# ☑ *"There's A Difference Already."*



*Above: Resident Specialist I L. Jackson welcomes one of the Bon Air Unit 54 residents he advocates for in his new responsibilities under the Community Treatment Model. Below: Community Coordinator Rukiya Bellamy leads discussion during a "circle-up."*



If you are truly dedicated to working with kids in trouble, you can fit in to the new Community Treatment Model, and you can make a difference.

That's the message that Resident Specialist I L. Jackson is telling as many of his colleagues as he can, now that he has personally experienced the changes. "There's a difference already," Jackson says. "Guys aren't acting out as much any more. Kids that never opened up before are doing so now. There are bonds of trust being created. It's really remarkable to watch."

Tom Breedlove, a consultant with the Missouri Youth Services Institute (MYSI) who has been assisting DJJ with its transformation, agrees. "This team has performed and responded well to all direction and requests without exception," he says. "They are so excited and thankful to have something different, healthy and active to do with the kids."

## *Observations From Tom Breedlove*
## *MYSI Consultant*

*(The following is taken from an e-mail sent to Jack Ledden.)*

"Other staff in the facility can't stay away. [They are] coming by to see and feel what is going on."

"Other kids in facility are doing what they can to get to [Unit] 54. Nice."

"We are teaching everyone that it is more efficient to have staff and kids in the Mutual Help Group (circle-up). We will work on the sacredness of the meeting as time continues. ... Structure is our friend."

"Mrs. Bellamy is teaching that the group and the staff are like a family and live in their 'community'. The community exists within a city, that being Bon Air. Just like in life, families have to come out of their community and go to the city to get needs met."