

OFFICER,

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is made easier because of his close proximity to his clients and the ease with which information flows between his office and the Keizer Police Department.

"It's very team-oriented here and it's a lot easier for me to grab one of the Keizer officers to help me serve a warrant or do a check on somebody. I work closely with the Community Response Unit and, if they have a suspicion that one of my clients is involved with drug activity, I can go with them to the scene of a investigation," Bandonis said.

Bandonis spends about half his time in the field and the other half in his office meeting with clients to help them navigate re-entry into society and even work on behavioral issues. Helping someone with a resume can lead to conversations about larger issues at work in his clients' minds and skill-training he can assist with.

Overcoming thought processes that are hard-wired in those struggling with ad-

dition is one of the regular hurdles Bandonis encounters. It leads to focusing on "tapes and counters." Tapes are automatic thoughts attitudes and beliefs that help someone justify criminal behavior, Bandonis said.

"Someone might have come to believe that they had to deal drugs because they need to support their family," Bandonis said. "What we teach them is how to counter that with thoughts like: I shouldn't be doing this because it is against the law, it will end up putting me in jail and it won't help my family at all in the future. I should find a stable job because it's the right thing to do."

Other skills Bandonis can assist with range from how to listen to how to handle embarrassment.

"I don't tell them how to solve it, I prompt them to figure it out through role-playing and working with someone they know," he added.

Successfully navigating parole and probation conditions depends on the parolee being a willing participant. Max said prior to meeting Bandonis he viewed parole officers as the enemy and, each time he got out of jail,

he would do well for a couple of months before reverting to the habits that got him in trouble.

"In my mind, I wanted to change, but my actions weren't matching up. Within a year, I would be back in prison," Max said. "I met with Eric right off the bat and this time I wanted to change. I was willing to do what I had to do to do that. Eric was very firm and fair and he didn't give me any rope. He gave me homework and assigned me things that I was willing to do this time."

Max said the relationship he was able to form with Bandonis was based on rewards and consequences, but that he was able to achieve bigger and better things as he proved his trustworthiness. Max was given permission from the court to leave the area as a wildfire firefighter for months at a time during

the summer. He held onto those achievements and set new goals - like becoming a crew boss. This summer he is crew boss-in-training. He also started college at Western Oregon University and earned a bachelor's degree in business in June.

Bandonis also helped Max build his relationship with his wife, Tera, while she was still in prison for drug-related crimes. Even getting into the prison for visitation was complicated because of Max's past crimes, but Bandonis acted as a reference for him. Tera officially finished her parole and probation this week and is going to school to become a counselor.

While Bandonis was not Tera's official parole officer, she developed a relationship with him through Max.

"I went to his office last week and I asked him if I could get a reference from

him. To have somebody there like that is priceless," Tera said. "I see that it's easy for people to slip backward knowing they won't see the PO for a month. It is a mindset. Having somebody local is good because it's more accountability."

Bandonis still drops in to see Max and Tera regularly despite having finished his official duties in Max's case. Max said it's not unusual for them to get introduced to the latest trainees or to assist others going through the system. He and Tera have helped provide transport to other parolees in need and sometimes just sit and share their story.

"Any time that we reach out to help people, I'm convinced I get way more out of it than they do. It helps remind us where we could go back to. Everybody in our church and workforce knows our story because if they hear it and reach out for help, it's a beautiful thing," Max said.

In addition to having a resource close by, having Bandonis stationed at KPD helps in other less visible ways. Most Keizer officers are familiar with Bandonis' clients and can help him track down

ones that go missing or offer words of encouragement in the community that foster accelerated growth.

"We will go out with him and do parole and probation check-ups and that builds up familiarity with them to help hold them accountable," said Sgt. Bob Trump, of the Keizer Police Department. "We can show our appreciation for what they are doing and it's a real positive interaction."

Wood, the parole and probation division commander, added that Keizer officers' familiarity with some parolees can help create changes in the approach the courts take with some clients. In one recent case, Keizer cops noticed a parolee who was involved in an escalating series of crimes. At the time, the suspect was not one of Bandonis' clients, but Keizer officers advocated for closer supervision of the man and Bandonis now oversees his case.

"Keizer police help me hold my clients more accountable. I love working with the clientele and the officers here. It's like working with a family at this facility," Bandonis said.

"Having somebody local is good because it's more accountability."

- Tera Marshall

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