

## JPC Mentor Program



### What We See Happening

#### *Did you know .....*

Criminal justice involved women and men are returning to our communities in record numbers. In Monroe County alone, several thousand ex-offenders are released annually from local, state, and federal facilities. They struggle with sustaining positive life changes. Most return with the best intentions, but the challenges of returning to the same environment can be difficult. The barriers they face include difficulties finding safe housing, obtaining employment, enrolling in training/college, reuniting with children and family and maintaining sobriety. Often they face roadblocks in attaining medical, substance use treatment and mental health services.

### Working Together

#### *You can help.....*

Research has shown that positive social relationships are crucial in helping ex-offenders avoid patterns of substance abuse or criminal behaviors. Our program links women and men with welcoming individuals. Mentors are recruited from the faith community, community organizations, colleges, and the business communities. These trained individuals mentor by providing support, encouragement, guidance, and information about resources. Through a collaborative partnership between community corrections agencies and a wide variety of community organizations, we can provide the empowering information and support that are critical to success.

#### *Mentors Are:*

Ordinary people who are good listeners that will guide women and men to become self sufficient, successful tax paying citizens. Mentors work as part of a team providing one-on-one help, advocacy, and support.

#### **Criteria for mentors.....**

- Dependable, mature adults (ages 21+)
- Compassionate, good communication skills, ability to listen & share
- In training/school, employed or retired
- Open to new experiences and learning, willing to ask questions and seek support from the Mentor Coordinator or JPC Staff
- Drivers license & auto. If you have previously been involved in the criminal system but have 2 or more years of sobriety and employment history you may apply to mentor.

#### **How much time.....**

A mentor should be willing to meet for a year. There should be weekly contact with the mentee. If you are meeting at the Monroe Correctional Facility, ideally you will be meeting weekly for 3 or 4 months prior to release. After release, plan to spend a couple of hours each week listening and helping with re-entry issues. Mentors are required to submit brief weekly reports to Dorothy Chung, Mentor Coordinator. If you are retired you may travel but you will need to notify Dorothy Chung and your mentee about your travel plans.

## **Mentor Training and Special Events**

Training is required. Usually training in a group setting is offered every September. The length of training is 8 hours or 4 hours on a Monday and Tuesday night. A free hot meal and manual are provided. The trainers are experienced criminal justice professionals and are drawn from almost a dozen agencies. If you work in the human service or counseling professions we may be able to wave some of the training requirement and Dorothy Chung will provide individual training at a time and date that fits with your schedule. After completion of 2 individual training sessions you will be required to attend the next scheduled group training.

### **Recognition and Certificates Awarded:**

After successfully completing the training and meeting requirements plus two successful mentoring matches, a certificate will be awarded! Also every spring mentors are recognized at a special event at JPC and recognized at the JPC Luncheon.

#### ***Mentor Inquiry Form***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Night \_\_\_\_\_

Email - \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Faith/Community Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Why am I interested in mentoring?

\_\_\_\_\_

I bring the following life experience to the table, you may include hobbies, work or educational background and experience.

\_\_\_\_\_

What do I hope to get out of the mentoring experience?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Return to:***

Mentor Coordinator, Judicial Process Commission (inside the Waring Baptist Church)  
1921 Norton Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14609

***contact: Dorothy Chung, Mentor Coordinator (585)-704-9660 or email: Dorothy.Chung@rocjpc.org***