

H.O.P.E. INC. OF THE MIDWEST
HELPING OURSELVES, PRISONERS, & EX-OFFENDERS

What is it that we do?	Referrals and assistance for previously incarcerated women who are seeking to re-enter their communities.
Who do we serve?	We serve women formerly incarcerated in the Chicagoland area within one year of their release from the Illinois Department of Corrections.
Where can I get help?	Address: 1701 1 st Ave. Suite 403, Maywood, IL 60153 Phone: 708-865-1968 or 708-865-1912 Email: h.o.p.e.2530@sbcglobal.net

What services do we offer?

- State Id's, SS, Birth Certificate, & Bus Passes
- Facilitated Self Help Support Groups
- Art Therapy and Anger Management
- Parenting and Self-Esteem/Career Training
- Resume Writing/Mentoring Youth
- Assist Caregivers of children with incarcerated parents
- AA & NA Groups
- Special Events for Youth
- Information and Referral to Housing
- Information and Referral GED/Education/Job Training Programs.

Resources and Support Services:

1) Self-Help Support Group

H.O.P.E provides community resources and services such as bus passes, state ids, birth certificates, social security cards, support meetings, information and referrals to housing, job counseling, and a place where women can connect and find help.

2) Mentoring and Tutoring

Women released from prison are paired with a woman who has successfully transitioned from prison into society. The mentor and mentee meet once a month in face-to-face meetings and then have mandatory conference calls each week, all of which are not monitored and are confidential.

3) Special Events for Children

H.O.P.E Inc. plans field trips, art therapy and anger management workshops, and holiday parties for the children of incarcerated women. They also host annual special events, help children write letters, record messages, and send email to their mothers so that there remains constant communication and not a feeling of abandonment.

4) Substance Abuse Counseling

H.O.P.E Inc. guides women to either counseling provided by them or Christian-based organizations that focus on the woman's particular situation. The women also attend weekly H.O.P.E Inc. meetings.

5) GED & Education Programs

H.O.P.E Inc. works with local educational programs to include GED educational programs, trade school or community college admission to help get the women back on the right track.

6) Career Counseling

H.O.P.E Inc. emphasizes the careers as opposed to merely jobs for formerly incarcerated women as a way of ensuring that women remain on the road to success. Each woman is given a job skills test and possible career paths are suggested to her after her skill sets are determined. H.O.P.E Inc. then assists the woman in resume writing and interviewing skills. Perspective employers are then lined up and H.O.P.E maintains follow up with potential employers regarding available positions.

Sources of Program Funding:

H.O.P.E Inc. is funded by private donations and foundation grants.