



*Dianne Heim*  
Volunteer



# Jail & Prison Ministry

*Reentry Support Programs:  
Mentoring & Circles of Support and Accountability*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For more information about volunteer opportunities within Jail & Prison Ministry, or other Catholic Charities programs contact:

Agnes Kress, Volunteer Coordinator  
a.kress@dbqarch.org  
319-272-2080

- Mentoring
- Circles of Support and Accountability
- Jail & Prison Visitation

*Opportunities available throughout the Archdiocese*

*Catholic Charities' mentoring and circles programs implement a restorative justice approach to crime promoted by the U.S. Catholic bishops. These Jail & Prison Ministry programs seek to offer a religious component to augment state programs by involving community volunteers from churches and faith-based organizations.*

*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 or by the activities or duties of volunteers involved in these programs.*

“ *I am honored to be a volunteer for Catholic Charities. This organization is filled with compassion for those who need our help. The Jail & Prison Ministry gives a second chance to people with serious addictions and lets them know we care and will do what we can to help them attain a new lease on life. 'God never shuts one door without opening another.'* ”

## Administrative Offices:

**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque**  
1229 Mount Loretta Ave.  
Dubuque, IA 52003  
563.588.0558  
800.772.2758

## Jail & Prison Ministry Reentry Program Coordinators:

**Deacon Bill Hickson | 563-495-5947**  
Dubuque Area  
Cedar Rapids Area  
Rural Northeast Iowa Area

**Deacon Phil Paladino | 319-272-2080**  
Waterloo Area  
Ames Area  
Marshalltown Area  
Mason City Area

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## Other Catholic Charities services include...

- Mental Health Counseling
- Crisis Pregnancy Counseling
- Post Abortion Counseling
- Pathway Partners
- Post Adoption Search
- Affordable Housing
- Immigration Legal Services
- Refugee Resettlement
- Disaster Services

# *“Just as God never abandons us, so too we must be in covenant with one another...”*

*We are all sinners, and our response to sin and failure should not be abandonment and despair, but rather justice, contrition, reparation, and return or reintegration of all into the community.”*

p. 18 U.S. Catholic Bishops: Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime.

## MENTORING

Mentoring is a one-to-one relationship based on trust and respect, in which one member shares knowledge and experience with another to help the other define and reach his/her goals.

### *What is a Mentor?*

A mentor is a trusted friend and guide who accepts someone for who they are and is a source of encouragement for who they can become. A mentor is a guide or teacher, a listener, a role model, a friend, a coach. A mentor is a community volunteer, who helps create 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

### *Mentor Screening*

Mentor candidates are asked to submit an application, along with references, to the program coordinator. Applicants may also be screened by the Department of Correctional Services. Background checks are required to work in some institutions or areas. Mentors must follow the guidelines, policies, and training of their individual jurisdictions and work cooperatively with correctional staff.

### *What is Expected of a Mentor?*

- Undergo mentor training
- Complete a volunteer application
- Meet weekly for an hour with the mentee

- Maintain regular contact with the program coordinator
- Respect the need for confidentiality
- Follow all rules and restrictions imposed by correctional staff
- Report any problems or concerns as well as progress being made to the program coordinator and/or correctional staff
- Be a good listener and friend
- Model positive social behavior and attitudes
- Be dependable and on time for appointments with the mentee
- Refrain from use of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants while in the presence of the mentee
- Report any change in address, phone, employment, arrest or driving record to the correctional staff
- Serve for at least 6 months to a year, the most important time for a mentee after release from prison

### *Mentor Matching*

Mentors and mentees are matched according to gender, male mentors always working with male mentees and female mentors with female mentees. Every attempt will be made to match people based on needs and interests. There is no obligation to assign a mentee to a mentor.

## CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Circles of Support and Accountability are small groups of volunteers (both male and female) working with a single ex-offender. Circles provide a healthy and supportive relationship between the ex-offender and the community, opening an avenue for restoration and healing of all people impacted by crime.

### *How do Circles Work?*

The Circle is an ancient dialogue practice that creates a safe place to discuss difficult topics. The Circle employs a structure including a leader, the use of a talking piece, and rules to insure that everyone has a chance to be fully heard with respect and dignity.

### *What is Expected of a Circle Member?*

- Undergo Circle training.
- Complete a volunteer application.
- Attend bi-weekly meetings with the core member and other members.
- Respect the need for confidentiality.
- Be a good listener and be willing to share advice, suggestions for improvement, and personal views and experiences.
- Model positive social behavior and attitudes.
- Serve for at least 6 months to a year, the most important time for a mentee after release from prison.

## VISITATION IN JAILS AND PRISONS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

Men and women in jail and prison can become lonely, and may enjoy the opportunity for support, companionship and faith sharing offered by visitation volunteers.

Each jail and prison in the 30 counties of the Archdiocese of Dubuque has its own policies and procedures for visitation, Bible study, faith sharing, and worship. So, persons interested in volunteering for visitation within these institutions are encouraged to contact Deacon Bill Hickson or Deacon Phil Paladino to discuss opportunities and policies unique to each institution.



*“I was in prison and you visited me.”*

*Matthew 25:36*



Contact us for information about becoming a volunteer!

CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org