



Department of  
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed  
Second Chance Mentoring Recognition Event  
January 28, 2013**



*OSU Basketball star Scoonie Penn talked about making the most of his second chance during his "Dream Big" presentation to youth and mentors at the DYS Mentoring Recognition event*

Dear Staff,

DYS was awarded a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to provide mentoring services to 245 youth leaving DYS facilities and returning to Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery and Summit counties. Mentoring begins four to six months prior to a youth's release and continues in the community for at least an additional six months. Mentoring services support a youth's reentry plan and assist with education, employment, housing, behavioral health treatment and other supportive services.

Last week DYS hosted a mentoring recognition event to show appreciation for all of the community partners, mentors, mentees and staff who have made the Second Chance Mentoring Program a success. In 2012, the program matched a total of 99 youth with mentors! The event's theme, "The Game of Life," focused on how a committed mentor enriches the life of a youth by encouraging personal growth and development. The event included a youth panel discussion, reentry resources and presentations from a total of six keynote speakers.

True North Ministry, Men of Standards and Community for New Direction are our partner organizations for the Second Chance Mentoring Program. These groups continue to recruit volunteers. If you know of any individuals, groups or associations that may be interested in mentoring, please have them contact our Community Program Coordinator at (614) 466-9341 or email [Meredith.basak@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:Meredith.basak@dys.ohio.gov). Staff are also encouraged to continue submitting youth referrals to Meredith.

Sincerely,

Harvey J. Reed, Director  
Department of Youth Services

