling, job search and placement, and substance abuse counseling.

D4: The program includes a variety of services to help offenders navigate the journey of their second chance at leading positive and productive lives. Services include spiritual guidance, support groups, individual counseling, employment training, life skills training, and referrals to community agencies that offer additional support.

Mission

Riverside House exists to guide men and women convicted of crime into becoming productive citizens through a nondenominational, faith-based approach.

Vision

Our vision is that all individuals will lead positive and productive lives when given the opportunity to succeed. Regardless of gender or culture, Riverside House seeks to change the lives of at-risk individuals through community and residential programs that emphasize personal accountability, family relationships, and spiritual growth.

Values

- **Community:** We believe in building the community we live and work in through setting an example of servant leadership and partnerships.
- **Diversity:** We embrace and support the rich diversity that exists within our community and client population.
- **Spirituality:** We believe that faith in God can transform lives.
- **Accountability:** We value the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions.
- **Family:** We believe that family relationships, when nurtured properly, serve as the foundation of individuals and society.
- **Productivity:** We believe in contributing to the world around us through taking positive and productive action each and every day.

Prayer Requests

There is power in prayer. Please pray for the following:

- Riverside House's new building – Cleve's Place
- Clients' families
- Men's Forum
- Our team members and their families

Submit your prayer requests to Marta Orozco at morozco@riverside-house.org.

Upcoming Events

December 14, 2011, Christmas Dinner in the Social Hall

If you would like to contribute to this event, or for more information on upcoming events, including sponsorship, please contact Carmen Bell, communications coordinator at (305) 326-9799 x113.

Presenting our new logo!

Take a look at where we've been and where we are now!

(Old logo)



**RIVERSIDE
HOUSE**



RIVERSIDE HOUSE
Guiding offenders to become productive citizens

Fun Fact: Our previous logo was created 30 years ago by former board member, Gigi Caldwell.

JOB OPENINGS

Riverside House is currently accepting applications for a part-time Chaplain, resident monitors, a program director, and special events coordinator. Interested applicants may email their application and resume to diglesias@riverside-house.org.

For additional employment information, contact Dafeny Iglesias (305) 326-9799 x102, or visit www.riversidehouse.org.

DONATIONS

As a nonprofit organization, Riverside House depends on the generous donations of supplies and financial contributions to keep our programs running and our residents on track. We are eternally grateful for your contributions.

Clothing Closet: In an ongoing effort to provide supplies for the men and women of Riverside House we collect item donations. Currently, we are in need of dress clothes (including dress shirts and pants) in all sizes as well as dress shoes in all sizes. To make arrangements to drop off your donated items, Carmen Bell, communications coordinator, at (305) 326-9799 x113.

Holiday Requests: We are in need of monetary donations to purchase Christmas gifts for female and male clients. We are also looking for cookies for our Clients' children at our annual Christmas dinner.

Financial Donations: All donations are tax deductible. Credit cards (Visa and Mastercard only), checks, and cash donations are accepted. Mail your monetary donation to: Riverside House Attn: Cleveland Bell III, Executive Director P.O. Box 2325, Miami, FL 33101-2305

You may also donate online at riverside-house.org or by calling our administrative office (305) 326-9799 x113.

