

CEO's Corner

Welcome to the first edition of FailSafe-ERA's new e-newsletter, *"The Anchor"*

For the time being, this publication will be released on a monthly basis. That frequency will increase as we continue to grow.



The newsletter's name was selected by our Communications Team who are currently developing a brand-new **FailSafe-ERA** logo and branding campaign that will illustrate how we are firmly and permanently anchored within the community as the vessel of support for returning citizens.

As each of you is aware, **FailSafe-ERA** exists to reduce the barriers that prevent returning citizens from becoming successful, productive members of society. We are now taking our message to a broader audience, as seen in our recent media coverage on WTOP, WFVA and the Free-Lance Star, as well as in important and beneficial meetings with elected and public safety officials and community leaders in the area. These groups are now viewing us as the "anchor of hope" in this community for returning citizens, and I am grateful for the support and commitment that each of you brings to the table.

The entire **FailSafe-ERA** team is committed to ensure that the resources, tools and people are available every day of the year, to ensure returning citizens are properly equipped to succeed. They, like many others, have made bad decisions in life, big mistakes, and poor choices. While we do not condone many of their actions, we do realize that there are consequences. We are here to help when they are ready for a second chance to get it right.

FailSafe-ERA is also taking on new and exciting projects and challenges that God continues to place before us. One notable effort is a pilot program that we will be undertaking in FY-19 with a local international trade association that puts people to work across the country as roadway workers. That organization reached out to us to find ways to give jobs to returning citizens after an intense reentry program that features **FailSafe-ERA** classroom curriculum. Be on the lookout for more information on that project, as well as a new look for our website, a total re-branding of our organization, and highlights of our achievements in future editions of *The Anchor*.

Finally, if there's an item that you would like to see included in this publication, or if you have a suggestion or a "guest editorial" that you'd like to submit, please reach out to our Communications Director James Baron at Communications@failsafe-era.org for editorial requirements and more information. We are also looking for a bright, energetic intern (preferably a Communications or Marketing major) to assist with our communications efforts. Please pass your suggestions along to Jim on that matter as well.

I am so excited to have each of you along on this wonderful journey. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the **FailSafe-ERA** staff for any assistance that you may need.

Sincerely,

Juanita Shanks

President and CEO

FailSafe-ERA Highlights and Events



Local restaurant hosts FailSafe-ERA as their “Non-Profit of the Month”

Orleans Bistro, described as, “N’awlins style Cajun/Creole with a southern flare,” will host colleagues and friends of FailSafe-ERA on Saturday, August 18, from Noon- 2:30 p.m. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Toastmasters Program gives local youth a second chance

From April to June, Stafford County’s Rappahannock Juvenile Center (RJC) sponsored a Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program for 10 teen boys currently in detention. To read the entire story, [click here](#).



FailSafe-ERA President and CEO Juanita Shanks recently

completed a four-week pilot program at a local elementary school, in which children were guided, coached and counseled to help them identify and cope with the many issues that surround young children who are affected by incarceration. To read the entire story, [click here](#).



Thurman Brisben Center noon-feed

FailSafe-ERA’s Day of Community Service was June 9 at the Thurman Brisben Center in Fredericksburg. FailSafe-ERA staff and volunteers



Roundtable discussion focuses on faith leadership with elected officials

FailSafe-ERA CEO Juanita Shanks shares a moment with Senator Tim

provided an excellent noon meal for the resident of the facility, while Faded and Company provided free haircuts. Our friends from Goodwill also offered an informal financial literacy workshop. The fun-filled event was an overwhelming success that allowed each of us an opportunity to give back to those who need help the most.

Kaine during the August 14 roundtable discussion at United Faith Christian Ministries. Religious leaders from Stafford and Spotsylvania counties, as well as the surrounding community, discussed pertinent information as it relates to our communities, our commonwealth and how we can walk together in unity as leaders in faith with our elected officials.

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