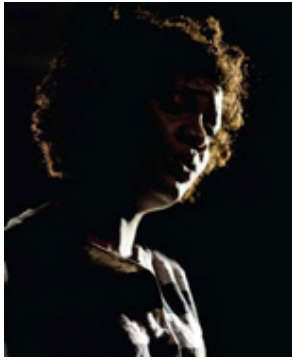




## Amicus Invites Volunteers to Penumbra Theatre Play, "Black Pearl Sings"



For several years now, Amicus has invited volunteers to a special showing at the Penumbra Theatre in St Paul, but this year is a real pearl!

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, Amicus is inviting all volunteers to a special preview showing of "Black Pearl Sings," by Frank Higgins. We'll start the evening with a 6:30 p.m. social hour, taking place in the Hallie Q. Brown/MLK Community Center which also houses Penumbra Theatre. The social hour will offer a chance to rub elbows with Amicus staff and other volunteers over light refreshments. Then at 7:30 p.m. the curtain will rise on "Black Pearl Sings!"

This preview performance is part of a regional premiere run, and is directed by Lou Bellamy.

*Under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, a white researcher named Susannah travels the South looking for original songs from the slave era. She finds herself in workhouses and prisons where black women toil to clear swamps and dig ditches. On a rural Texas prison farm she meets Pearl, an incarcerated woman with a silky voice and steely spirit. Pearl will not disclose how she came to be in prison, but when Susannah makes a deal to help her find her lost daughter, she sings into a phonograph. Together the two women set out on a journey to find their way out from The Shadows of their own pasts and into the bright lights of New York City where the crème of society waits with bated breath to hear the last of the authentic black songstresses from the South.*

Mark your calendars and watch for more information on how to get tickets, or contact Amicus Community Engagement Coordinator Chris Doege at 612-348-8570 or [chris@amicususa.org](mailto:chris@amicususa.org).



## Ask Russel



*Russel Balenger  
Director of  
Community  
Engagement &  
Adult Transitions*

Dear Russ;

I've heard that Amicus is short on male volunteers but has enough women for One to One friends. Should I tell my women friends who are considering volunteering not to bother?

Sincerely, KR

Dear KR,

First an enthusiastic "Yes" and then an emphatic "No!"

Yes, Amicus is short on male volunteers. Last month, we had 69 inmates in Minnesota Correctional Facilities who were still waiting for a friend. Of those 67 are men. This is primarily due to the fact that the number of men incarcerated in Minnesota greatly outnumber the total for women.

For many years now, Amicus has followed a guideline of matching only same-gender volunteers and inmates. The guideline makes sense in that it helps clarify the nature of an Amicus relationship to both those involved and also to the Department of Corrections. It's about making a change, and providing friendship, not romance.

The downside of the guideline is that fewer matches can be made. For that reason, we need your help finding those men who are strong enough and giving enough to be a friend to someone who needs one.

Does that mean we don't need women to volunteer? Absolutely not. Right now we get about one female volunteer for every participating inmate. That means a match can be made quickly, but women volunteers are still very much needed. What's more, MCF Shakopee houses almost 600 women and many of those women could benefit from a One to One friendship. Our job at Amicus is to get word to female inmates that a friend will likely be available to them if they ask for one. In order for us to be true to our word though, we still need a steady supply of both male and female volunteers. So keep volunteering!

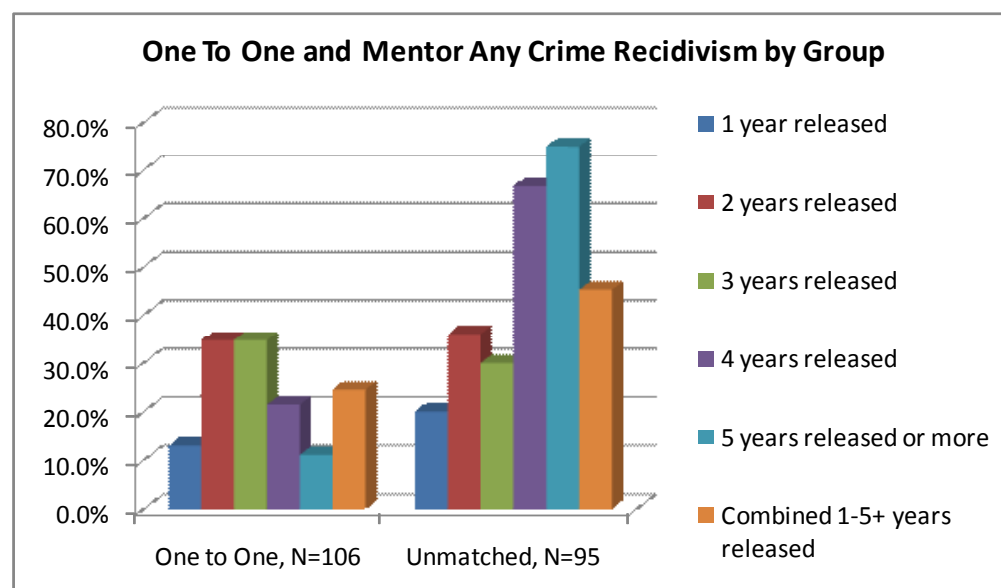
Got a question? Ask Russel! ([russel@amicususa.org](mailto:russel@amicususa.org))



## Amicus One to One Has Long-term Impact on Recidivism

More and more, Amicus is being asked to focus on the numbers in evaluating and reporting the effectiveness of its programs. Fortunately, the results of a program such as Amicus One to One are clear. We see it in bar graphs and in the lives of those individuals we work with every day. The following graph compares offenders who participate in the One to One Program with those who apply for a One to One friend but aren't able to be matched due to shortage of volunteers.

Over five years, those who participated in the program committed a new crime 20 percent less often than those who weren't able to be matched.



## Become a Facebook Fan of Amicus

Did you know that Amicus has a Facebook page? Follow what's happening at our agency and share your thoughts on our country's corrections system, second chances, mentoring, juvenile justice and more.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Amicus/193639754737>

## EVENTS



*Scene from the first ever Amicus Walk, which took place in September*

### 1/25 - One to One Training at Unity Unitarian

732 Holly Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104.

### 1/30 and 2/5 - Amicus Night at Off Leash Area's production of "The Jury"

Red Eye Theater, 15 West 14th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Through acting and dance, "The Jury" unravels the tangled fabric of a young woman's violent past to judge her innocence or guilt for a charge of murder. It is the search for a balance between social and individual responsibility for those who experience and commit violence as part of their daily lives.

On the evenings of Jan. 30 and Feb. 5, Amicus staff will join Off Leash Area cast and crew in post-performance talk-backs with the audience, discussing the issues brought forward by the production and the reality of women in the justice system. **Amicus friends will receive discounted (\$15) tickets to performances on those nights.** Contact Kayla Rasmussen at 612-348-8570 - [kayla@amicususa.org](mailto:kayla@amicususa.org) for more information.



## Join the Second Chance Coalition Governor Candidates' Forum

You are invited to...

WHAT: Second Chance Governor Candidates Forum

WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 23, 9 am-12 pm

WHERE: Coffman Union, 3rd Floor, University of Minnesota

(300 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455)

The Second Chance Coalition is a non-partisan organization supported by hundreds of individuals and more than 40 organizations, including Amicus, that advocate for policies that allow people with criminal records to redeem themselves, fully support themselves and their families, and contribute to their communities to their full potential.

Join us for a unique two-way dialogue with governor candidates from both parties. Candidates will hear our stories and concerns about the criminal justice system, and we will hear candidates' ideas for change.

Join Us!

Please RSVP to:

Jonathan Maurer-Jones

651-379-0750

[Jonathan@TakeActionMinnesota.org](mailto:Jonathan@TakeActionMinnesota.org)

## WISH LIST

### \$85 - 31-Day Supersaver Transit Pass

Funding for any level of transit pass enables those seeking a new start to get to job interviews, find apartments or travel to their first few weeks of work before they receive a paycheck. In short, transit buys opportunity!