

Foundation of HOPE Aftercare Program

Encouraging
and Supporting
on the Outside

AFTERCARE



"My mentor will be able to keep me accountable on the outside, and be there to talk to if I feel tempted to go back to the familiarity of the streets."
~ Steve, an Aftercare participant

The HOPE Aftercare Program is an interfaith pre- and post-release adult reintegration program for inmates and ex-offenders that seeks to ensure their successful reintegration back into their communities.



HOPE Aftercare Program
112 W. North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Phone: (412) 321-3343

www.foundationofhope.org



OUR IMPACT

Recidivism is measured by criminal acts that result in re-arrest, re-conviction, or return to incarceration. Supporting ex-offenders after their release is critical to their successful reintegration into society. Without such support, many ex-offenders will recidivate. A recent study found that for every \$1.00 invested in support services, \$6.00 in recidivism costs were saved.¹

Rates of Recidivism

Between 2010 and 2012, more than 200 men and women participated in the HOPE Aftercare Program with a recidivism rate of 10%, compared to 44% nationally.

10%

1-YEAR
AFTERCARE RATE

44%

1-YEAR
NATIONAL RATE

The Foundation of HOPE has demonstrated that ex-offenders receiving appropriate support and resources experience a lower rate of re-incarceration. More than 200 men and women participated in the HOPE Aftercare Program between 2010 and 2012. Their **one-year recidivism rate was 10%** compared to the one-year national recidivism rate of 44% (Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics).

¹Overview Report, page 7. <http://www.allegheycounty.us/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=23760>.



Foundation of HOPE Aftercare Program

The Aftercare Program is an interfaith reintegration program that includes the following:

The Aftercare **mentoring program** matches ex-offenders with mentors who can assist in reintegration.

Our Aftercare office provides ex-offenders informational **resources, referrals, and guidance** regarding employment, housing, and other services.

Our **support groups** provide a forum for ex-offenders to share resources, network, and address social, intellectual, vocational, spiritual, emotional, environmental, and physical needs.

Continuing education classes on topics such as eco-maps, criminal and addictive thinking patterns, and boundaries provide mentors with the tools necessary to assist their mentees more effectively.



BECOME A MENTOR

Qualities of a Successful Mentor

A successful mentor is someone who can focus on the needs of their mentee and develop a relationship of trust and respect by being supportive, encouraging, and positive. HOPE provides training and materials for mentors on different aspects of working with ex-offender populations.

Because mentoring requires a significant time investment, we ask potential mentors to voluntarily sign an agreement acknowledging their commitment to participate in the program and be prepared to fulfill an obligation of six to twelve months. We ask each mentor to remember that they are also making a pledge to an individual who will be counting on them.

WHAT TO EXPECT

What Should Mentors Expect?

Mentors are expected to:

- volunteer one to three hours per week for a period of six to twelve months;
- meet with their mentee on a regular basis;
- attend training, as required;
- attend, with the mentee, weekly support group meetings for the duration of the mentor-mentee match;
- participate in pro-social activities with the mentee on a regular basis;
- complete reports in a timely manner; and
- live an exemplary life before the mentee.

"I am ready to start to give back to the community for a change. To help more than take."

~ Michael, an Aftercare participant

"I want to set myself up for success, and my mentor is there, ready and willing to help me."

~ Diane, an Aftercare mentee

"I believe that it is each and every person's responsibility to reach out to someone and help them. If the ex-offender is serious about change, then I willingly invest my time to help them through the process."

~ John, an Aftercare mentor

YOU CAN HELP

The HOPE Aftercare Program Needs Your Help

- Serve as a mentor with HOPE Aftercare.
- Support the Foundation of HOPE financially.
- Donate bus tickets, bus passes, or motivational books.
- Host, facilitate, or help with a support group.
- Invite the Foundation of HOPE to speak to your faith community, organization, or event.
- Support HOPE with a tax-deductible donation. Checks can be made payable to "Foundation of HOPE" and mailed to: Foundation of HOPE, 950 Second Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219.
- Visit www.foundationofhope.org for more information or to make online donations.

