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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CENTERFORCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIRED

San Rafael, CA, July 2, 2008 – Centerforce, a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to support, educate and advocate for individuals, families and communities impacted by incarceration, announces that Carol F. Burton, LMSW, CSW will be joining the agency as its new Executive Director, effective July 7, 2008.

Ms. Burton comes to Centerforce from the Osborne Association in Bronx, NY, an organization with a similar focus as Centerforce, but much larger in size. Ms. Burton was an Associate Executive Director at Osborne, where her responsibilities included supervision of programs in 21 prisons throughout New York State, the oversight of the Brooklyn and Beacon offices, the creation and evaluation of evidence based practices, programming and curricula, mentoring management staff and developing relationships with communities of faith. Prior to Osborne, Ms. Burton spent 13 years at the Mott Children's Health Center in Flint, Michigan. At Mott she developed and implemented a delinquency prevention program for children of incarcerated adults, and then became the Supervisor of Prevention Programs where she created and ran health programs for teens. Also while at Mott, she served as the Principal Investigator for the country's first comprehensive program for children of incarcerated parents (Project S.E.E.K.).

Ms. Burton received her BS and Master of Social Work degrees from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, and is licensed as a social worker in both New York and Michigan. She serves as a consultant and as Board Chair with the Family and Corrections Network in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, an association that provides technical assistance to organizations working with children of incarcerated parents. She also serves on the Boards of Children Internal Affairs in Detroit and the New York City Juvenile Detention Facilities. "The challenges and opportunities that currently exist in the field of criminal justice are extraordinary and promise to give each one of us a chance to transform lives, families, communities and prisons. Centerforce is uniquely positioned to provide leadership and I am committed to partnering with new and existing forces to create a powerful way of addressing crime and prevention in California and in this country," Ms. Burton stated.

"The Centerforce Board of Directors is very excited that Carol Burton will be guiding our future," said Board President Steven Tulsky. "We are entering a time of tremendous change in how we approach incarceration as the nation struggles with a system that is overwhelmed, ineffective, inhumane, and dangerous. Much of this change will be tasked to the non-profit sector, and we expect Centerforce to lead this effort. Carol will be a powerful Director and an effective agent for change."

"The Board would like to express its heartfelt thanks to Chuck Greene for his masterful guidance of Centerforce as its Interim Executive Director during the past year," added Tulsky. Charles Greene is a professional interim manager with more than 30 years of nonprofit management experience including as co-founder and Administrative Vice President at World College West and as Executive Director for seven Bay Area nonprofits. Mr. Greene states, "It has been a privilege for me to work with the Centerforce board and staff during this important transition. Ms. Burton is the perfect person for the organization and for the challenges facing incarceration in California."

ABOUT CENTERFORCE

The Centerforce mission is to support, educate and advocate for individuals, families and communities impacted by incarceration. Centerforce is a 501(c) (3) with offices in San Rafael, San Quentin and Fresno, California and operates the visitors center just outside the gates of San Quentin State Prison.

Centerforce provides services for prisoners, ex-prisoners, and family members of prisoners through direct services, education, its annual Summit and through consultation and training for government agencies, community-based organizations and correctional facilities across the country and internationally. Throughout its history, Centerforce has worked to promote humane and effective services for prison visitors and prisoners.

The 9th Annual Centerforce Inside/Out Summit will be held on Oct. 6-7, 2008 at the DoubleTree Sonoma Wine Country in Rohnert Park, California. The schedule includes a roundtable Socratic Dialogue, Sentencing Reform Caucus, 15 workshops, keynote address and more. For more information on Centerforce, visit Centerforce.org.