

INTERESTED IN SUPPORT WHILE INCARCERATED?

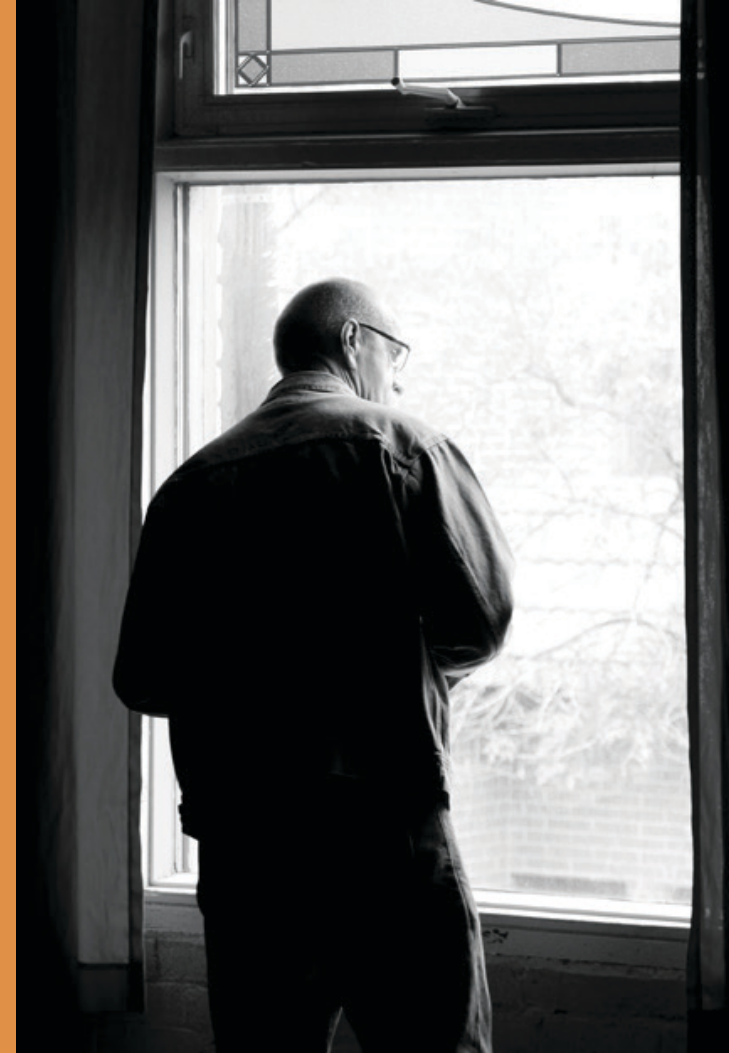
If you are currently imprisoned and wish to have someone visit you throughout your time (a year or more), please talk with your Parole Officer, Unit Manager, Chaplain, or directly with our staff at 877-912-2299.

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 be done through our website 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: _____

Email: _____

☐ 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

A Program of:

Initiatives
for Just
Communities



204-290-9200

opencircle@initiativesjc.org

www.initiativesjc.org

302-1200 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0T5

IJC recognizes and acknowledges that we live and work on Treaty 1 territory and the traditional lands of the Dakota, Cree, Anishinaabeg, Oji-Cree, Dene, and Metis nations. We seek a new relationship with Indigenous communities based on honour and deep respect, moving forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



Open Circle

Facilitating the development of healthy friendships between community volunteers and incarcerated men and women who have a desire to be part of a welcoming and supportive community.

www.initiativesjc.org

WHO WE ARE:

Open Circle is a non-profit program that encourages volunteers to visit people in prison and offer caring, non-judgmental support.

We also seek to support the healthy integration of people in prison back into the community. Community members 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 while striving to build public awareness
- **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.