Being a Parole Officer

Every day holds the potential for the unexpected for a parole officer. From one day to the next, a lot can happen in the life of a youth on supervision. A typical work day might include visits to homes, schools and jobs. Parole Officers often have a range of phone calls to return to youth, family members and friends.

These staff must find the right balance for completing fieldwork and paperwork. Some of the administrative tasks of Parole Officers include making sure case plans are current, updating risk assessments and completing monthly progress reports. Parole Officers are also usually present during a youth’s court appearance.

Additional responsibilities of Parole Officers include involving youth in community service projects, making referrals to community resources and encouraging program participation.

Celebrating Parole and Community Services

Every youth deserves opportunities: an opportunity to learn, an opportunity to grow, an opportunity to experience a loving family, an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the community, an opportunity to receive support and support others, an opportunity to become responsible, an opportunity to succeed, an opportunity to hope. Youthful offenders are no less deserving of opportunities. Our dedicated parole professionals make a difference by ensuring that every youth on parole is given the opportunity for a successful reentry.

Our Parole Officers are using valuable tools, knowledge and training to effectively manage youth released from institutions to help them succeed in the community and promote public safety. Currently the Bureau of Parole is working with the University of Cincinnati to train Juvenile Parole Officers in Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). This will help officers target and discuss identified criminogenic needs, target the maladaptive attitudes and beliefs of youth, teach youth problem-solving skills and make appropriate referrals to the community.

Thank you to all Juvenile Parole Officers, Juvenile Parole Supervisors, Regional Administrators and all other parole staff for offering youth the opportunity for a successful reentry. Please join me in celebrating their efforts during the Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, July 18 to 24, 2010.