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SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY JAIL HOSTS REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Innovative National Recovery Month Program Offers Inspiration & Hope

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA (September 16, 2015) – In a unique National Recovery Month program supported and promoted by Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi and his staff, two films are being screened to engage inmates with honest stories about substance misuse as well as the hope and opportunity for recovery. Expert panel discussions follow the films. San Rafael-based Alcohol Justice and Studio City-based Writers In Treatment have brought the REEL Recovery Film Festival into the San Francisco Jail system this week after winning a small, competitive San Francisco Sheriff's Department innovation award.

One recovery film was shown to 60 women prisoners on Monday night with filmmaker Nicole Boxer. Tonight there will be a different film shown in the men's San Bruno Jail with engaging humor and conversation with comedian Michael Pritchard.

"As we've seen with the failed U.S. war on drugs, substance abuse has become one of the many social problems relegated to the criminal justice system," said San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi. "Instead of addiction being treated as a crime, it instead needs to be treated as a public health priority, combined with a recovery system available to all people, long before jail becomes the first resort."

*"It was an honor to show **How I Got Over**, at the SF Women's Jail," stated Boxer. "As a filmmaker I believe in the power of film to change the world. By showing our film to incarcerated women, we highlight strong, female role models that will inspire inmates to tell their stories and rewrite their next chapter with positivity. I hope to continue working in social justice causes and to create a groundswell of positive solutions in the community. This film program in San Francisco could light the way," she added.*



Bruce Lee Livingston, Nicole Boxer and Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi

