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How To Start A Re-Entry Ministry

Administrator's Outline

A Ministry of Chaplain Art Lyons

Thank you for requesting our Re-Entry Educational Materials. Our sincere hope is that the information we are able to provide will be a functional and effective tool for you. We have invested literally hundreds of man-hours to gather and update this information, and in order to continue this ministry, we need your help: Your faithfulness in supporting our suggested donations for the materials, as well as in honoring our copyright restrictions. Again, thank you for your interest in Re-Entry Prison and Jail Ministry, and may the Lord richly bless you.

RPJM Staff

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How to Start a Re-Entry Ministry

Pray, Pray, Pray

Lay your vision before the Lord and wait for His response.

Determine Where You're Cliental Will Come From

You need to establish where you're cliental will be coming from, the gender you will be working with and the types of issues they will be dealing with.

Institutions

Prison - Federal/State

Jail - County/City

Probation

County Youth Authority (Juveniles 16-24 years old)

Background Issues

Chemical Abusers

Mentally Ill

Dual Diagnosed

Those Who Are Not Chemical Abusers

Sex Offenders

Determine the Scope of Your Ministry

You need to determine what services are planning to provide.

Clothing, Emergency Aid, Job Referrals, Bus Tokens, Residential Program, Support Groups for Family, Alcohol Drug Counseling, Legal Advocacy, Life Skill Courses, Literacy Program, Bible Studies, 12 Step Programs, Long and Short Term Mentoring Programs, Vocational Training, Academic Programs, Financial Planning, Marital Counseling, Domestic Violence Programs

Identify Existing Resources

Investigate what is already available in your city and county – Network.

- Contact Churches
- Contact Par-Church Organizations
- Contact Social Services
- Contact Community Agencies
- Contact Chaplains of Local Institutions
- Contact Halfway Houses

Assemble a Team

Try to recruit people to volunteer for all the below positions.

- Recruit Resource Research People
- Recruit Mentors for Inmates and Ex-offenders
- Recruit Advisors
- Recruit Financial People
- Recruit Correspondence People
- Recruit Case Workers
- Recruit Life Skills Teachers

Organize Your Resources

Determine how you want to share your information with your staff and clients.

- Booklets
- Website
- Email

Begin to Build Your Financial Base

You can't do much without a financial base. When God guides God provides but he will need you to share the vision with people who have the money and entrepreneurial skills to support your ministry.

- Talk to Individuals
- Talk to Churches
- Talk to Local Businesses
- Contact Grant Providers

Establish a Non-profit Corporation to Work Under

You should do this as soon as possible. You don't have to start out with your own non-profit corporation, your church or a similar organization can offer your donors tax deductible receipts for free or a small administration fee until you establish your own non-profit status.

Determine Your Filtering System

You need to determine if you are going to accept anyone into your program or whether you will have some requirements they need to reach first.

- Will They Have to Detoxify First?
- What Will Be The Clean & Sober Period?
- Are Prescription Medicines Allowed?
- Are Smokers Allowed?
- Do They Have to be of Christian Faith?
- Will They Have to Pay a Program Fee?

Determine their level of Pre-Level of Commitment

Many potential clients have started programs before and self-terminated.

- First Day Contact
- Diligent Phone Calls and Letters
- Church/Chapel Attendance

Determine the Non-Negotiables

You should not make up these rules as you go.

- House Rules
- Required Meetings
- Curfews
- Termination Criteria

Determine Your Curriculum

- Bible Studies
- 12 Step Programs
- Life Skill Materials