

Volunteer Mentor Job Description

Major Role:

- To serve as a friend and mentor to female inmates who are making the transition from incarceration to an independent lifestyle.

Major Responsibilities:

- To provide friendship, support and inspiration to the mentee with whom you have been matched.
- To work as a part of a team in conjunction with the Program Coordinator, prison staff and community agencies to help your mentee reenter society with as strong a foundation as is possible.
- To motivate and help your mentee learn how to help herself.
- To encourage your mentee to make her own decisions and to be responsible for them by walking through the possible consequences.
- To assist your mentee in accomplishing and refining the tangible skills needed in daily living such as parenting, budgeting, maintenance; and apartment or job searching.
- To assist your mentee in the development of intangible skills such as problem solving and assertiveness as well as helping in the development of self-esteem and self-confidence.
- To be willing to share your experiences and ideals with your mentee.
- To be available to your mentee when a listening ear is needed.
- To be willing to commit yourself to a one year relationship with a woman who has been incarcerated.
- To meet with or contact your mentee on a regular basis.
- To fill out reports needed by the Mentoring Program Coordinator.
- To attend training, case manager meeting, and mentor/mentee social experiences.

Benefits:

- An opportunity to help and become friends with a woman transitioning from the community to her chosen community.
- An opportunity to become acquainted with the prison system and other volunteers.

Qualifications:

- To be an emotionally stable and mature person with a sincere interest in helping incarcerated women transition effectively into their communities.
- To be willing to learn and have time to invest in this program.

Training:

- An orientation and training program will be offered to acquaint you with the program as well as the issues of incarceration and of women who have spent time within the prison system.
- Ongoing training sessions and events which have the purpose of allowing the volunteers the opportunity to delve deeper into some of the issues impacting on the female inmates in question.

Time Commitment:

- A one year post-release commitment to a female inmate which will include personal and telephone contact.
- A one year plus commitment to the program which will include initial and ongoing training, support, meetings with mentor/mentee group as well as filing reports.