

## INTERESTED IN SUPPORT WHILE INCARCERATED?

If you are currently imprisoned and wish to have a visitor through us who would visit you throughout your time (a year or more), and who would also perhaps be open to being an ongoing support when you are released please talk to your Parole Officer, Unit Manager or Chaplain or directly with our staff at (204) 290-9200 or (204) 294-9599.

## INTERESTED IN BEING A FRIEND TO SOMEONE IN PRISON?

If you have access to a vehicle to travel and are open to dynamic challenges, you could become one of our volunteers. By being present, offering a listening ear and engaging in some conversation, you are helping to restore a sense of humanity in a person's life, offering hope and making a true impact. You can contact our staff at (204) 290-9200 or (204) 294-9599. Inquiries about volunteer opportunities and making financial contributions can also both be done through our website: [www.initiativesjc.org](http://www.initiativesjc.org)

**“Friendships seek to enfold others in the same embrace with which we have been enfolded by God. Whenever we take away friends, or even the possibility of human relationship, we slowly kill people.” - Dr. Jean Stairs**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in making a donation to Open Circle. Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering with Open Circle and would like more information.

How did you hear about Open Circle?

- Church     Public Presentation:  
 School     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: 302-1200 Portage Ave. WPG, MB, R3G 0T5

204.925.1912  
opencircle@initiativesjc.org  
www.initiativesjc.org  
302-1200 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 0T5

 **Open Circle**

A Program Of:

Initiatives  
for Just  
Communities 

 **Open Circle**

Building authentic friendships with people in prison and ex-prisoners, providing opportunities for participation and support in healthy communities.

[www.initiativesjc.org](http://www.initiativesjc.org)

## WHO WE ARE:

Open Circle is a faith-based, non-profit program that encourages volunteers to live out their faith by visiting people in prison and offering caring, non-judgemental support.

We also seek to support the healthy integration of people in prison back into the community. Within this web of friendship, concerned members of society offer HOPE and help to create an environment in which a person in prison or out on the street can choose to take steps towards positive growth.

## WHAT WE DO:

- **COORDINATE** opportunities for volunteers to visit people in prison.
- **BUILD** authentic friendships with prisoners and ex-prisoners.
- **SUPPORT** volunteers, prisoners and ex-prisoners in building these friendships.
- **OFFER** necessary training to equip volunteers accordingly.
- **PROVIDE** community integration support for people in prison transitioning to the community on a case-by-case basis.
- **ORGANIZE** regular events to build community and encourage constructive participation within the community.
- **COLLABORATE** and network with partners in the Restorative Justice field while striving to build public awareness.

**“I was in prison and you visited me... a stranger and you welcomed me... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me.”**

- Matthew 25:36 & 40



## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE:

**Crime breaks relationships** and creates distance between those who have committed a crime and those impacted by the harm that was done – this includes victims, victims’ families, prisoners’ families and community members. Prison increases this separation and alienation. All parties continue to live in fear, particularly after the person is released from prison.

**Open Circle provides** opportunities to address this fear and alienation by connecting people in prison with caring community members and by encouraging a healthy return to society after their release. We strive to create a community of belonging in all that we do that is conducive to healthy living, healing, accountability and personal, social & spiritual growth; one where the acceptance of responsibility is modeled and normalized. In this way, communities become safer places for everyone.