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*“The challenge of curbing crime and reshaping the criminal justice system is not just a matter of public policy, but is also a test of Catholic Commitment. In the face of so much violence and crimes, our faith calls the Church to responsibility and action.”*

Pope John Paul II, July 2000

“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](http://www.usccb.org)

This mentoring program is modeled after the Restorative Justice Mentoring Program from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The Jail & Prison Ministry Program seeks to provide a religious component to the state’s program by providing volunteers from churches.

The state’s guidelines, policies and training will be accepted and must be maintained. The Diocese of Davenport assumes no responsibility and/or liability by recruiting volunteers for this state program or by the activities or duties of volunteers involved in the program.

March 2013

## **Restorative Justice Mentoring in Southeast Iowa**

**“I was in prison  
and you visited me.”  
Mt: 25:36**

**Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Davenport  
780 West Central Park Avenue  
Davenport, IA 52804-1901**

**563-324-1911**



*A mentor is a trusted friend and guide, a person who observes who you are and a source of support and encouragement for who you can become.*

### **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 a 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 base 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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