Second Chance Mentoring Program

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OpenDoors is a non-profit organization whose mission is to strengthen communities by supporting the formerly incarcerated.

Programs and services offered at OpenDoors:

- **Discharge Planning**: Provides Discharge Plans to inmates in the Men's Minimum Security Facility at the Department of corrections

- **Drop-In Center**: accepts drop-in visits from any formerly incarcerated person, and strives to connect these individuals to specific programs, services and resources

- **Employment Services**: Comprehensive Employment Program, Transitional Employment, Business Start-up Class and Employer Outreach.

- **Housing Services**: Housing Preparedness and future Permanent Supportive Housing program in the works.

- **Access to Recovery (ATR)**: Provides 6 months of treatment and recovery support services for people with alcohol and/or drug addictions.

- **Support Groups**: Monthly Men’s Collaborative, Monthly Women’s Support Group, AA and NA meetings held onsite

- **Computer Literacy**: Introduction to Email, Basic Computer Classes

- **Application Assistance**: Assistance obtaining birth certificate, state ID, or driver’s license, as well as food stamps, employment assistance, and clothing assistance.

- **Civic Participation**: Practical Politics and Government Course

- **Mentoring Program**: Provides one-on-one mentoring to formerly incarcerated individuals

- **Voter Registration**

- **Transportation Services**: Access to Recovery (ATR) eligible clients may receive a RIPTA bus pass each month for up to six months

- **Financial Literacy**: Basic Money Management, Credit Repair, One-on-one Counseling, Tax Preparation
Mission Statement

The Second Chance Mentoring Program is a comprehensive program offering one-on-one and group mentoring to formerly incarcerated individuals. The program will provide positive role models and social supports and encourage community participation. The program will assist in supporting successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals into their community. The overall program goal is to reduce the rate of recidivism in Rhode Island.
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Mentoring Program Goals:

- Build positive social networks and supports for individuals returning from prison
- Expand community awareness and investment in reentry
- Improve access to services available to formerly incarcerated individuals
- 50% reduction of recidivism of target population within 5 years
A good mentor will have the following skills and qualities:

- caring
- good listener
- strong communication skills
- committed and reliable
- non-judgmental, patient
- empathic
- positive and encouraging,
- engage in self-reflection and open-minded.
- be at least 21 years old
- agree to time commitment
- two years sobriety*
- no conviction in past two years*

*May be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
Time Commitment

Program commitment is one year and mentors agree to meet with their mentees at least once a week for a minimum of one hour, or once every other week for a minimum of two hours each. Mentors will receive ongoing training and support by attending monthly sessions facilitated by the Mentoring Program Coordinator. OpenDoors will also host monthly activities for mentors and mentees, as well as open hours for mentors and mentees to meet onsite at OpenDoors.
Screening

OpenDoors mentors are required to participate in a thorough screening process that includes a written application, a one-on-one interview with the Mentoring Program Coordinator and reference checks.

Matching

Potential mentors will participate in a one-day training. Once approved, mentors will participate in a three-hour intensive training and a match will be made after trainings are successfully completed. After mentors are matched with their mentee, an introduction meeting will be scheduled.
Ongoing and Support Activities

- Mentors will receive continuing support and training through groups and ongoing contact with Mentoring Program Coordinator
- OpenDoors will host open hours onsite for mentors and mentees to meet
- OpenDoors will host activities and events for mentors and mentees
- OpenDoors will provide opportunities for mentors and mentees to attend and participate in sporting events, entertainment, and outdoor activities
A mentee’s experience...

“I felt nobody was going to have anything to do with me...and this person, my mentor, wanted to just pick me up, take me out for coffee, talk with me...It was like, I didn’t have anybody else in my life like that, a positive role model.”

-Mentee from RI Women’s Prison Mentoring Program
If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact:

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