

# Become a Mentor

Southern District of Florida  
Court-Assisted Re-entry  
(CARE) Program



## Court—Assisted Re-Entry (CARE) Program

The transition from jail or prison to the community can be challenging not only for returning citizens but also their families and communities in which they reside. The mission of the Court—Assisted Re-Entry (CARE) Program is to ensure returning citizens' successful reentry into the community, reduce recidivism, and enhance public safety. CARE will work to achieve these goals by educating the community on the complex issue of returning citizen reentry and by forming collaborative partnerships with government entities, faith and community-based organizations and other stakeholders. Together we seek to address the many complex barriers returning citizens face when reentering society in such areas as housing, education, medical and mental health, substance abuse, family reunification and social networks. CARE's approach will also include an evidence based component that considers returning citizens' dynamic risk factors, to the extent those factors have been identified through a correctional agency.

A mentor is a caring guide, a wise advisor, a partner on the journey, and a trusted friend. A mentor is one who can serve as a mirror for the mentee – showing them both who they are and who they can become. A mentor is one who can help the mentee feel comfortable in their own skin and appreciate their gifts, while at the same time exposing them to new opportunities and modes of thinking. Finally, a mentor is ultimately one who can establish a strong connection with their mentee and can in turn use that connection as a catalyst for positive change and growth.

“We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give.”

- Douglas M. Lawson

For additional information on how you can become a mentor, please contact:

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“I’ve learned more from my mentee than I could teach him in a lifetime.”

- Dennis Larry, Esquire



Mentoring is a relatively new strategy for assisting adult, returning citizens in transitioning successfully from prison to the community. Historically, mentoring has been more commonly used with school-aged youth and children of incarcerated parents to prevent contact with the criminal justice system. As a mentor volunteer you have the opportunity to help make a difference in another person's life. You will play an important role in helping returning citizens transition to become a better person and a productive citizen. Given that 67% of released prisoners are rearrested within three years, there is a clear need for a multi-faceted strategy to address the many contributions to this cycle of arrests. Mentoring can serve as one intervention to assist returning citizens in transitioning successfully back in to the community.