

Aurora grant will help female former inmates attend MCC

By Joseph T. O'Leary
Journal Inquirer

MANCHESTER — Women being released from prison in Connecticut have a new educational resource with the creation of a pilot program connected to Manchester Community College.

The Aurora Foundation, which supports women and girls in the Greater Hartford area, awarded a \$20,000 grant to launch the "Free to Succeed" pilot program.

"Free to Succeed" is focused on recently released prisoners who hold high school diplomas or the equivalent and are looking to pursue higher education at the community college level, Michael Jordan-Reilly, MCC's director of public relations, said.

MCC will provide support services and mentoring to the women, helping them become enrolled in associate degree programs much faster.

The women can also pursue their education at Capital Community College in Hartford, which is part of a larger consortium that was awarded the grant.

Trinity College, which provides education for inmates while they're serving their sentences, is another partner in the consortium. It's joined by Community Partners in Action, an organization dedicated to providing resources for people affected by the criminal justice system, and the Judy Dworin Performance project, an organization of professional artists who use arts to catalyze social change.

Veronica DeLandro, the Aurora Foundation's incoming executive director, said the program's collaborative efforts give "Free to Succeed" a larger overall impact.

The new program reflects "the core of our mission," Jordan-Reilly said, as "Free to Succeed" supports people who need opportunities to pursue higher education and whose lives can benefit from it.

The school is pleased to be able

to support a population that can benefit from educational support, Jordan-Reilly said.

The program also helps provide new inroads for former prisoners to achieve success, including from the CONNNTAC Educational Opportunity Center, which provides free educational counseling and career planning services to Connecticut students.

"Participants will attend workshops and receive one-on-one counseling," said Ivette Rivera-Dreyer, MCC's director of financial aid, in a statement. "They may also qualify for small grants to cover bus passes for reliable transportation to campus and work-study to cover other expenses."

"The need to increase education in prisons is especially acute for women," said Rivera-Dreyer. "Statistics show that the inmates who participated in correctional education programs are 43 percent less likely to return to prison than inmates who did not."

At MCC, the school's Sister-2-Sister mentoring program will provide support to the women from other students. This will help them to relate and acclimate to the college experience.

So far, Jordan-Reilly said, one student is enrolled in the program for the fall, and "Free to Succeed" will only grow from there.

While the initial grant is small, it's a "seed for what could be a an important part of our programs going forward," Jordan-Reilly said. He hopes "Free To Succeed" will draw additional students and grow in the near future.

"We are pleased to be part of this effort to reach out to a group that has traditionally been left behind," said Dr. Gena Glickman, the president of MCC, in a statement.

"The 'Free to Succeed' program is a valuable opportunity for us to help provide an education that will give these women a chance to improve their lives and make positive contributions to our communities."

'Tavern Trot' for cancer research set for Sept. 20

By Journal Inquirer Staff

WINDSOR — The Union Street Tavern, at 20 Union St., will host the ninth annual Tavern Trot on Sept. 20 at 12:30 p.m. with a 3½-mile road and trail race through Windsor Center.

The race will occur rain or shine, and all proceeds will go toward Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, a national charitable foundation for childhood cancer research.

Participants to register before

Aug. 31 will pay the early entry fee of \$25. The adult fee from Sept. 1 to Sept. 9 at noon will pay \$30. Those registering the day of the race will pay \$35. Children between the ages of 10 and 18 may pay \$15, while children under age 10 are admitted free of charge.

A free T-shirt is guaranteed to all runner and walkers age 10 or older who register before noon Friday, Sept. 11.

To register online, visit www.unionstreettaven.com



John Tesh, 63, left, with daughter, Prima, 21, and wife Connie Sellecca, 60, stepping out in Hollywood.

Sellecca hosts weekend radio show

Dear Stacy: What is Connie Sellecca doing these days, besides being married to John Tesh? She used to be so big in the '80s.

Jordan M., Ohio.

Dear Jordan: Sellecca has been hosting the syndicated weekend radio show, "Intelligence for Your Health" — and as of Sept. 15 she will be co-hosting a syndicated television show, "Intelligence for Your Life" with Tesh and with her son Gib Gerard (from her first marriage, to actor Gil Gerard). The Teshes have been out there with their "Intelligence for..." brand for a while. Check for local airings via their website. Sellecca and Tesh married in 1992 and have a daughter, Prima, 21.

Dear Stacy: Whatever became of "Angel" Shelley Hack? I never see her in the stories about "Charlie's Angels."

Barbara B., Carson, California.

Dear Barbara: Hack retired from acting in 1997. She then established her international Shelley Hack Media Consultancy company, which undertook projects such as aiding the transition of Bosnian state television into a public broadcasting entity. She worked on a campaign for Turkish-Armenian reconciliation through print and television. Now, she and her husband, Harry Winer are busy full-time producers.

Dear Stacy: What is Maggie Q up to nowadays, besides being engaged to Dylan McDermott? Also, what is her ethnic background? **JNO4.**

Dear JNO4: The "Nikita" actress is in the sequel to "Divergent" —

Born on this day

Aug. 22: Actress Valerie Harper is 76. Actress Cindy Williams is 68. Country singer Holly Dunn is 58. Country singer Collin Raye is 55. Drummer Debbi Peterson of The Bangles is 54. Singer Tori Amos is 52. Keyboardist James DeBarge of DeBarge is 52. Actor Ty Burrell is 48. Actress Melinda Page Hamilton ("Mad Men") is 44. Guitarist Paul Doucette of Matchbox Twenty is 43. Singer Howie Dorough of the Backstreet Boys is 42. Comedian Kristen Wiig is 42. Guitarist Jeff Stinco of Simple Plan is 37.

LOTTERY

CONNECTICUT

Play 3 Day Play 4 Day

Friday, August 21
5 1 4 9 9 0 2
Thursday, August 20
1 0 3 2 0 3 9

Play 3 Night Play 4 Night

Friday, August 21
9 0 9 0 6 2 7
Thursday, August 20
3 0 3 5 8 2 3

CASH 5

Friday, August 21
5 1 8 10 17 22
Thursday, August 21
9 12 13 22 23

5 CARD CASH

Friday, August 21
AH 4C 8H 3S 6S
Thursday, August 20
JH 7D 8D 2S 3S

POWERBALL

Wednesday, August 19
6 8 43 48 50 7
Saturday, August 15
3 13 17 42 52 24

LOTTO!

Friday, August 21
4 32 37 14 25 20
Tuesday, August 18
13 17 26 33 34 35

LUCKY FOR LIFE

Thursday, August 20
12 21 23 25 48 17
Monday, August 17
22 23 25 30 37 14

LUCKY LINKS DAY

Friday, August 21
1 4 5 6 12 13 14 17
Thursday, August 20
3 6 9 11 13 14 16 21

LUCKY LINKS NIGHT

Friday, August 21
2 4 9 12 13 18 20 21
Thursday, August 20
2 4 11 12 14 16 18 21

MEGA MILLIONS

Friday, August 21
13 15 21 41 72 1
Tuesday, August 18
2 7 33 39 53 9

MASSACHUSETTS

Mid-Day Evening

Friday, August 21
7 9 4 2 2 7 1 0
Thursday, August 20
8 2 1 0 0 5 8 6

MEGABUCKS

Wednesday, August 19
7 11 35 37 39 47
Saturday, August 15
2 14 28 30 32 40

MASS CASH

Friday, August 21
2 17 18 22 31
Thursday, August 20
8 9 25 30 33

For earlier winners

Connecticut Lottery
Information Center:
860-713-2000
On the Web:
www.ctlottery.org

Massachusetts Lottery
Information Center:
781-848-7755
On the Web:
www.masslottery.com

"Insurgent" — which was recently released on Blu-ray and DVD. She has also wrapped the third installment of the franchise, "Allegiant." She and fiance and "Stalker" co-star

McDermott also have a period adventure series they're shopping to the cable networks called "Red Flag," in which she would play a Chinese prostitute who becomes one of the most successful pirates in history, and he would play an American revolutionary.

Oscar-winning "Gladiator" writer-producer David Franzoni came on board to write and produce the swashbuckler they intend to begin shooting in Malaysia this fall. Hawaii native Q is the daughter of a Vietnamese mother and an American father of Polish, Irish and French Canadian descent.

Dear Stacy: Is Loretta Swit still with us? Did she ever marry or have children? **Len C., Indio, California.**

Dear Len: The former "M*A*S*H" series costar, 77, has been busier with her animal causes than her acting in recent years — including selling prints of her painting titled "The Rookie," a puppy being considered as a future rescue dog, as a fundraiser for search dog training. The actress, who has no children, was divorced from actor Dennis Holahan in 1995 after 12 years of marriage. She has no children.

Dear Stacy: What was the outcome

"Ask Stacy" is written in Hollywood by columnist Stacy Jenel Smith.