

Reentry and the Faith Community: Sample Programs

Program Name	Geographic Area Served
▪ Amachi	Philadelphia, PA
▪ Conquest Offender Reintegration Ministries	Washington, DC
▪ Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency—Faith Community Partnership	Washington, DC
▪ Detroit Transition of Prisoners	Detroit, MI
▪ Episcopal Social Services—Network Program	New York, NY
▪ Helping Up Mission—Spiritual Recovery Program	Baltimore, MD
▪ Inner-City Muslim Action Network	Chicago, IL
▪ Kairos Horizon Communities in Prison	FL, OH, OK, TX
▪ Keystone Ministries	Vicksburg, MS
▪ Men of Valor	Oakland, CA
▪ New Horizons Ministries	Cannon City, CO
▪ Prison Fellowship Ministries—InnerChange Freedom Initiative	TX profiled; also IA, KS, MN
▪ Prodigal Ministries	Louisville, KY
▪ Project Blanket	Pittsburgh, PA
▪ St. Leonard’s Ministries	Chicago, IL
▪ Teen Challenge	National
▪ Wheeler Mission Ministries	Indianapolis, IN
▪ Woman at the Well House Ministries	San Antonio, TX

AMACHI (PA)

Contact Information

Reverend W. Wilson Goode
Director, Amachi
Public/Private Ventures
2000 Market Street
Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA
Tel: 215-557-4437

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 2000

Program Area: Faith

Program Description

The Amachi program began in Philadelphia in January 2000. A West African word, Amachi means “who knows but what God has brought us through this child.” Recognizing that an estimated 20,000 children in Philadelphia have parents who are incarcerated, the Amachi program was developed to provide support to these at-risk children by providing them with caring adult mentors. Amachi has three types of mentoring programs: community-based one-on-one mentoring, school-based one-on-one mentoring, and church-based one-on-one mentoring. The program is organized around clusters of 10 congregations, each of which is given a stipend. As part of a performance-based agreement, each participating congregation must maintain at least 10 active mentors. To maintain the full stipend, each congregation is required to submit data collection forms in a timely manner. Public/Private Ventures staff provides data collection, reporting, and management services, which allow program managers to assess the congregations’ activities and monitor the mentoring matches.

The Amachi model for pairing adults and children begins in the congregations where volunteer mentors are recruited. Volunteers are screened by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) in order to ensure that they are suitable to participate in the program. BBBSA also provides training in appropriate and effective mentoring techniques, with a focus on developmental approaches that allow children to establish trust in their mentors. Children are recruited by Amachi and by the congregations through prison-based outreach, community-based outreach, and the individual congregations. BBBSA case management and church coordinators supervise the matching of mentors and children.

Primary Goals

The primary goals of Amachi are to provide a supportive network to at-risk children whose parents have been incarcerated.

Networking, Partnering, and Collaboration

Amachi is a partnership between secular and faith-based institutions, including 71 congregations (50 in Philadelphia, 10 in Chester, and 11 in New York), Public/Private Ventures (a social policy think tank), Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and the Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society at the University of Pennsylvania. Due to increased exposure of Amachi, the program is expanding to other cities and states.

Outcomes

Since the inception of the Amachi program, over 600 matches have been made, with 75 percent remaining active as of April 2003. Many of the matches have been active for more than 18 months. Activity reports from the mentors indicate that, on average, they spend more than nine hours per month

with the children and have over four hours of telephone contact per month. More rigorous evaluations measuring the value and the impact of the Amachi program will be conducted within the year.

CONQUEST OFFENDER REINTERGRATION MINISTRIES (DC)

Contact Information

Louis Jones
President
Conquest House Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 73873
Washington, DC 20056-3873
Tel: 202-723-2014
Fax: 202-291-1759
Web: www.conquesthouse.org

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1995

Program Area: Faith
Employment
Housing

Program Description

In December of 1995, the Conquest Offender Reintegration Ministries (CORM) was established in Washington, DC. CORM is a Christian ministry that provides support services to men and women who were formerly incarcerated. Several distinctive programs are offered to help former offenders transition back to society. In 1997, CORM began implementation of the Reintegration of Ex-offenders Project. The program is designed to have mentors work with offenders while they are still incarcerated in order to construct a transition plan. Once the offender is released, the CORM volunteers meet several times with the individual to help him/her find housing, clothing, and employment. The program offers services such as mentoring; case management; resume preparation; assistance with obtaining important papers like such as a social security card; and assistance with job hunting, food, and clothing for job interviews. This program is a structured mentor-based program that emphasizes accountability and responsibility.

A component of the Reintegration of Ex-offenders Project is the Transitional Housing and Aftercare Center. In the near future, homeless former prisoners will be offered transitional housing, for up to one year, in a structured Christian environment at the Center. Individuals will receive biblical counseling, clean, supervised living quarters, financial management services, job training and life skills seminars, referrals to health services or legal services, and education assistance.

Another innovative program offered through CORM is the Families Accessing Careers in Technology Services, or FACTS, which specifically targets Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients who have a parent or spouse in prison or on probation. The FACTS program was created to help TANF recipients overcome technology barriers to employment. In addition to having a spouse or parent incarcerated or on parole, participants in this program must be 18 years of age or older and have a high school diploma or GED. They must be a TANF recipient or considered to be a low-income person as well as be able to attend classes during the week for over a month.

Program Goals

The goals of CORM are to prevent crime and reduce recidivism by providing services and meeting the needs of former offenders.

Networking, Partnering, and Collaboration

CORM has established several partnerships with local churches in the Washington, DC, area and with other agencies. In 2001, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency began a faith-based initiative for its parolees. CORM joined the initiative in 2002. CORM is also a member of the Washington Ministry Delivery Team of Prison Fellowship Ministries (PFM). CORM and PFM collaborate in the Washington, DC, area by providing services to individuals who were formerly incarcerated. .

Outcomes

CORM does not evaluate the success of its program using formal statistics. Rather, the program measures its effectiveness based upon its service delivery model or the CARE model. The rule of thumb used is that when elements of the CARE model are carried out effectively, they have an impact on the offenders. The service delivery model has four components. The first element, compassion, ensures that the service delivery of the CORE program involves respect, trust, and dignity for others. The second element, accessibility, means that CORM strives to make sure that the target population of the program knows about the resources and services offered. In achieving the third element, relevancy, CORM staff seek to stay on top of what is new in the criminal justice arena in order to better serve their clients. The last component is effectiveness. CORM tries to ensure that the services are high quality and designed to help clients succeed in life.

COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY—FAITH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (DC)

Contact Information

Hal Williams
Faith Community Partnership
633 Indiana Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
Tel: 202-220-5306
Web: <http://www.csosa.gov>

Organization: Government

Start Date: 1997 CSOSA
2002 FCP

Program Area: Faith

Program Description

In 2001, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) entered into a partnership with Washington, DC's faith-based institutions in order to provide support and assistance to the approximately 2,000 prisoners who return to the District of Columbia each year. The CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership launched its "call to action" in January 2002. Volunteer mentors are recruited from area faith institutions. These mentors serve as a supportive link between the offender and the faith-based institution as the individual begins to reintegrate into the community. The District of Columbia is divided into three service areas for matching and administrative purposes. Within each cluster is a lead institution and a cluster coordinator.

In order to make the matches, CSOSA Transitional Intervention for Parole Supervision (TIPS) teams administer screening and assessment tools to the offenders prior to their release to determine which persons would be suitable for the mentoring program. After the assessment, a TIPS community supervision officer reviews the findings with the individual, and they work together to develop realistic goals and time lines for completion of the goals. The result is an initial supervision plan that is periodically updated while the former prisoner remains in the halfway house for the first 90 days. Mentors are assessed through an application process and a personal interview. They also receive training prior to being matched with a mentee. The former prisoner receives a team of two to three mentors, access to social services, employment and housing referrals, and other support services.

Program Goals

The program seeks to address the problems that former offenders face in transitioning back into the community by providing them with volunteer mentors who serve as a link to a faith-based institution.

Networking, Partnering, and Collaboration

More than 40 churches, temples, and mosques in Washington, DC, are involved in the partnership. The following are some of the faith-based organizations that participated in Reentry Weekend II: Pilgrim Baptist Church, Israel Baptist Church, New Commandment Baptist Church, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Upper Room Baptist Church, Johnson Memorial Baptist Church, Morning Star Baptist Church, Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, St. John's United Methodist Church, Foundry United Methodist Church, Community United Methodist Church, Faith Tabernacle of Prayer, Praise Redemption Worship Center, Founding Church of Scientology, and International House of Prayer for All People.

Outcomes

Since the program is so new, no outcome information is currently available. However, data will be collected to evaluate the program's design, implementation, and continuing dynamics of progress and expansion.

DETROIT TRANSITION OF PRISONERS (MI)

Contact Information

Joe Williams
Executive Director
P.O. Box 02938
Detroit, MI 48202
Tel: 313-875-3883
Web: www.topinc.net/index.htm

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1993

Program Area: Faith

Program Description

The Prison Fellowship Ministries established the Detroit Transition of Prisoners (TOP®) program with financial support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. TOP® is a faith-based aftercare program for Michigan Department of Corrections inmates who are within six months of release and are returning to the Detroit metro area.

Participants enter the TOP® program immediately after release from prison and, depending on when they complete their transition plan, stay in the program for six months to two years. The primary way that the TOP® program helps clients reintegrate back into the community is by using the involvement of faith institutions as well as mentoring, group interactions, and referrals to social service agencies in the community. This comprehensive approach is coordinated through a central office in Detroit. The core staffing unit is comprised of a CEO, a program manager, three caseworkers, two faith coordinators, and two administrative assistants. TOP® staff work with local leaders and faith institutions to bring together volunteer mentors to help participants and their families.

Prior to entering the program, every applicant is assessed to determine whether the program is a good match for his/her level of risk (using the Level of Services Inventory-Revised). Once an applicant is accepted, the assessments are used to help develop a transition plan. TOP® clients are matched with faith institutions and trained mentors. Participants are expected to attend religious services, attend weekly meetings in which they discuss life and faith issues, and address cognitive behavioral development with a trained mentor or caseworker.

Networking, Partnering, and Collaboration

The TOP® program collaborates with over 25 ministries and organizations to provide substance abuse services and job placement. The program also developed a national ministry of mentor training in 17 cities and 14 states.

Program Goals

The goal of TOP® is to encourage, train, and support local faith institutions in building their capacity to help prisoners and former offenders effectively transition back to the community. In addition, upon completion of the program, it is hoped that the clients will have successfully transitioned back into the community with stable housing and employment and will continue to be involved in the faith community.

Outcomes

The Consortium of Research, Evaluation and Consulting Services (CORECS) has evaluated the TOP® program over the years. One of the major findings from the study revealed that those in the control group were 10 times more likely to return to prison than those who graduated from the TOP® program. Only 18 percent of TOP® graduates returned to prison up to three years after the program.

EPISCOPAL SOCIAL SERVICES—NETWORK PROGRAM (NY)

Contact Information

Stephen J. Chinlund
Executive Director
305 Seventh Avenue, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10001-6008
Tel: 212-675-1000
Fax: 212-989-1132
Web: www.episcopalsocialservices.org

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1831 ESS
1999 NP

Program Area: Faith
Health
Public Safety

Program Description

In 1979, the New York State Department of Correctional Services created the Network Program, a therapeutic community for inmates. Available in 30 facilities across the state, it emphasized personal responsibility and community living. Although the Network Program was well received by prison administration and staff, it was discontinued in 1990 due to budget cuts. In 1999, Episcopal Social Services (ESS) received permission to reintroduce the Network Program in New York correctional facilities. ESS is a nonprofit, non-denominational social services agency begun by the Episcopal Mission Society.

Patterned after the original program, the Network Program is currently operating in nine facilities, with individual Network cellblocks housing between 30 and 100 men and women who participate in daily group meetings. The Network Program also includes a post-release community component that was created by ESS in 1990 to serve parolees released from shock incarceration programs (a six-month boot camp program for offenders in need of substance abuse treatment). The community-based component provides services to work-release inmates from four facilities and to parolees by providing weekly group meetings at two sites in New York City. Ideally, individuals begin their involvement with ESS while in prison and then transition to the community component of the Network Program.

The Network Program is built on the therapeutic community model of behavior modification, a group-method approach typically used in substance abuse treatment settings. Therapeutic communities focus on building self-esteem and a sense of community among the participants by examining issues of personal responsibility for past behaviors and how one can learn from the past to change future behavior. The ultimate goal of this type of treatment approach is to change participants' lifestyle and identity (in this case, move them away from a life of crime and substance abuse). The program is organized around a series of group meetings that take place in prison and then in the community upon release. These meetings, which occur on a daily basis in prison and weekly in the community, are the program's only organized group therapeutic activities. Participants primarily run the meetings in both settings with little interference from ESS or corrections staff.

The basic Network session consists of three different meetings: the Community Meeting, the Four-Part Meeting, and the Clearing Meeting. The Community Meeting, which normally starts all Network functions, focuses on the individual's responsibility to self and as a member of a larger community. The process allows members to confront themselves and be confronted by others, in an environment of mutual concern and support. The Four-Part Meeting follows the Community Meeting. Here, smaller groups meet and talk in the four-part format. The first part focuses on self-affirmations. The second part is a time to share stress and concerns. In the third part, each member develops a plan of action for the near future. The fourth part is a period of silence for reflection. The Clearing Meeting finishes a regular session of Network. It provides each participant with time to air his or her feelings without interruption or comments from other members.

Program Goals

The in-prison component of the Network Program strives to help prisoners create a supportive community and, ultimately, to prepare them for release. The community-based component focuses on meeting participants' reentry needs so that they may successfully reintegrate back to their families and communities.

Networking, Partnering & Collaboration

ESS continues to develop partnerships with correctional staff to ensure the successful implementation of both the in-prison and community components of the Network Program.

Outcomes

ESS commissioned the Vera Institute of Justice to conduct a process evaluation of the Network Program to help them better understand how the program has been implemented, how it may be improved, and to learn something about the types of offenders it attracts.

Researchers found that successful implementation of the in-prison program was tied to three elements: (1) building relationships with counselors and officers to create a sense of shared mission and cooperation; (2) providing corrections staff with the appropriate tools to oversee the program; and (3) encouraging communication between corrections and ESS staff. Implementation of the community-based component was not influenced by these elements. Here, the program's focus on reentry and innovative approaches seems to be more influential in determining correctional staff's acceptance and use of the program.

They also found that long-term violent offenders were more likely to participate in the in-prison program while the community component seemed more likely to attract minority drug offenders.

Additional Reading

- Stemen, Don. 2002. *The Network Program of Episcopal Social Services: A Process Evaluation*. New York: The Vera Institute of Justice. http://www.vera.org/publication_pdf/181_328.pdf.

HELPING UP MISSION—SPIRITUAL RECOVERY PROGRAM (MD)

Contact Information

Tom Patras
Director of Development
1029 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
Tel: 410-327-5296
Fax: 410-534-6274
Web: www.helpingupmission.org

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1885 HUM
1993 SRP

Program Area: Faith
Health
Education

Program Description

Helping Up Mission, a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1885 by Pastor Abraham Ezra Brandanbaugh to help the poor and underserved of Baltimore. Currently, the Mission offers a variety of programs designed to meet the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of people who are disenfranchised. For the first 109 years of its existence, the focus of Helping Up Mission was primarily emergency overnight services for homeless men (meals, clothing, showers, lodging, and spiritual hope). In the early 1990s, the Mission expanded its services, instituting a residential program for men striving to overcome poverty and drug related addictions. Helping Up Mission also has a Spiritual Recovery Program (SRP) that serves former offenders as part of the catchment group.

The one-year Spiritual Recovery Program, which began in the early 1990s, provides support services such as spiritual life classes, 12-step classes, adult basic education, computer literacy training, legal and medical services, career counseling, job placement assistance, mental health counseling, and health education. Over 300 men are admitted on an annual basis. Many men hear about the program while staying in overnight status, others hear through word of mouth, some are given Mission information in the prisons, and others are remanded to the Mission by the criminal justice system. According to the program, 85 percent of the individuals served by the Mission are battling drug addiction; many lost everything and wound up homeless; most were formerly incarcerated.

Helping Up Mission has a growing graduate transitional housing program for men who feel they need time for further recovery within the Mission community. These men pay a small lodging fee (\$50 per week) and have access to all the Mission services. Graduates living at the Mission are required to attend a minimal number of required classes each week. Helping Up Mission is planning to increase transitional living services as well as the number of men who can be served by the Spiritual Recovery Program.

Program Goals

The goal of the one-year Spiritual Recovery Program is to “provide a structure that will change patterns of destructive behavior into patterns of wholesome living in the context of family, church, community, and career.”

Networking, Partnering & Collaboration

Helping Up Mission works closely with a variety of organizations to meet the needs of its constituents. These partnerships include social services, health care providers, lawyers, educators, corporations, IT professionals, architectural firms, and carpenters. Social services provide food stamp and temporary emergency housing and medical assistance money to the men in the program with Helping Up Mission as the payee. This relationship helps cover a small percentage of the Mission’s overall budget for food, supplies, and housing. The Mission’s health care partners meet the various medical needs of the men for little or no fee. Its legal partners provide pro-bono assistance to the men, helping them clear up anything that might be a barrier to employment after they leave the program. Educators volunteer their time in the

Mission's Innovative Learning Center, tutoring men in math and literacy and preparing those who do not have their high school diploma to take the state GED exam. The Mission works closely with many corporations in the Baltimore area to arrange employment for the men once they enter the "life preparation" stage of the program (8 months). IT professionals assist the Mission with acquiring and maintaining hardware and software. Architectural firms provide guidance for renovations and expansion to the facilities; carpenters assist with repairs.

Outcomes

The ultimate goal of Helping Up Mission is that the men who complete the one-year Spiritual Recovery Program go from having a "net negative impact" to a "net positive impact" on society. By the time they leave the Mission, graduates should have all the tools necessary for a full and lasting recovery (a strong and growing faith, a well-established support system for encouragement and accountability, a church home, a good job with opportunity for advancement, the education needed to develop a solid career, freedom from bondage to the penile system, physical and mental well-being, and a healthy bank account to ensure they can obtain housing in a safe and wholesome neighborhood).

Mission staff began gathering basic statistical data in 1999. Post-graduate studies consistently indicate that 80 percent of those who graduate from the Spiritual Recovery Program are still drug-free and employed one year after they complete the program. The overall effectiveness of the Mission's Spiritual Recovery Program will be formally evaluated over the next one to three years by a group of researchers from The Johns Hopkins University.

INNER-CITY MUSLIM ACTION NETWORK (IL)

Contact Information

Jamil Abdullah
Director
Prison Outreach
3344 West 63rd Street
Chicago, IL 60629
Web: www.imancentral.org

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1995

Program Area: Faith

Program Description

Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) is a nonprofit organization that focuses on community building and development in the inner city through the empowerment of its people. The organization was established in the fall of 1995 by a group of Muslim students concerned with the increase in poverty in Chicago's inner city. IMAN strives to create a network of Muslims and non-Muslims who work together to effect positive change using the prophetic model to become trustworthy and inspiring agents of such change. Driven by the Islamic ethic of serving humanity, IMAN has initiated an array of programs and projects that seek to effect real and positive social change. In order to achieve its goals and keep its vision relevant, IMAN has developed a diverse membership and staff, which includes community residents, youth, professionals, and students.

IMAN offers services to the increasing number of Muslim men and women who are incarcerated in the Cook County Jail. Currently, IMAN participates closely with the leadership of currently incarcerated Muslims in the jail to coordinate yearly holiday festivals and to provide information about Islam to interested inmates. IMAN is also expanding its mission to reach beyond the prison gates. Its new prison outreach program is designed to improve outcomes for children, families, and prisoners. To achieve its mission, IMAN is developing, implementing, and pursuing a broad range of reentry strategies, including post-release services, community linkages, resource development, volunteerism, public education, professional training, and crime prevention.

Program Goals

The goal of the prison outreach program is to provide inmates reentering Chicago's communities with a comprehensive, systematic continuum of services, including, but not limited to, employment, pro-social skills development, and linkages to community services and resources.

Networking, Partnering and Collaboration

IMAN is forging relationships with community, faith, and corrections agencies as it develops its prison outreach program. The organization currently collaborates with the Southwest Youth Collaborative, a Latino-American church, and the Arab American Action Network for the IMAN after-school program, which seeks to create an empowering environment through which issues of racism and prejudice can be addressed and confronted. In addition, IMAN has formed partnerships with the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention, Youth Net, and the Southwest Youth Collaborative to focus on developing positive weekend/evening programs to serve as deterrents to the gangs that have presented such a deadly community problem in Chicago's 8th district.

Outcomes

No outcome information was provided.

ISLAMIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (MI)

Contact Information

Dr. Judi Muhammad
Vice President/Clinical Director
Book Tower Building, Suite 2040-41
1249 Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226
Tel: 248-789-0214
Web: <http://www.hammoude.com/lhhs.html>

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1992

Program Area: Faith
Health

Program Description

Islamic Health and Human Services (IHHS) is a nonprofit agency founded by Imam Sharif A. Muhammad in 1992 to fulfill a promise to his late wife, A'isha. Her request was that Sharif work toward a time when Muslims could have health care according to the needs dictated by their religion. IHHS provides training in Islamic health care to a large number of health care organizations, and Imam Sharif Muhammad serves as Coordinator of Islamic Health Care at St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital.

Out of a significant need by the incarcerated population of Muslims, IHHS provides volunteer services in the Michigan Department of Corrections on a regular basis. In addition, Dr. Judi Muhammad, Executive Vice President of IHHS, serves on the Chaplains' Advisory Board for the Michigan Department of Corrections and on the Chapel Board for Books Correctional Facility in Michigan.

In addition to providing services to incarcerated Muslims, those who are released to the Metro Detroit Area and request assistance are entered into the Shadow program, which is managed by Aassyid Umar Yefunu. In this program, each returning prisoner is given a mentor who will provide information, support, and introduction into the Muslim community. The returning prisoner is required to put forth effort in communication and in attaining the agreed-upon education. In addition, when the person is in need of substance abuse services or mental health services, he or she may receive them through the agency, which is licensed by the State of Michigan.

Program Goals

The goals of the agency, which primarily but not exclusively serves the Muslim population, are to provide services and/or referrals for all social service needs.

Networking, Partnering and Collaboration

IHHS works independently of any mosque, making the services available to all. It collaborates with the Hamtramck Medical Clinic, where medical care is arranged as needed, and with St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital, through which health insurance is provided without cost to those in need. Many local Muslim business owners provide employment for those returning to society.

Outcomes

No outcomes were provided.

KAIROS HORIZON COMMUNITIES IN PRISON (FL, OH, OK, TX)

Contact Information

Mickey Bright Griffin, D. Min.
Director of Programming
130 University Park Drive, Suite 170
Winter Park, FL 32792
Tel: 407-657-1828
Web: www.kairosprisonministry.org

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1976 KPM
1999 KHC

Program Area: Faith
Family
Employment

Program Description

Kairos Horizon Communities in Prison is a nonprofit organization founded to establish faith-based residential programs in prisons. The first project was established in 1999 at Tomoka Correctional Institution in Daytona Beach, Florida, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Corrections and the Florida Commission on Responsible Fatherhood. Other Horizon multi-faith programs are active elsewhere in Florida, in Ohio, Texas, and Oklahoma, and while not strictly a pre-release program, some states view it as that. Horizon is an outgrowth of Kairos Prison Ministry, an ecumenical ministry established in 1976 and now active in over 260 prisons in 30 states and four foreign countries. The two ministries share an office together in Winter Park, Florida.

Kairos Horizon Communities in Prison works with male inmates prior to their release to begin the process of rehabilitation before they return to their communities. The program houses 40 to 60 inmates in separate housing units in the prison; it emphasizes spirituality, faith, family reunification, and employability. The men maintain their regular work or education assignments during the day. Programming usually takes place during the evenings, three times a week, over a period of one year. Programming varies by location, but typically includes the following components:

- *Godparents (or Outside Brothers or Sisters).* Lasting for about six months, this is an informal mentoring component in which volunteers from local churches, synagogues, and mosques visit with the participants.
- *Journey.* This group study session, which is about four months in length, focuses on self-discovery and the scriptures.
- *Quest.* This program, seven months in length, emphasizes anger management, parenting skills, relationship skills, and life skills.
- *Family Relations.* This segment provides an avenue for participants to work on building relationships with their families through weekly letter writing. During this time, other special events such as a family day are scheduled in an effort to facilitate family reunification.
- *Worship, Prayer, and Service.* This program ensures that certain times are scheduled for worship and community prayer. The men in the program live in family pods with six to eight other men. During scheduled weekly meetings, they discuss community issues.

Other programs offered through Kairos Horizon may include monthly workshops on prayer and meditation; substance abuse programming; computer skills classes; GED classes; as well as discussion groups on listening, cooperating, and problem solving; and a journaling series on fatherhood issues.

Program Goals

The goal of Kairos Horizon is to create a community of support and respect in which participants may learn responsibility, accountability, and employability through engagement with the faith community and deepening their faith.

Networking, Partnering & Collaboration

Kairos partners with many outside agencies, including the various state departments of corrections; Corrections Corporation of America; the Florida Commission on Responsible Fatherhood; the Administration on Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Crown Financial Ministries; the Salvation Army; Peace Creations in California; local churches, synagogues, and mosques; The Center for Islamic Studies in Ohio; the Interfaith Center for Peace in Columbus; and Caliber Associates.

Outcomes

An external evaluation reported that the program instilled a “positive subculture” within the prison population. A survey of work supervisors found that improvement in the men’s work was seen in 70 percent of the clients, and 58 percent of the clients had a “positive influence on others in the work environment.” The program also reports improved family relations, which it credits to its mandatory weekly letter writing to family members and other family-oriented programs.

KEYSTONE MINISTRIES (MS)

Contact Information

Pastor James Hartley
P.O. Box 821767
Vicksburg, MS 39182
Tel: 601-638-8100
Toll Free: 1-866-638-8100
Web: www.keystoneministries.com

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 2001

Program Area: Faith
Education
Employment
Family

Program Description

Keystone Ministries is a reentry aftercare program that was established to address the multiple needs of former offenders by focusing on helping the total person. Keystone is a self-contained program set up to be non-threatening both socially and economically; it is designed to retrain up to 50 former offenders and/or parolees. By using a network of departments, Keystone attempts to educate, support, and train the individual while helping him develop relationships with staff members and the community at large. The program's multiple components include church, family services department, educational department and vocational department.

The target population is nonviolent men who show an interest in Christian values and are willing to work with the program, including drug and alcohol treatment. Potential clients hear about the program through word-of-mouth from other inmates; in some cases, jail and prison staff use Keystone. In several cases, Keystone has been chosen as an alternative sentence to prison. The application process begins with a letter to the program from the inmate and includes a thorough background check and personal interview.

Keystone Academy, the entry point into the program, is the place where clients begin to identify the life skills necessary to change their habits and behavior patterns to reenter society successfully. The program begins immediately after release and lasts for 60 days. During that time, Keystone transfers skills, knowledge, and techniques to the clients utilizing daily 12-step support groups, personal counseling, and religious instruction and discipleship in order to help them become productive citizens. In the Academy the individual is provided with all meals and lodging; an educational director and vocational director oversee his progress. Also, clients undergo apprenticeship training through which they learn marketable skills, learn to deal with personal finances, and study for the GED, if necessary.

Program Goals

Keystone's mission is to assist newly released former offenders as they reenter society by enabling them to overcome their addictions and live clean and sober.

Networking, Partnering & Collaboration

Though many of the departments are self-contained, many outside organizations, churches, and individuals actively support Keystone's efforts. These include local grocery stores that donate food as well as several 12-step programs. Also, Keystone maintains an excellent rapport with local law enforcement agencies that are used in an advisory capacity.

Outcomes

Since picking up its first client on May 1, 2002, Keystone reports that 22 former offenders have participated in the program. The organization is tracking its clients' progress and will continue to collect data as the program grows.

MEN OF VALOR (CA)

Contact Information

Acts Full Gospel Church
1034 66th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94621
Tel: 510-567-1308
Fax: 510-568-4125
Web: www.actsfullgospel.org/men_of_valor.htm

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 2001

Program Area: Faith
Education
Employment
Housing

Program Description

In 2001, Dr. Bob Jackson established Men of Valor as a nonprofit Christian organization. The program is sponsored by the Acts Full Gospel Church and operates in accordance with the biblical mandate expressed in Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." The program is designed to aid former offenders and high school dropouts between the ages of 15 and 25. The Men of Valor program enables the church to become more involved in both the criminal justice system and the school system by assisting those who are serious about making lifestyle changes.

Components to the program include education assistance, which helps individuals obtain their high school diplomas or to follow up on college-level courses if appropriate. In the lifestyles training courses, participants receive sex education, anger management, relationship management, and financial planning. Spiritual development focuses on assisting the individual in establishing a closer relationship with God as well as spiritual growth and fostering a lasting connection with the church. Housing and food are provided for up to 45 participants; others are given assistance in finding housing. The work programs give participants job skills such as training in word processing and computer applications. Assistance with resume preparation, interviewing preparation, and job counseling are also offered.

Program Goals

The goal of the program is to help former offenders and high school dropouts by providing services and resources to help them reintegrate into society.

Outcomes

Outcome information was not provided.

NEW HORIZONS MINISTRIES (CO)

Contact Information

2956 East Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212
Tel: 719-275-5242
Web: www.newhorizonsministries.net

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1992

Program Area: Faith
Family

Program Description

New Horizons Ministries is an independent Christian organization governed by a council composed of individuals from Mennonite churches. Through cooperation with state and local agencies, New Horizons provides free care and nurturing to children whose mothers are unavailable for a number of reasons, including incarceration. The organization takes the children for regular visits with their mothers when reasonably possible. For children whose parents will be incarcerated for a lengthy period of time, New Horizons arranges for permanent placement in a loving, healthy home.

New Horizons Ministries also provides Sunday morning services and life skills classes in the prison facilities. In addition, it is in the process of implementing a child reintegration program that will include access to short-term housing in a safe environment for mothers. The mothers will be taught skills such as child care, homemaking, and job training. The goal of the program is to help the mothers become independent and productive members of society so that they may provide a safe and caring environment for their children.

Program Goals

To provide Christ-centered care and support to children and families in need is the goal of New Horizons Ministries. It achieves this goal through child placement services that are based on a 1:1 model, meaning that one child is placed with one caregiver, and one transitioning offender is placed with one family. This ratio promotes an increased likelihood of bonding and successful transitioning both for the child and for the mother.

Networking, Partnering & Collaboration

New Horizons Ministries works with local and state penal and social service agencies. It has recently become a licensed child care placement agency within the state of Colorado. It has also been recognized by the Colorado Department of Corrections as a certified reintegration program for transitioning mothers.

Outcomes

Since its inception, New Horizons Ministries has cared for more than 70 babies, 94 percent of whom were reunited with their mothers. Three percent were adopted as the result of requests by the parent or guardians; and 3 percent had custody assigned at the request of the mothers to the child's caregiver. The organization's advisory board is reviewing the possibility of a more formal evaluation for the program.

PRISON FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES—INNERCHANGE FREEDOM INITIATIVE (TX PROFILED - ALSO IA, KS, MN)

Contact Information

Jerry Wilger
Executive Director
InnerChange Freedom Initiative
3807 GH S. Peoria #315
Tulsa, OK 74105
Tel: 981-747-2932
Web: www.ifiprison.org

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1976

Program Area: Faith

Program Description

Prison Fellowship Ministries (PFM), founded by Chuck Colson in 1976, is a nonprofit organization that relies on volunteers. The ministry is centered around the idea that crime results from moral and spiritual problems that must have moral and spiritual solutions. Prison Fellowship ministers to prisoners, former prisoners, families of prisoners, and victims of crime, utilizing the talents and skills of 40,000 volunteers nationwide in nearly 1,700 prisons throughout the United States. The ministry to former prisoners includes several different aftercare programs that help the church reach out to individuals in transition from prison to home. The Life Series Plan is made up of three 10-hour courses that assist prisoners in developing a set of skills to help them make a successful transition to freedom. These skills include dealing with finances, finding and maintaining steady employment, establishing a social support network, and establishing ties with a local church. Former offenders also learn spiritual principles to help them avoid unproductive habits. PFM also runs the Winning at Work Series, which consists of two eight-hour courses: HIRE (Here is a Responsible Employee) and HOPE (Helping Ourselves Prepare for Employment). These classes are focused on assisting individuals in recognizing the importance of the work ethic, including being accountable, honest, respectful, and dependable in a work environment. Basic skills such as resume writing, interviewing, and filling out job applications are also taught.

The InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) is a faith-based prison program based on the Association for Protection and Assistance of the Condemned (APAC) program that was founded in Brazil in 1973. IFI programming uses a transformational model that promotes self-discovery through faith. The four-phase program begins about 18 to 24 months before release then continues for six to 12 months after release. Phase One concentrates on spirituality, education, work, and personal growth. Phase Two focuses on preparing the offender through prison work programs. Phase Three involves the transition to a halfway house facility; and Phase Four focuses on reintegration, family, and the church.

In April 1997, the state of Texas asked the Prison Fellowship Ministries to establish the IFI program at a prison facility near Houston, Texas. The Carol Vance Unit offers IFI programming for former offenders who are planning to return to Harris County or nearby counties. Prison Fellowship Ministries also established a program for inmates at the Newton Correctional facility in Iowa. Once inmates at this facility complete the program, they are transferred to a halfway house. Another facility is the Winfield Correctional Center located in Winfield, Kansas, at which programming is offered to minimum security inmates. Before release and after completion of the program, inmates are transferred to a halfway house in Wichita. In 2002, Minnesota began operating as the fourth program at Lino Lakes Correctional Facility.

Program Goals

PFM aims to “equip and assist the Church in its ministry to prisoners, ex-prisoners, victims, and their families and in its promotion of biblical standards of justice in the criminal justice system.” IFI’s goals are

to aid the transformation of prisoners through faith as well as through providing a prison environment that promotes respect and spiritual renewal of prisoners so they will lead productive lives.

Networking, Partnering & Collaboration

PFM/IFI collaborates with the state correctional facility, local churches in the community, and volunteers to assist both inmates and their families.

Outcomes

According to the program, about 220 IFI participants have been released from prison after completing at least 16 months in the program—161 in Texas, 34 in Iowa, and 25 in Kansas. An estimated 75 percent of these 220 men are gainfully employed. Only 16 (7 percent) have been returned to prison.

The University of Pennsylvania recently released preliminary findings from a study of the Texas InnerChange Freedom Initiative. According to the study, graduates of the program were 50 percent less likely to be rearrested than a matched comparison group. Specifically, the rate of re-arrest for the Texas IFI participants was 17.3 percent compared with 35 percent for their counterparts who did not participate. IFI graduates were also 60 percent less likely to be reincarcerated. Eight percent of IFI graduates were returned to prison, compared with 20.3 percent of the non-participants.

Additional Reading

- Johnson, B.R and D. Larson 2003) “The InnerChange Freedom Initiative: A Preliminary Evaluation of a Faith-Based Prison Program.” Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania.

PRODIGAL MINISTRIES (KY)

Contact Information

1113 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203
Tel: 502-775-0026
Web: www.prodigalministries.org/prodigal

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1994

Program Area: Faith
Employment

Program Description

Prodigal Ministries was formed in 1994 as a nonprofit Christian ministry that is part of the Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. The number of clients served by Prodigal Ministries is limited to 12-15 former offenders and their families at any given time. The organization aids former offenders by helping them move from despair to productivity through mentoring, Christian counseling, support groups, and employment assistance. Individuals are required to attend two support group meetings per month to maintain their status as clients.

Primary Goals

The mission of Prodigal Ministries is to assist former offenders who wish to accept a Christian community as a path to a productive life by providing support groups, worthwhile employment, Christian counseling, and mentoring relationships.

Networking, Partnering & Collaboration

Prodigal Ministries works with several faith and community service agencies, including St. Vincent DePaul, the Healing Place, Wayside Christian Mission, Center of Hope, All the Way House, Heywood House, 3rd Step Volunteers of America, Talbott House, Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation, Robert Lanning Dismas Charities, Philemon, Christians in Recovery, and Alcoholics for Christ.

Outcomes

No outcome information was provided.

PROJECT BLANKET (PA)

Contact Information

Rev. Marcus W. Harvey
P.O. Box 8816
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Tel: 412-244-0329
Fax: 412-247-3961

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1997

Program Area: Faith
Family

Program Description

Strength, Inc., located in Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania, was founded by Reverend Marcus Harvey to provide services to individuals struggling with substance abuse or other challenges. Serving former prisoners, Project Blanket is a major program component of Strength.

Project Blanket (which stands for Basic Life Awareness and Networking Knowledge for Empowerment Transition) is a comprehensive program for returning prisoners. This multi-service project acts as a prevention and post-release program for inmates in the Allegheny County Jail (both male and female residential units in the jail) and juveniles at the Shuman Detention Center. The structure of the program provides assessment, pre-release planning, post-release referrals, support, and services to individuals who were formerly incarcerated. The program concentrates on prevention education in its curriculum, support groups, and also provides a post-release aftercare component. All of the phases in this reentry program emphasize family reunification. The prevention education curriculum is eight weeks in length; courses focus on positive behavior, communication, and relationship skills; substance abuse issues; and life skills. Given the importance of family involvement, transportation and child care are provided for family members to attend group meetings. The community-based aftercare portion involves case management, social services, and general support.

Program Goals

The goals of Project Blanket are to reduce recidivism rates and substance abuse relapse.

Networking, Partnering, & Collaboration

The staff at Strength spend a great deal of time in communication with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services staff and the jail warden and his staff and continue to develop relationships with district and county judges, the drug court, and the probation department. Project Blanket extends its reach via referrals to the Community Service Providers Network—a coalition of 23 community-based health and social service agencies that were brought together by Strength in 1997.

Outcomes

Two evaluations have been conducted on Project Blanket since 1999. According to the program, of the 500 participants who started the program, 229 (46 percent) completed the full program and graduated. Pre- and post-test survey data suggest that participants gained new knowledge through their participation in the program.

ST. LEONARD'S MINISTRIES (IL)

Contact Information

Robert Dougherty
Executive Director
2100 West Warren Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60612
Tel: 312-738-1414
Fax: 312-738-1417
Web: www.kuc.org/agency/grace.htm

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1954

Program Area: Faith
Housing
Health
Employment

Program Description

St. Leonard's House opened in 1954 as a product of the work of Father James Jones, Episcopal chaplain at the Cook County Jail. In 2000, the agency name was changed to St. Leonard's Ministries. The organization provides housing and case management services for former offenders who are transitioning back to the community. St. Leonard's Ministries manages St. Leonard's House (emergency services for 40 men), Grace House (emergency services for 16 women), and St. Andrew's Court (second-stage housing for 42 men who have completed programs at St. Leonard's House). Residents learn about the program when they are in prison from field service counselors or from their parole officers.

St. Leonard's Ministries acts as a transition center for former offenders and provides the following services: ongoing addictions counseling; counseling related to life skills and coping skills; job counseling and employment referrals services; adult educational programs and educational referrals; aftercare/mentoring services; community networking opportunities; and recreational activities. About 350 men and women between the ages of 18 and 65 use the services.

Program Goals

The goal of St. Leonard's Ministries is to offer services and programs so that men and women who were formerly incarcerated can successfully transition back to the community and have productive and independent lives.

Networking, Partnering & Collaboration

St. Leonard's Ministries works closely with the Illinois Department of Corrections, Chicago Department of Human Services, Illinois Department of Human Services, United Way, and other social service providers in the Chicago area. Several collaborators are important to the effectiveness of St. Leonard's Ministries, such as the Cathedral Shelter of Chicago, which provides drug counseling and tutoring. Lakefront SRO helps provide post-program housing. Chicago Legal Assistance to Incarcerated Women provides counseling and support. The Alder School of Professional Psychology, through a contract funded by the Chicago Department of Human Service, provides psychological assessment and counseling services.

Outcomes

St. Leonard's Ministries tracks former clients and reports that the recidivism rate for those who completed the program is lower than 20 percent.

TEEN CHALLENGE (NATIONAL)

Contact Information

Teen Challenge International, USA
3728 W. Chestnut Expressway
Springfield, MO 65802
Tel: 417-862-6969
Web: www.teenchallenge.com

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1958

Program Area: Faith
Health

Program Description

Teen Challenge is a faith-based substance abuse prevention and treatment program that was founded by David Wilkerson in 1958. Currently, over 150 Teen Challenge centers operate in the United States; 250 centers operate worldwide. For over 40 years, Teen Challenge has been going into schools to educate teenagers about the dangers of drugs. The programs operate on a local level and are tailored to meet the needs of the local community through offering a wide range of services.

Teen Challenge reaches out to many different populations, including inmates and former offenders. For example, jail teams reach out to individuals in prisons, jails, and juvenile halls to demonstrate to inmates that it is possible for them to change their lives for the better. Teen Challenge centers also hold weekly support group meetings for individuals, including former prisoners. Turning Point, for instance, helps local churches to establish an ongoing and effective Bible-based ministry composed of small groups. In order to prevent members from becoming dependent on the group meetings, they have a beginning and an end, lasting from nine to 13 weeks. The support groups seek to help people overcome life-controlling problems such as addiction through fostering growth in relationships with God. Teen Challenge centers also offer a voluntary one-year residential program for adults to assist them in living drug-free lives. While in the program, the residents may not hold jobs so that they may focus their attention solely on the program, which offers therapeutic support as well as spiritual formation. The program has strict rules and discipline, with residents adhering to a daily schedule that includes work and Bible study. Job skills and vocational/technical training are among the functional tools provided to the residents so that they may reenter society as healthier, more productive people.

Program Goals

Teen Challenge's goals are to provide comprehensive and effective faith-based and community-based drug education, prevention, and restoration programs to youth, adults, and families, including former offenders.

Networking, Partnering and Collaboration

Local churches are heavily involved in Teen Challenge centers; they also provide support for graduates of the program after they reenter the community.

Outcomes

Research has previously been conducted on Teen Challenge programs; however, the studies are limited in scope or were conducted some time ago. The organization has expressed the need for an extensive research project to be conducted that can provide a more adequate profile and evaluation of its program. For more information, please see <http://www.teenchallenge.com/main/studies/index.cfm>

WHEELER MISSION MINISTRIES (IN)

Contact Information

Gene Green
Senior Director of Mission Services
245 North Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Tel: 317-687-6795
Fax: 317-686-6232
Web: www.wmm.org

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1893

Program Area: Faith
Housing
Employment

Program Description

Founded in 1893, Wheeler Mission Ministries is the oldest ministry of its kind in Indiana. It is a nondenominational Christian social services organization that provides goods and services to the homeless, poor, and needy of central Indiana. Services are provided without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, or religion. Although Wheeler Mission is not a church, it does cooperate with many different churches that are concerned about poverty and homelessness in the inner city. The Mission has five locations, dozens of ministries, a budget of \$3.5 million, and about 75 employees, making Wheeler one of the largest and most diverse ministries of its kind in the state.

Providing a variety of services, Wheeler is particularly sensitive to the needs of former offenders who are returning to the community and lack basic resources. Available services include an extended stay program, food, clothing, job and housing referrals, long-term drug and alcohol counseling, and spiritual guidance. Former offenders who are homeless are also eligible for two housing programs. The first is the basic Overnight Shelter Program, which allows individuals to stay for up to six consecutive nights each half of the month. The second housing program is the 30-Day Program for Working Clients, which offers extended temporary shelter free of charge to enable clients to support themselves in the future. In addition, Wheeler runs the Life With a Purpose Program, a 12-month residential program of supervised work, personal guidance, Bible study, and counseling designed to assist individuals recovering from drug addiction.

Program Goals

Wheeler assists former offenders and others in need by providing for their basic physical and emotional needs and by encouraging personal spiritual growth.

Networking, Partnering and Collaboration

Wheeler has contacted the majority of prisons and correctional institutions in Indiana and offered assistance in dealing with individuals who were formerly incarcerated. Wheeler also works closely with Indiana's local and state probation and parole officials to aid in maintaining contact with their clients and encouraging them to keep appointments. The Mission also collaborates with community organizations such as housing, health care, and mental health service providers.

Outcomes

No outcome information was provided.

WOMAN AT THE WELL HOUSE MINISTRIES (TX)

Contact Information

Priscilla Murguia
Executive Director
221 Post Street
San Antonio, TX 78215
Tel: 210-471-2787

Organization: Nonprofit

Start Date: 1996

Program Area: Faith
Housing

Program Description

Woman at the Well House Ministries, a nonprofit organization created in 1996 in San Antonio, provides services to female prisoners released from the Texas State Prison System and the local county jail. Current efforts include enhancing the development of spirituality and physical and emotional health. Since its inception in 1996, the organization has ministered to over 200 women. Woman at the Well House Ministries targets women who are on probation or parole and are having difficulty transitioning and meeting the terms of their release. Clients are usually homeless, have no money, and have no family or have weak family ties since being incarcerated. Many come to the program with a mental illness or substance abuse issue. Participants learn about the program through other inmates, another agency, or their parole officers. The majority of the women reside at the Well House for up to six months, but the program reports that it usually takes nine to 12 months for the women to become independent and self-sufficient.

The program generally seeks to provide support and address gender-specific issues around physical and sexual abuse. Services include housing, food, clothing, transportation, education, job counseling, job training, and health care. In addition to providing resources and emotional support, the program provides women with a strong Christian foundation.

Program Goals

The goal of the program is to facilitate the rehabilitation of women so that they can successfully transition back into the community.

Networking, Partnering & Collaboration

The program has developed a service network with local and state agencies, churches, civic groups, women's organizations, and other groups in the private and public sector that address the needs of women.

Outcomes

No outcome information was provided.