Catholic Charities Jail and Prison Ministry Offices:

Dubuque/Cedar Rapids/Rural Northeast Iowa Area
1229 Mount Loretta Avenue
Dubuque, IA 52003
563-588-0558
800-772-2758

Waterloo/Ames/Marshalltown/Mason City Area
2101 Kimball Avenue
Suite 138
Waterloo, Iowa 50702
319-272-2080
800-772-2758

Other Catholic Charities services include...
- Mental Health Counseling
- Post Adoption Search
- Affordable Housing
- Immigration Legal Services

CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org

Jail & Prison Ministry
Community re-entry program offering Mentoring and Circles of Support and Accountability

Proudly funded in part by the United Way of Dubuque Area Tri-States

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of Dubuque

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COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY PROGRAM
Ex-offenders are some of the most vulnerable members of society. Over 90% of individuals released from jail or prison will return to their communities, many with no employment, home, or support system. They often struggle with social and psychological challenges resulting from incarceration.

Through volunteer mentors and support groups, Catholic Charities’ Jail & Prison Ministry program supports ex-offenders as they work toward positive re-entry into family and community life. The program helps ex-offenders establish positive relationships, experience healthy social activities, and connect with community resources to find work, secure affordable housing, and meet basic needs.

MENTORING
A mentor is a trusted guide who accepts someone for who they are and is a source of encouragement for who they can become. A mentor is a teacher, a listener, a role model, and coach. A mentor helps create a relationship that promotes constructive attitudes and law-abiding behavior. Mentors meet with ex-offenders after their release to provide the needed support to resist relapse into old habits and lifestyles.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A MENTOR?
• Complete a volunteer application and Mentor training
• Meet weekly for an hour with the mentee
• Maintain regular contact with the program coordinator

CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
Circles of Support and Accountability are small groups of volunteers working with a single ex-offender. Circles provide a healthy and supportive relationship between the ex-offender and the community, opening an avenue for restoration and healing of all people impacted by crime.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A CIRCLE MEMBER?
• Respect the need for confidentiality
• Attend bi-weekly meetings with the core member and other members

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A MENTOR?
• Meet weekly for an hour with the mentee
• Maintain regular contact with the program coordinator

COMMENTS
We are all sinners, and our response to sin and failure should not be abandonment and despair, but rather justice, contrition, reparation, and return or reintegration of all into the community.”

Over 90% of individuals released from jail or prison will return to their communities, many with no employment, home, or support system. They often struggle with social and psychological challenges resulting from incarceration.

“Just as God never abandons us, so too we must be in covenant with one another...”