

Monroe County Reentry at Catholic Family Center
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Our Service Philosophy

Monroe County Reentry at CFC honestly believes the men and women we work with have valuable contributions to make to their communities, their families, and the people with whom they come in daily contact. Dignity, accountability and love are the key words of approach.

Monroe County Reentry at CFC believes every one of these persons is worth more than the worst thing he or she ever did. We make sure they know they are always welcome at our program. There is no "us" and "them" in our reentry services. Our job is not to "fix" anyone. Programs do not fix people; people heal themselves when they have the right environment, tools, support, motivation and time.

We acknowledge that our clients will achieve different levels of success, yet we will love each of them "where they are" and work from there. Regardless of the offense they may have committed, they have gone through an unbelievably brutal, humiliating and depressing time in prison. It can take a very long time for them to overcome this part of their lives. Some never do. We believe in the phrase "there but for the grace of God," so we make every effort to treat these folks with the same respect, dignity and love we expect for ourselves and our families.

We try always to have a sense of humor and a positive attitude. We can only provide tools. It is up to each of our clients to build the life he or she wants. The goal is for these men and women to become productive, safe, and self-directed individuals who understand their actions and their natural consequences. Therefore, we do not subject clients to rules or requirements beyond what is truly necessary for them to achieve their goals and adhere to their parole conditions. Allowing the "natural consequences" of one's actions to happen is sufficient. We lead by example, and we encourage the people we serve to do the same.

Whenever possible, Monroe County Reentry at CFC partners with programs that share our service philosophy. When engaging in program partnerships, we provide collaborating organizations with clear expectations of how service will be provided to men and women in reentry.

Furthermore, we understand absolutely that victims are deserving of our support. Keeping in mind that a large part of our role is to enhance public safety by helping ensure that people returning from prison do not commit any more crimes, we make an effort not to diminish the seriousness of the suffering of victims. We also remember, and ask others to understand, that our clients are often victims themselves.

We are not "junior" parole or probation officers. But we do seek to maintain a good, collegial working collaboration with Parole, Probation, law enforcement and Corrections. Our job is not to report information to law enforcement or community corrections unless we are required to do so. Our clients should understand that we are not an arm of corrections or law enforcement. Our concern is to support them in achieving success.

Our services are grounded in evidence-based reentry practices (the "Transition from Prison to Community" model), which include defined dynamic criminogenic factors and approved interventions. These appear below.

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Eight Evidence-Based Principles for Effective Reentry Interventions

- * Assess Actuarial Risks and Needs
- * Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
- * Target Interventions
- * Risk Principle: Prioritize supervision and treatment resources for higher risk offenders
- * Need Principle: Target interventions to criminogenic needs.
- * Responsivity Principle. Be responsive to temperament, learning style, motivation, culture, and gender when assigning programs
- * Dosage: Structure 40-70% of high-risk offenders' time for 3-9 months
- * Treatment: Integrate treatment into the full sentence and sanction requirements
- * Skill Train with Directed Practice (use cognitive behavioral treatment methods)
- * Increase Positive Reinforcement
- * Engage on-going support in natural communities
- * Measure relevant processes and practices
- * Provide Measurement feedback