“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 crime, 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 parishioners about Catholic teaching and restorative justice.”

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

www.usccb.org/sdwp/

Contact persons:
Ames Residential Correctional Facility
Ron Smith
515-382-5654

Cedar Rapids Residential Correctional Facility
Dan Stabile
319-373-0732

Dubuque Residential Correctional Facility
Deacon Bill Biver
563-556-5314

Marshalltown Residential Correctional Facility
Deacon Irv Vaske
641-753-3914

Mason City Residential Correctional Facility
Deacon Chuck Cooper
641-424-6251

Waterloo Residential Correctional Facility
Bob Stirn
319-233-6179

West Union Residential Correctional Facility
Deacon Tom Lang
800 876-3546 ext. 252

This mentoring program is modeled after the 1st Judicial District of Iowa’s Partners Against Crime Mentoring Program. The Jail & Prison Ministry Program seeks to provide a religious component to the state’s program by providing volunteers from parishes.

The state’s guidelines, policies and training will be accepted and must be maintained. The Archdiocese of Dubuque 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.

03/08

Residential Correctional Facilities in Northeast Iowa

Mentoring in Northeast Iowa

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

Jail and Prison Ministry
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque
1229 Mount Loretta Avenue
Dubuque IA 52003
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 two times monthly for one hour each time for at least six months
- maintain regular contact with the program coordinator or other designated correctional staff
- report any problems 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 change 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

For more information or to apply to be a Volunteer Mentor:
Deacon Bill Hickson
800-772-2758
e-mail: dbqecjpm@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us
Or: Local contacts on back of brochure

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 interests
- 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