

# CORRECTIONAL



# VOLUNTEERS

## ***An Introduction: Why Volunteer***

Prison is a dangerous environment so why do so many people want to enter behind the fence and locked gates to give of their time and energy. Volunteers understand the benefits to both the incarcerated and the volunteer. Inmates learn practical skills and volunteers are rewarded with knowing they are helping to change lives. Volunteers contribute time and resources to help inmates transition successfully into law-abiding members of society.

Volunteers see prison life firsthand and can accurately relate their experiences to those who have not. They serve as corrections' ambassadors to the community and increase public awareness concerning the challenges inmates face.

Correctional Chaplains are the primary recruiter of volunteers through speaking at various community and religious organizations. Ultimately volunteers themselves become recruiters of other volunteers.



***Volunteer at Lowell  
CI teaching a  
women's class***

## ***Data***

In Fiscal Year 2010-2011 the Department recorded over **313,975 hours** of volunteer service. This is the equivalent in hours of **151** full time employees. The dollar value of the time contributed by citizen volunteers is estimated at **\$5,777,140**.

Each year more than 16,000 Florida citizens contribute thousands of hours of valuable service in Florida prisons. In the fiscal year 2010-2011 the Department trained an additional 5,100 volunteers. Volunteers serve as role models and help offenders change. They assist the Department in teaching classes such as character training, marriage enrichment, sacred text studies, parenting, resume writing and checkbook basics. They help with faith and character programs, conduct religious services, counsel inmates, sponsor Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous meetings, assist with dog-training programs and serve as mentors to inmates. Being a volunteer can be personally gratifying, and often results in a rewarding and instructive experience for our inmates.

Though volunteers donate their time to nearly every department of an institution, including administration, over 95% of volunteers serve within Chaplaincy Services.

## ***Recognition of Volunteers***

Each Year the Department pays tribute to all our volunteers in a variety of ways. Institutions may hold banquets where every volunteer is presented a certificate of appreciation for their dedication and service to the institution and the inmate population.

***Mr. Jay Schrock, a former statewide Volunteer of the Year, proudly displaying his plaque.***



The Department has a Statewide Volunteer of the Year (VOY) program. Volunteers are recognized at each institution, circuit, and region. Each volunteer is presented with a plaque representing their dedication and the Department's appreciation. A statewide Volunteer of the Year is chosen from all of the regional submission. That individual is recognized with a personal plaque and has his/her name inscribed on a plaque that is on display in the DOC Central Office in Tallahassee.