



Mentoring Children of Promise Fact Sheet

The Mentoring Children of Promise is a free program of Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana. It was created in response to the need of children with an incarcerated parent to have a stable, caring adult in their lives. Partner churches in the community match children with trained, compatible and committed adult mentors.

Statistics

- Louisiana is second in the nation in the number of people incarcerated per capita.
- Almost a third (31.5%) of Louisiana's adult inmate population and almost half (41.3%) of the juvenile inmate population come from Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.
- Unfortunately, records show that half of Louisiana's former inmates return to prison within four to six years after they are released.
- Nationally, 70% of the children with a parent in prison will one day find themselves behind bars.

Who are Mentors?

- Someone who is a good listener, cares about young people and wants to help make a difference in their lives.
- A mentor helps a young person define and achieve his or her goals
- A mentor must be willing to commit eight hours a month for one year.
- A mentor must be willing to agree to a background and reference check.

Who are Mentees?

- Mentees are children between the ages of 4 and 18 years who have at least one parent presently incarcerated.
- The mentee must have the approval and support of the caregiver.

Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana offers a variety of programs to children and families. If services needed are not provided by Volunteers of America, a referral will be made to another community agency.

For more information, call Program Manager Sherlyn Hughes at 504-836-8701.