

5/7/19

### Why I donate

I became aware of the GECAC program courtesy of an article in the Erie Times News. I was impressed and glad to see such a thing existed and that there were people out there who had the time, passion and capability to help others improve their personal situation. I don't have any personal connections to the program or anyone who benefits from it directly, other than improving the quality of the life in the city in which I live by improving the quality of life of those with whom I share it. I think this program is taking fundamental steps required to get people reintroduced and prepared for life.

As I drive to work each day it easy to find the billboards for child literacy, hunger campaigns, and other noble causes. There is a part of me which suspects that this program may struggle for funding due to the nature/stigma of working with ex-convicts. When the time came during United Way campaign, I remembered this program and the article. The people who are making a genuine effort to get established and find a path forward. To me, it only makes sense to help them and benefits the community by helping rehabilitate them and it just felt like the right thing to do.

Beyond those reasons, I've become aware that this program is also contributing to the "Call-Ins" Community program which helps curb neighborhood and youth violence. I'm aware of the program due to the local news media but did not know this program impacted it, nor what positive results it has generated. To me that now makes this program essential, the numbers speak for itself but now this program is saving lives. I will continue to donate to the program because it is one simple thing I can do and I'm fortunate enough to be in a position where I can contribute a few dollars.

I hope it helps the people who are working so hard to make a difference in the community which we all share.

Rob

A Millcreek Resident