

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE CELEBRATES GRADUATES APRIL 16, 2016**

*Participants in Pensacola's Prisoner Re-entry program will graduate this month*

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** – Thirty-six clients in the Pathways For Change program will participate in a *Phase-Up* and Graduation Ceremony at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Greater True Vine Baptist Church, 130 N. Pace Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32505.

Pathways For Change, a collaboration of the Escambia Board of County Commission, Destin Charity Wine Auction Foundation and nearly 30 partners, is a court ordered addiction treatment program designed to reduce the recidivism rate in Escambia County.

Potential participants must undergo a rigorous court monitored screening process to be considered for the program. Once approved the substance-dependent men have to successfully complete four phases and abide by a strict curriculum to learn interpersonal communication, job and life skills and undergo individual, family and group therapy.

*Phases-One and Two* - an intensive personal growth and development curriculum, a six-month time frame that allows them to confront their chemical dependency and mental health issues.

In *Phase-Three*, PFC clients give back to the community by cleaning blighted areas in Escambia County. Clients are also provided job-training and are encouraged to complete high-school equivalency degrees while in the program. After nine-months of treatment participants prepare for re-entry into the community by either getting a job or attending school.

In *Phase-Four*, clients are working, going to school, paying off fines, fees, child support and saving for first time home ownership. We are building strong Escambia County tax payers.

PFC's Quarterly reports reflect a client's progress. Before *Phasing-Up* participants are evaluated on their attitudes and behavior by clinical professionals, much like a mid-term exam in college.

Currently, two-thirds of state and county offenders not undergoing treatment are rearrested within three years of release. Pathways For Change has seen an 65-percent success rate, saving our county over \$1.5 million every year.

For more information about Pathways For Change or this public ceremony, call Connie Bookman, Founder and CEO at 850-3462922 or visit [www.pathwaysforchange.org](http://www.pathwaysforchange.org) where you will find many videos and informative articles about our successes!

Pathways For Change, located at 1211 W. Fairfield Dr., provides our clients a Christian foundation, a level of accountability for actions, therapy and life skills they need to successfully reenter our community.