

District

EXTRA

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PHOTOS BY MARCUS YAM — THE WASHINGTON POST

Xavier Exum is all smiles as the Men-in-Motion support group congratulates him on a job at a session last week in the District.

Support and Second Chances

Groups Bring Men Together to Help One Another Leave Troubled Pasts

By YAMICHE ALCINDOR
Washington Post Staff Writer

Around a long table in the basement of an aging building in the District, a group of men comes together every Wednesday seeking recovery and redemption. For most, the weekly reunions, part of a program called Men-in-Motion, mean escaping troubled criminal histories and embracing a future as fathers, sons and friends.

"The main thing is that we give each oth-



Karl Andrews, a moderator and outreach worker, listens to members of the group.

er hope," said Karl Andrews, an outreach worker for the National Center for Children and Families, which sponsors the weekly meetings aimed at providing men in wards 7 and 8 with parenting skills.

Men-in-Motion is part of a growing network of groups across the District and Prince George's County that provides parenting support and therapy to men, many of them ex-offenders, through roundtable discussions.

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