

Brenda McGowan, Vice President of Programming, Crossroads Prison Ministries:

A proud native of the south side of Chicago, Brenda graduated from Spring Arbor University with a BA in family life education. She obtained her Master of Public Administration from Walden University. She has worked across systems to build public-private partnerships in twenty-nine states, primarily in the field of criminal justice reform and effective family programs. She began her career in criminal justice reform while serving as advisory council chairperson for the St. Joseph County Michigan Prison Reentry Initiative in 2006. Before coming to Crossroads, she served with Prison Fellowship as a director, serving in twenty-six states, and she later served as national director of church and community engagement. Brenda has a passion for building collaborative, strong and caring communities, both inside and outside prison walls. She is a national trainer and consultant for Nurturing Parenting Programs. She enjoys her time at home nurturing her plants and a twenty-six-year marriage to her husband, Robert. She has four adult children and four grandchildren.