“One way to help reintegrate offenders into the community is developing parish mentoring programs that begin to help offenders prior to their release and assist them in the difficult transition back to the community.

These programs can reduce recidivism and challenge faith communities to live out the Gospel values of forgiveness, reconciliation, and responsibility for all members of the body of Christ. Mentoring programs provide an environment of support, love and concrete assistance for ex-offenders while also educating the public about restorative justice.”

U.S. Catholic Bishops
Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, 2000

www.usccb.org

March 2013
What is Mentoring?

Mentoring is:
- The one-to-one relationship that individuals develop with another to help him/her develop and succeed.
- A special kind of caring, supportive relationship or partnership between two people that is based on trust and respect.
- Sharing knowledge and experience with another to help him/her define and reach his/her goals.

A Mentor’s Job Description

A mentor is:
- A person who has agreed to the task of guiding, teaching, or tutoring another person.
- A good listener, role model, friend, coach, teacher, or confidant.
- A community volunteer who provides a positive relationship for the offender with the goal of creating a friendship that promotes constructive attitudes and law abiding behavior.

A mentor is not:
- A counselor or therapist
- A police officer
- A bank or loan officer
- An enabler

A Mentor’s Primary Responsibilities

A mentor agrees to:
- Meet with the assigned mentee a minimum of once a week for one hour each time for at least twelve months.
- Maintain regular contact with the program coordinator or other designated correctional staff.
- Report any problem or concerns as well as the progress that is being made to the correctional staff.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Be a good listener and friend.
- Model positive social behavior and attitudes.
- Be dependable and on time for all scheduled appointments with the assigned mentee.
- Not use alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants while in the presence of the assigned mentee.
- Submit monthly reports on experiences with the assigned mentee as required by each correctional facility.
- Report any changes in address, phone, employment, arrest or driving record to the correctional staff.
- Enter into a volunteer agreement, and participate in the mentor orientation and training.

Mentor Screening

- Mentors are screened by the Department of Correctional Services.
- The State requires the submission of a completed volunteer application, authorization to access criminal history records, and a short interview.
- Mentors must follow the guidelines, policies, and training of the individual Residential Correctional Facility and work cooperatively with correctional staff.

Mentor Matching

- Mentors are matched with mentees based on needs and interest.
- Mentors and mentees are matched according to gender.
- Both people participate in the match process to ensure success.
- There is no obligation to assign a mentee to a mentor.

For more information or to apply to be a Volunteer Mentor contact:

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