

## Changing Behaviors, Changing Lives, Changing Futures for West Virginia Families

### KANAWHA INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH AND ACTION RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION FOR RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

CHARLESTON, WV — A program in West Virginia that helps parents' transition from prison to private citizen and reconnect with their children is getting a big boost from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action (KISRA) announced they have received \$1.5 million to support their Fatherhood Reentry Program.

Specifically, the funds will help client's transition from incarceration to the community for greater long-term success. It includes helping them reconnect with their children, which strengthens the family as a whole, and decreases the risk factors associated with youth growing up without a father.

Through KISRA's ReFORM Initiative, clients, upon release from incarceration, receive parenting classes, case management services, mentoring, transportation and housing assistance, substance and mental health referrals, transitional job placement and clothing suitable for job interviews and employment.

In addition to classes and learning activities, the funds allow KISRA to provide a supportive environment, employment referrals to KISRA community partners such as Thomas Hospital and others.

For more information on the KISRA Re-FORM Initiative, call 304.768.8924.



Mike Jones has been named the interim KISRA CEO after Reginald Jones announced his resignation in July.

Board member Mike Kelly stated that Mike Jones will serve as an excellent interim CEO given his time at KISRA and his knowledge of the nonprofit.

Mike Jones will serve as interim CEO until a fulltime director can be named.

**H E A L**

**Our services are diverse but  
our mission is consistent:**

*Strengthening Families  
in West Virginia.*

With the help of our staff and dedicated volunteers, we make a difference every day. It is a difference that can be seen in the faces of the people we serve and felt across the state in terms of a stronger economy.

**KISRA**

Championing Positive Community Change

#### THE EMPOWERMENT CENTER

131 Perkins Avenue  
Dunbar, West Virginia 25064

**KISRA.org**

At KISRA we have been working to support FAMILIES from every walk of life, since we were first started by Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church in 1993. We have worked to create stronger and better-educated families who are more empowered and ready to change the course of their lives and contribute to our community. It all started with the desire to help children. It has grown to become a comprehensive offering of programs that HEAL and benefit people from every walk of life in West Virginia.

*Find us on social media!*



## KISRA Hosts Pop-up Markets

A Place to Grow  
August 16

St. Francis of Assisi School  
August 23

First Baptist Academy  
September 6



HEALTH

EMPLOYMENT

## NEW West Virginia

## Expungement Law Information



A new law, effective June 7, 2019, changes when you may be eligible to remove certain state criminal convictions from your record.

**THINK CAREFULLY  
BEFORE FILING! YOU ONLY  
HAVE ONE CHANCE.**

## DO YOU QUALIFY?

### OFFENSES

Some misdemeanors and non-violent felonies can be expunged. Offenses that **DO NOT** qualify, include but are not limited to:

- Violent felonies
- Felony crimes against minors
- Driving on suspended license
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances
- Sex offenses
- Burglary
- Offenses from other states

For more on offenses that don't qualify, go to [www.lawv.net](http://www.lawv.net).

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- You will need to get a lot of your criminal case paperwork together.
- There are costs for filing; some costs may be waived.
- You will have to prove you've taken steps toward rehabilitation.

### AGE

There are no age restrictions. Your convictions could have occurred at any age.

### WAITING PERIOD

Your waiting period to apply starts from the date of conviction, end of incarceration, or end of supervision, whichever is **LATER**. Your waiting period is determined by your type of offense.

- **SINGLE MISDEMEANOR: 1 YEAR**
- **MULTIPLE MISDEMEANORS: 2 YEARS**
- **FELONIES: 5 YEARS**

If you complete an approved Substance Abuse Treatment or Adult Training Program, your waiting period **COULD BE REDUCED**.

**FIGURING OUT IF YOU QUALIFY IS  
COMPLICATED. BEFORE FILING, YOU  
SHOULD TRY TO TALK TO A LAWYER.**

**APPLY FOR HELP FROM LEGAL AID OF WV**

**866-255-4370**

**WWW.LAWV.NET**



# KISRA

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KISRA staff Ture Johnson and Mike Easter meet with USDA Representative George Montgomery at Paradise Farms.

Mr. Montgomery met with KISRA partners Dural Miller with the Keep Your Faith Corporation and Nick Laws (bottom photos) with Cafe' Appalachia, part of the Appalachian Food Enterprise to discuss partnership opportunities.



## THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE KISRA TEAM



Lisa Fitzwater  
Admin Assistant  
SPOKES



Omani Roohollahi  
Re-Entry Specialist  
ARA



Cassie Evans  
Project Specialist



Kristen Olsen  
Project Specialist



James "JP" Owens  
HLC Director



Mike Easter  
Farm Manager

KISRA and Men's Wearhouse teamed up to provide gently used professional attire to West Virginians re-entering the workforce.



**EMPLOYMENT**

The clothing is available to KISRA participants and others in the community who need a suit for employment interviews



or other professional activities. Please call 304.768.8924 for an appointment.

*Find us on social media!*





# KISRA

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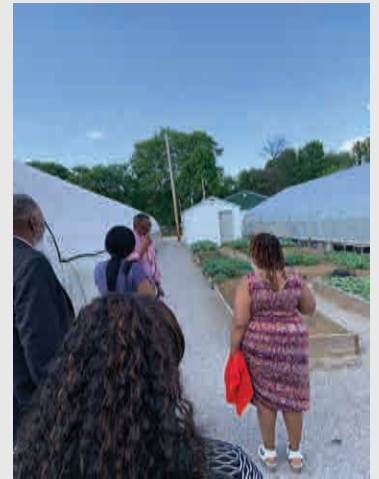
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KISRA has been awarded \$10,000 from the United Way of Central West Virginia. The funding for FY 2020, has been provided for the Harambee Learning Center, which provides safe, drug-free, after-school programming for children K-6 grades attending Kanawha County Schools.

Harambee Learning Center is focused on preventing the onset of adolescent problem behaviors by supporting academic success through homework assistance, mentoring, field trips, and other learning tools.

Below officials from the US Administration for Children and Families, Office for Regional Operations (Region Three), meet with KISRA leadership to discuss local initiatives and tour Paradise Farms. The Office for Regional Operations works to strengthen state and local relationships and to alert the secretary of DHHR of issues that have a state or national impact.



*Find us on social media!*  
@KISRAWV

