



- Auxiliary Chaplain
- Cognitive Thinking Programs
- Dog Trainers/Handlers
- Hospice
- Landscaping/Area Beautification
- Performing Arts
- Recreational Activities
- Restorative Justice
- Spiritual and Religious Programs
- Teaching Skills
- Transitional Accountability Plans
- Employability Skills

## What We Believe

### **MISSION**

The Missouri Department of Corrections is committed to supervising and providing rehabilitative services to adult offenders in correctional institutions and Missouri communities to enhance public safety.

### **VISION**

A Safer Missouri and the Standard of Excellence in Corrections. We desire to be the standard of excellence in the field of corrections. Through innovation and collaboration, we want to embrace changes that better serve Missouri communities impacted by criminal behavior and achieve a safer state.

### **VALUES**

- Staff** – Our people are important.
- Offender Success** – We believe in the ability to change.
- Accountability** – To each other and all Missourians
- Restored Communities** – We value the role we play in restoring communities.



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For more information contact:

**Volunteer/Intern Services Coordinator**

2729 Plaza Drive P.O. Box 236

Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone: 573-526-6491

Fax: 573-751-4099

**doc.mo.gov**

# Reach Out and Help



## **VOLUNTEER IN CORRECTIONS**

**Missouri Department of Corrections**



## Reach Out and Help

### Volunteers in Corrections

The Missouri Department of Corrections utilizes the services of volunteers in a variety of meaningful ways to augment institutional and community services and programs for offenders. Volunteers serve as excellent examples of people leading productive lives while inspiring offenders to strive for success.

### Who Volunteers?

Volunteers in Corrections (VIC) care about people, family life, and community. They are willing to use their experience, knowledge, and understanding to affect positive change and provide a safety net of support for offenders. Volunteers must be 18 years old (19 or older to have offender contact), and must pass a screening and interview process. VICs are considered unpaid staff of the department and are required to adhere to department and facility policies and procedure.

### What do Volunteers Do?

VICs contribute time and talent to assist the department in delivering services and facilitating programs that focus on preparing offenders to become productive citizens.

*We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.*

*-Winston Churchill*

### VICs Provide a Catalyst to:

-  Involve the community in the criminal justice process
-  Promote community understanding regarding the correctional experience
-  Increase services to offenders/clients
-  Encourage offenders/clients to develop responsible behavior
-  Be a role model



VIC Cynthia Hitschler teaches sewing to offenders at MECC

### Goals of the Volunteer Program

The department understands its mission to enhance public safety, while offenders are under its supervision. Volunteer Services facilitates and coordinates the involvement of the community in the rehabilitation of offenders through volunteer led programs and services. Enhancing public safety is achieved by ending the criminal behavior in offenders under supervision and assisting them in the transformation to become productive, law-abiding citizens. Achieving this goal requires the partnership of offenders, staff, offender families and friends, communities, and volunteers.

### Where do Volunteers Work ?

VICs serve in correctional facilities in the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) and in the Division of Probation and Parole (P&P) offices, a community release center and community supervision centers throughout the state.

### What Steps Should I Take?

1. Contact the institution or P&P field office where you are interested in volunteering. Ask for the Institutional Activities Coordinator (IAC) or the Volunteer Site Coordinator (VSC). Facility addresses and phone numbers can be accessed at [doc.mo.gov](http://doc.mo.gov).
2. Set up a time to meet with the IAC/VSC. Speak to them about volunteering at their facility and the skills you have to offer in assisting with programs, religious services, etc. This is also a good time to ask for a tour of the facility. If you are still not sure, you are allowed several program visits to determine your commitment.
3. If you are ready to commit, fill out an application and the IAC/VSC will begin the screening process. You are now on your way to becoming one of our many dedicated volunteers.

*Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help.*

*-Heather French Henry*