



MENTORING CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

## Caregiver's CHOICE

- Are you caring for a child whose parent is incarcerated?
- Are you looking for new ways to help your child succeed?
- Have you thought about mentoring?

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# What is mentoring?

Mentoring is a structured, one-on-one relationship between a young person and an adult...a relationship meant to help the young person grow in a variety of ways. Quality mentoring programs provide carefully screened and trained adults that spend time with a child, usually an hour a week over the course of a year.

# What can mentoring offer a child whose parent is incarcerated?

Mentoring benefits both children and families. Children with an incarcerated parent are a diverse group of children with a shared experience. They can benefit from mentoring in a variety of ways. Many children benefit from an additional adult who can help them with their homework and encourage them in school. Other children may enjoy playing games and sports with their mentor. Often times, mentors can provide an objective ear and support as children struggle with their parents' incarceration.

When children spend time with their mentors, it can open up free time for caregivers or parents. For busy caregivers with work commitments, mentors may provide peace of mind: knowing their child is with a trusted adult for activities and outings. Also, some research indicates that children with mentors have better relationships with parents and peers, are less likely to skip school, and are more likely to feel confident about their schoolwork.



## WHAT IS CAREGIVER'S CHOICE?

Mentoring Children of Prisoners: Caregiver's Choice is designed to connect caregivers and parents with quality mentoring programs. These programs match children who have incarcerated parents with screened and trained adult mentors.

## WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

Caregiver's Choice makes it possible for many more kids across the country to have mentors, and for many more families to enjoy all the benefits of mentoring. This program is unique because it gives *you*, the child's parent or caregiver, the power to *choose*—to look at the possibilities and decide on the best mentoring program to meet your needs and the needs of *your* child.

*FOR EXAMPLE, A CAREGIVER CAN CHOOSE:*

- A mentoring program that is run by a secular organization, or one run by a church or faith-based group; or
- A program that is close to the child's school, or one close to home.

Caregiver's Choice takes the guesswork out of finding a mentoring program. Because all the programs in Caregiver's Choice must be approved, caregivers can feel comfortable choosing a program based on their needs, knowing all the programs meet standards for safety and quality.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

First, mentoring programs must apply to participate in Caregiver's Choice. Programs that meet quality standards created by experts—in mentoring and working with families of the incarcerated—will be selected to take part in the voucher program. All programs will be trained on the opportunities and challenges specific to mentoring children with incarcerated parents.

Second, caregivers complete an application for a child to join Caregiver's Choice. They receive a list of the approved mentoring programs in their city or state and a voucher for their child. Caregivers then take the voucher to the program that best fits their needs, and the program looks for a mentor for the child. If a caregiver needs more information or guidance to choose a program, help is available by phone at 877-333-CHOICE (877-333-2464).

## WHO CAN USE THE VOUCHERS?

Any child, from age 4 up to age 18, who has a parent in a federal or state correctional facility.



# How do we sign up?

To apply for Caregiver's Choice, call 877-333-CHOICE (877-333-2464) toll-free, visit [www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice](http://www.mentoring.org/caregiverschoice), or fill out and return the attached form. Whatever way you choose, there are three easy steps to getting your child enrolled in the program:

**1 Fill out a short application by phone or online.**

It should only take about five minutes.

**2 Pick a program.** We'll give you a list of programs in your area, and you can decide which one is best for you.

**3 Make an appointment.** Once you've picked a program, call them to set up a time to meet with the staff, so they can start working on matching the child with a mentor.

Caregiver's Choice . . .  
it's as easy as one, two, three!

If you have questions or need more information, please call us at 877-333-CHOICE (877-333-2464) or e-mail us at [caregiverschoice@daremightythings.com](mailto:caregiverschoice@daremightythings.com).

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## Caregiver's CHOICE

Please complete the attached card  
and send back to:

Caregiver's Choice  
901 North Glebe Road, Suite 905  
Arlington, VA 22203



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**I AM INTERESTED!** Please contact me with additional information.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD \_\_\_\_\_

BEST TIME TO CALL \_\_\_\_\_

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# Caregiver's CHOICE

An innovative project connecting children of incarcerated parents to quality mentoring programs.

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