

Citizens Circle



Who Should Be Involved?



Citizens Circle



What is a Citizen Circle?

Citizens Circle are groups of members committed to helping ex-offenders make the change from "offender" to "citizen".

Ex-offenders and their families develop relationships with members of the community and together develop a plan to help the ex-offender become accepted as a productive citizen and community member.

If you would like to be a part of this opportunity for change, please contact our office at (937) 322-2522 or visit 98 N. Bechtle Ave., Springfield, Ohio 45506

Coming Home To Stay

- Faith Community
- Neighbors
- Employers
- Community Organizations
- Victims
- Offender's Families
- Education Professionals
- Social Service Agencies
- Law Enforcement
- Mentors
- Corrections Officials



What is a Citizen Circle?

Citizen Circles made up of people from our community create partnerships that promote positive social interaction and accountability to help ex-offenders become productive citizens.

Citizen Circles, ex-offenders, and their families develop relationships with community members and jointly develop a plan to help the ex-offender become a productive citizen.



Citizen Circles communicate to ex-offenders the belief that their debt has been paid and the community is willing to accept them as a restored citizen.

Citizen Circles provide the opportunity for developing partnerships, making a difference in an ex-offender's behavior while promoting community safety.

How can Citizen Circles help me and how do I apply?

Upon release from incarceration, you may seek involvement with a Citizen Circle of your own free will. Applicants are accepted to the Citizen Circle based on identified criteria, (examples listed below):

- Completed application
- Accepting responsibility for past criminal behavior
- Participating in community service
- Setting goals focused on law abiding and productive community behavior

After your application has been submitted, a representative of the Circle will conduct an interview with you and present you to the entire Circle membership.

Citizen Circles focus on your *future* rather than your *past*.

Citizen Circles create an environment aimed at fostering acceptance and focusing on your personal strengths.



For more information on joining a Citizens Circle, call (937) 322-2522

Who do Citizen Circles benefit?

CITIZENS

- Through personal involvement in managing ex-offenders' return to their neighborhoods
- Through better understanding of the correctional process and issues ex-offenders face upon reentry
- Through reducing the likelihood of recidivism, which benefits the community

OFFENDERS

- Provides a network of support and acceptance
- Increases access to community resources
- Increases belonging and self worth--
 - By increasing compliance with conditions of release
 - By instilling long-term behavioral and attitude change

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION & CORRECTIONS

- By having stronger links to the community
- By creating an increased effectiveness in the supervision of ex-offenders