



St. Patrick Center
Building Permanent, Positive, Change.

OUR mission
St. Patrick Center provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals achieve permanent, positive changes in their lives through affordable housing, sound mental health, employment and financial stability.

St. Patrick Center and Project REACH need your support. Mentor someone that committed a non-violent offense, has served their time, and is primed for positive change. Impact the life of an individual and help to heal the wounds of our ailing city!

THE COLD HARD FACTS

- ♣ Approximately **2.3 million** people are currently incarcerated in our country.
- ♣ **95%** of those incarcerated will someday be coming “home”.
- ♣ About **2/3** or **67%** will be returned to prison within 3 years of being released.
- ♣ Missouri currently houses more than **30,000** people in **20** state-funded adult institutions.
- ♣ It costs Missouri taxpayers an average of **\$15,000** to imprison one person for one year. **DO THE MATH.**

THE NOT SO Popular SOLUTION

- ♣ Offer the formerly incarcerated things like education, stable housing, career training, counseling, employment services, and compassionate mentors, and they can make it on the outside.
- ♣ **Ex-Offenders receiving mentoring support are 3 TIMES more likely to be successful in their transition in the community.**

St. Louis is home to one of the world’s tallest structures, the best baseball fans in the National League, and one of the **highest crime rates** in the United States. Please join **St. Patrick Center** and **Project REACH** and the as we attempt to reduce the latter, in order to make our community a safer and even greater place to live!

To find out more about how you can make a difference in St. Louis contact Mentor Coordinator Emily Piro today at 314-802-5443 or epiro@stpatrickcenter.org

Frequently Asked Questions about Project REACH Mentoring

What exactly do Project REACH volunteer mentors do?

REACH mentors are a source of encouragement, guidance, and support for their assigned mentees who are transitioning from prison to the community. This transitional period can be an extremely tumultuous time for mentees. The level-headed presence, reasoning voice, and shared life experience of a mentor can make the difference between success and failure. Mentors help their mentees to stay focused and achieve their goals by building trust and playing the roles of teacher, coach, and friend.

How much time must I commit to be a volunteer mentor?

Project REACH asks volunteer mentors to commit to serving for a period of six months. Mentors must meet with their mentees for at least four hours each month. Two of these hours can be over the phone and two must be in person. A successful mentor/mentee relationship, like any other worthwhile relationship, takes time to evolve.

What are the requirements to become a Project REACH mentor?

Mentors must be at least 21 years of age, reside in the St. Louis region, not abuse alcohol or any other controlled substances, and have access to reliable transportation.

How much is this going to cost me?

Project REACH mentors are not required to spend any money. The basic needs of the mentees are met through intensive case management services, which are separate from the mentoring program. Project REACH only asks that you donate your time, wisdom, and compassion to our clients.

What are the Project REACH Mentees like?

They are a diverse group of men and women that have recently served time in prison for a non-violent or non-sexual offense. Their ages range from 18 on upward. Most were raised in an environment that was financially distressed, educationally deficient, and morally depraved. This is the cycle we aim to break.

Do I have to be an expert about prison to be a REACH mentor?

Absolutely not! We want our mentors to come from all walks of life. The only required trait is a great big heart for people.

How are the matches made?

The Mentor Coordinator creates matches according to several factors. Common interests, personality congruence, and geographic proximity are examined closely. All matches are same-gender.

What kind of support does Project REACH provide for its mentors?

Each REACH mentor must complete a two-hour training session prior to being matched with a mentee. This training session equips mentors for the challenges they will face throughout their service. In addition to this initial training, the REACH Mentor Coordinator is readily available to for further communication with mentors/mentees. Project REACH operates with a team approach and its volunteer mentors are not in this alone.

Where and when would I meet with my mentee?

Mentors and mentees are encouraged to meet at a neutral location such as a park, museum, or coffee shop. Mentors may also meet at St. Patrick Center during group mentoring events that are held monthly.

My church or civic group is interested in using Project REACH as a service opportunity. Does Project REACH partner with outside organizations for this purpose?

Project REACH loves to collaborate with groups that share a common passion for serving those in need. A REACH representative will gladly meet with your organization to discuss a partnership opportunity. Crime and incarceration are community problems, so let's solve them together.

Should I be fearful of working with the formerly incarcerated?

The men and women of Project REACH have committed only non-violent offenses. They have made poor regrettable choices that and have felt the weight of their consequences. Spend an hour getting to know one of these folks and you just may be shocked by what you have in common. It is likely you'll find, not a cold-blooded criminal, but instead a lost, lonely, and humbled soul. Join us as we help them find their way.

How do I get involved?

Contact Project REACH Mentor Coordinator Emily Piro at 314-802-5443 or epiro@stpattickcenter.org. You will be making permanent, positive change before you know it!