

**January, 2012**

**National Coalition of Community-Based Correctional  
And Community Re-Entry Service Organizations’**

***Making a Difference***

**2011 Volunteer of the Year Award**

**“Our lives matter to the extent that we make a difference in the lives of others  
(source unknown).”**

Community organizations and individual volunteers work – often without much public fanfare - to make a difference in jails and prisons throughout the U.S. Services provided by these groups and individuals range from academic tutoring and life-skills programming to self-help programs, family re-integration, arts activities, and community re-entry support.

While these community groups and individuals don’t always get much public recognition, they make an active difference in the lives of current and formerly-incarcerated individuals.

NC4RSO selects a volunteer annually to honor their corrections and re-entry work.

**NC4RSO’s 2011 *Making a Difference* Award  
goes to Karen Bennett of Salem, Oregon.**

**About Karen Bennett:**

Karen Bennett spends up to four evenings per week running a crochet group at the Oregon State Correctional Institution. Her program is known as “Creative Arts Therapy - Crocheting 4 Community.” Crafted items - afghans, hats, scarves, toys - are donated to groups such as battered women’s shelters, needy children, veterans, hospitals. Ms. Bennett can be reached at (503) 339-7743 or [Karen.auntellapathway@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.auntellapathway@gmail.com) (public donations of crochet supplies graciously accepted).

**About the National Coalition of Community-Based Correctional and Community Re-Entry Service Organizations (NC4RSO):**

NC4RSO is a national umbrella for community organizations involved in jails, prisons, and community re-entry. Our objective is to be inclusive of varied community organizations from large state and national organizations to small, local groups that deliver programming through individual institutions and to be a service-providing coalition for member organizations. Visit us at <http://www.nc4rso.org> .