

"(Jesus) teaches us to see the world through his eyes -- eyes which are not scandalized by the dust picked up along the way, but want to cleanse, heal and restore. He asks us to create new opportunities: for inmates, for their families, for correctional authorities, and for society as a whole."

— Pope Francis, Sept. 27, 2015

AN ARCH IS
a doorway,
a bridge,
a support.
It's accompaniment.
It could be you.



DIOCESE of
COLUMBUS



SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION



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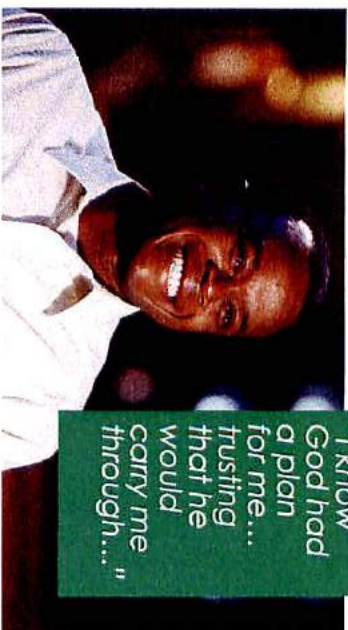


Be Part of Restoring Hope
to the Formerly Incarcerated

ARCH MINISTRY

ARCH - Accompanying Returning Citizens with Hope - equips Catholics with the tools and resources to minister to the needs of the formerly incarcerated (returning citizens) and their families.

ARCH is a joint ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus' Office for Social Concerns and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with the generous support of The Catholic Foundation.



NEED:

The effects of criminal behavior and incarceration are a major contributor to poverty in our community. The Church can play a central role in helping people stabilize their lives and experience the mercy of Christ.

Returning citizens have paid their debt to society in terms of serving time in jail or prison, yet continue to face significant challenges in their reintegration back to their families and the larger community.

Most returning citizens struggle with obtaining steady employment and accessing affordable housing. They need a support system upon release to help identify resources and practical steps that can help them rebuild their lives.

ARCH PROVIDES

Awareness - to help parishes understand the needs and issues of reentry;

Training - on strategies for how parishes can become more welcoming and better equipped to meet the needs of the formerly incarcerated and their families;

Support - spiritual and practical support for those who minister with the incarcerated and/or returning citizens;

Information - helpful resources to link participants with other social services and community partners;

Advocacy - to coordinate action around criminal justice reform that is rooted in restorative justice and Catholic social teaching.



ARCH TEAMS

Teams built at the parish or deanery level focus on one or more of the following:

1. **Accompaniment** - ARCH provides training, linkage to partnering programs, and ongoing support for volunteers to accompany returning citizens.
2. **Family Support Group** - ARCH offers training and support for parish leaders interested in building a peer support group for families who have incarcerated loved ones.
3. **Business Network** - ARCH helps educate, provide resources, and equip business leaders interested in learning more about how to offer employment opportunities to returning citizens.
4. **Direct Needs** - ARCH assists parishes interested in organizing outreach projects like collecting goods to meet the tangible needs of people returning home from prison or jail. Items collected can be winter coats, personal hygiene items, house warming baskets, etc.
5. **Education** - ARCH helps parishes better understand reentry and returning citizens by providing speakers who can share stories and information about the ARCH ministry.

RESTORE HOPE: BUILD AN ARCH TEAM

Invite an ARCH speaker for adult faith formation, special events, or a retreat at your parish. Contact us: