

For Health's Sake...

Garden created at prison by inmates...

A New PATH To Break Ground on the Self-Reflection Garden for Inmates at Donovan State Prison.

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) is creating a garden at Donovan State Prison for inmates in need of substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation. After months of planning, the ground breaking will occur on Friday, January 30.

Inmates to begin digging trenches at 10 a.m. for pathways and plantings. A video history of the project will be recorded.

The chief officers are: PATH Co-Founder & Chair of the Project, Sylvia Liwerant; President of the Board of Directors of PATH, Caroline Stewart; PATH Co-Founder &

Executive Director Gretchen Burns Bergman; Manuel Silva, Landscape Designer

Eighty-five percent of California inmates are imprisoned due to drug or alcohol related crimes. There is a paucity of substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation programs behind bars. The prison atmosphere is bleak, cold and often violent. Without a glimmer of hope it is almost impossible to begin the journey towards change and recovery.

The National Center on Addiction & Substance Abuse reports that, within five years of their release, criminals who received treatment for substance abuse are four times less likely to commit another crime than those who did not.

A New PATH is creating the garden as a first step towards increasing substance abuse treatment opportunities behind bars. County Supervisor Ron Roberts has donated \$14,000 to this project and it is also being funded through

donations.

Landscape architect Gary Stone has designed a beautiful garden that will instill hope and inspire self-reflection. Inmates have begun to clear the rocks and prepare the soil. They will participate in the planning and care of the garden, thereby adding a restorative element.

A timeline is being created with two phases and completion in 2004.

"The garden will be a serene haven to discover the strength within, and begin the journey towards change, sobriety and recovery."

- Gretchen Burns Bergman,
Executive Director, A New
PATH

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