

LIFELINES MODEL:

A faith-based program for justice involved women

Programmatic Focus: Christian formation and female criminogenic risks and needs

Outcome:

Women will have an opportunity to experience redemption through Christ, connection with a faith-based community, and better prepared to reenter society through spiritual, cognitive and relational development.

Research-Based:

Evidence-Based Principles¹ (reduces recidivism)

Target Interventions: Need (criminogenic factors) and Responsivity (gender-responsive)

Increase Positive Reinforcement

Engage in Ongoing Support in Natural Communities

Gender-Responsive Principles²

Principle 1: Gender: Acknowledge that gender makes a difference.

Principle 2: Environment: Create an environment based on safety, respect and dignity

Principle 3: Relationships: Develop policies, practices, and programs that are relational and promote healthy connections to children, family, significant others, and the community.

Christian Formation

Inverse relationship between faith and crime³

Women and Faith: high degree of spiritual depth and relational⁴

Christian Formation: Exploring Christ, Growing in Christ, Close to Christ, Christ-centered.⁵

Moral Development

An ethic of care and responsibility (females)⁶ vs. justice and rights (males)⁷

Goal is to care for both self and others without hurting self and others (balanced)

Generational Poverty⁸

Hidden rules of both generational poverty and middle-class

Program Overview:

Description: LIFELINES is a faith-based, relational, rehabilitation program for incarcerated women. This program is biblically-based and will focus on spiritual development, thinking responsibly, and relational issues. Women from all faiths or with no faith are welcome.

¹ Crime and Justice Institute at Community Resources for Justice (2009). *Implementing Evidence-Based Policy and Practice in Community Corrections, 2nd ed.* Washington, DC: National Institute of Corrections.

² Bloom, B., Owen, B. and Covington, S. (May, 2005). *Gender-responsive strategies for women offenders.* NIC Accession Number 020418

³ Johnson, Byron. R. *More God, Less Crime: Why Faith Matters and How It Could Matter More.* West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2011

⁴ The Barna Group, March 6, 2000, "Women Are the Backbone of the Christian Congregations in America," from: <http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdate&BarnaUpdateID=47>, accessed 6/28/05.)

⁵ Hawkins, G. L. & Parkinson, C. *Follow Me.* Barrington, IL: Willow Creek, p. 26

⁶ Gilligan, C. *In a Different Voice.*

⁷ Kohlberg, L. *Moral Development Theory*

⁸ Payne, Ruby K. (1996). *A framework for understanding poverty*, (4th ed). Highlands, TX: aha! Process, Inc. Karen Swanson and Joy Stevens, 2014

Goals: The participants will be able to:

Develop Spiritually

- Explore Christianity
- Explain the main tenants of the Christian faith
- Describe living a Christian life
- Engage in spiritual practices
- Take responsibility for their own spiritual growth
- Get connected to a local church

Think Responsibly

- Identify thinking errors
- Identify ways to think responsively
- Apply responsible thinking

Develop Relational Skills

- Understand how to forgive and begin the forgiveness process
- Express anger over evil and express it in a healthy, biblical way
- Develop healthy relationships

Reentry (Case management)

- Find safe housing
- Connect with a church member or correspondence disciple (if sentenced)
- Develop spiritual plan
- Identify healthy, supportive relationships
- Access addiction recovery services
- Connect with employment opportunities

Programs/Courses/Curriculum

Growing in Christ/*What We Believe, Your Spiritual Journey*

Worship Services

Renewing the Mind/Cognitive Renewal, Truthought, Thinking for Change

Fresh Start/Fresh Start, *Changed for Good*

Renewed Women (Reentry)

Letter Ministry (Discipleship through letters)

Expanded – Add goals and programs/classes

Mentoring –Matched with a women in the free world

Christian Formation and Moral Development – *Bible Studies, Decision Making*

Relational Skills II – *Changed for Good, 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*

Domestic Violence – *Surviving Abuse* (My Sisters, Inc.)

Motherhood – *Parenting Piece by Piece*

Addiction Recovery – *Celebrate Recovery, 12 Steps*

Trauma/Abuse Healing – *Healing Trauma*

Employment – *Jobs for Life*

Life Skills – *Future Profits*

Schedule: Some classes meet daily and some weekly. Ideally it would be best to have a separate living unit dedicated to the program.

Materials:

Orientation Brochure
Curriculum Material (Instructor materials and student materials)
Job Descriptions
Training Materials

Program Key Elements:

Classes and curriculum align with program goals
Trained quality volunteers teach the classes
Evaluation is conducted to measure program efficacy and for ongoing improvement

Evaluation:

Student learning is conducted in the lessons and courses.
Program evaluation is provided by all stakeholders through surveys.

Partnerships and Collaborations:

The faith-based community is KEY for program success as they provide the necessary funding and volunteer resources.

Cost: Program Director – this can be a paid or volunteer position
Materials – \$500-\$1000 (can be donated by faith community)

Resources

Curriculum

7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey

Celebrate Recovery www.celebraterecovery.com

Changed for Good: Managing Your Anger and Developing Your Interpersonal Skills Karen.swanson@wheaton.edu

Cognitive Renewal www.mullinaxassociates.com

Fresh Start www.freshstartforallnations.org

Future Profits <http://futureprofitsresources.org/>

Healing Trauma by Stephanie Covington <http://www.stephaniecovington.com/healing-trauma-strategies-for-abused-women-cd-rom.php>

Jobs for Life www.jobsforlife.org

Parenting Piece by Piece <http://www.purdue.edu/hhs/extension/programs/detail.aspx?programId=21&category=family>

Surviving Abuse by Brenda Ratcliff <http://www.sistersinc.org/>

Thinking for a Change <http://nicic.gov/library/025057>

Truthought www.truthought.com

What We Believe www.rbcministries.org

Your Spiritual Journey Karen.swanson@wheaton.edu

Websites

National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women
www.cjinvolvedwomen.org

National Reentry Resource Center
www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org

National Institute of Corrections Women Offenders
<http://nicic.gov/womenoffenders>

Information regarding the Women's Risk/Needs Assessment Tool
<http://www.uc.edu/womenoffenders.html>

Institute for Prison Ministries (mentor training)
www.bgcprisonministries.org

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