

## Guiding Principles:

We are partnering with faith-based organizations of all faiths and the volunteers connected to these faith-based organizations that have a desire to mentor inmates.

Inmates are welcome to participate in the program regardless of their faith.

We are intentionally targeting inmates that receive no visits and have little or no outside support for participation in the program.

All mentors must be approved routine volunteers and be provided specialized mentor training before participating in the program.

Inmate participants will be required to develop long term and short term personal goals. The interaction between the inmate participants and their mentors will center on encouraging the inmate participants in achieving these goals.

At the end of the formal six month program and upon mutual agreement between the mentor and inmate participant, the mentor can apply to be placed on the inmate participant's visiting list as the inmate's Reentry Mentor of Record per the provisions of DRC Policy #71-SOC-01, Recruitment, Training, and Supervision of Volunteers.

## Contact Us

If your faith-based organization has volunteers who have a heart to mentor ODRC inmates, we encourage your organization to partner with us in this vital initiative. Together we can work to reduce recidivism among those we touch and help change lives.

### For more information please contact:

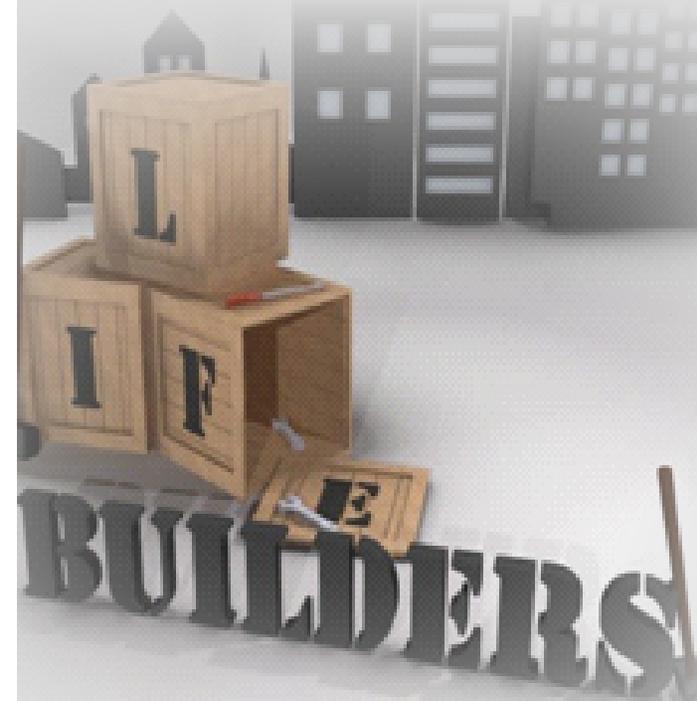
Gary Croft  
Faith-Based Reentry Coordinator

Ohio Department of  
Rehabilitation and Correction

770 West Broad Street, 3rd Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43222

(614) 752-1206 (Office)  
(614) 206-7698 (Cell)

[Gary.Croft@odrc.state.oh.us](mailto:Gary.Croft@odrc.state.oh.us)



Faith-Based  
Mentoring Program

## Reducing Recidivism and Making our Communities Safer

The mission of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) is to reduce recidivism among those we touch. Ohio has made recent reforms that have made our state a leader in reducing recidivism. These reforms and the success stories that follow are emblematic of the collaboration and support of the faith community. Their devotion to making Ohio a safer place to live, to turning around the lives of our offenders, by focusing on pro-social activities and other self-development opportunities, prepare many of these men and women for release.

Indeed, it is with the help of the faith community that the ODRC fosters the successes that help drive down crime in our communities.

In ODRC, we see this mentoring initiative as a one-on-one relationship that focuses on the rehabilitative needs of the mentored offender, fosters caring and support, encourages personal development, assists in personal visioning and assists in the transition to the community by developing active community partnerships. More simply put, mentoring is one person helping another to achieve their goals in a structured relationship while providing support in a non-threatening way so as to empower them and move them forward with confidence toward their goals.

We are simply connecting people. We are intentionally helping inmates establish positive relationships with a mentor from the faith community while they are in prison with the hope that the relationship continues well after they are released.

## Every mentor working with Ohio Department of Rehabilitation inmates shall comply with all ODRC policies in addition to the following:

1. Mentors must be 21 years of age and the same gender.
2. Unless approved by the Managing Officer, a mentor shall not be:
  - a. On parole, probation, post release control, transitional control, or recently released from a correctional facility within the past year.
  - b. Mentor at an institution where a family member is incarcerated.
  - c. Mentor while currently working as an independent contractor at the same facility or in the same APA region.
  - d. Mentor at a facility where the mentor or a mentor's family member was a victim of crime of an offender in that facility under a current or previous conviction.
3. Mentors must be an approved routine volunteer per the provisions of DRC Policy #71-SOC-0 1, Recruitment, Training, and Supervision of Volunteers.
4. Mentors must complete the specialized mentor training that will be provided prior to participation in the program.
5. Mentors must attend scheduled meetings and debriefings.
6. Mentors may terminate the relationship at any time.
7. Mentors may serve as a volunteer and mentor simultaneously.

