

Seeds of Hope Jail Ministry, Inc.

Vision:

That incarcerated and recently released individuals have support and opportunities that help them have safe, stable and productive lives.

Seeds of Hope Overview

- History
- Vision/Mission
- Mentoring - Risks
- Risk management
- Why we do what we do

Seeds of Hope History

- Jail ministry - Gideon's
- Problem - cycle of recidivism
- Clyde Jackson - visiting churches 2005
- Meetings started - drafting of constitution/bylaws and articles of incorporation so we could form a non-profit corporation.

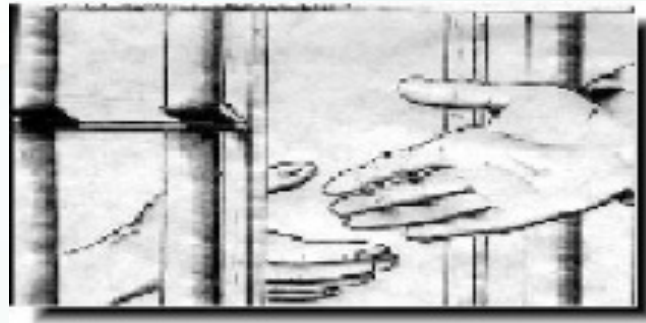
Seeds of Hope History

- Nonprofit Kansas Corporation established in August 2007.
- 501 C3 - IRS designation March 2008
- Started meeting at some local churches - Cornerstone and Garden Valley Church.
- Refining and defining how to accomplish our Mission.

Bylaws & Mission Statement

SOH is “a multi-denominational, faith based organization with a mission to served incarcerated and recently released members of our community. Through love, encouragement, and the life changing strength of Christ we first seek spiritual restoration followed by the practical meeting of temporal needs. This mission is accomplished by diligent evangelism, genuine discipleship, purposeful instruction and thoughtful guidance of the men and women we serve.”

Focus: Transforming lives by sharing God's Love.



Basic Mission: To help incarcerated and recently released individuals grow spiritually, intellectually and in character so that they can successfully transition out of the corrections system and become contributing members of their families and communities.

Seeds of Hope History

- 2009 - identity crisis as to what we could really do to positively accomplish our Mission.
- Out of that regular weekly meetings were set up at 1st Christian Church - design was to be a place where recently released persons could come for a support group and for business meetings.
- Result → focus bible study (The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict by Ken Sande) prayer and new direction.

History → Grants

- Becky Upshaw - work with the Prevention Center at the GCCC - found and did most of the leg for obtaining the grants.
- Garden City Alcohol Fund Advisory Committee → Crossroads Cognitive Behavior Training.
- GED Program - Collaborative project with Garden City Community College
- Compassion Kansas Grant - Capacity Building by Wichita State University Center for Community Support & Research

History → Grants

- **Compassion Kansas Grant:**
 - Training in Financial Planning
 - Training for Fundraising → Annual Day of Praise in the Park and a food booth at the annual Tumbleweed Festival
 - Helped with brochure development and revisions to vision and mission statement
- **Second Chance Reentry Initiative Program (SCRIMP) Grant - U.S. Department of Justice**
 - Mentoring program supported by client case management and job search assistance

Mentoring ?

- Why Mentoring - met with some local Judges. One suggested that instead of focusing on transitional housing, to focus on how to help the families. Mentoring is how lives are changed (by making disciples).
- Are there risks with mentoring?
 - Yes but anything worth while has risks.
 - Risks are managed by the law, insurance and training.

Laws that encourage volunteerism.

- Kansas Law KSA 60-3601 entitled “Immunity from Liability for Volunteers of Certain Nonprofit Organizations, Limitations” at (b) states:

If a nonprofit organization carries general liability insurance coverage a volunteer of such organization shall not be liable for damages in a civil action for acts or omission as such volunteer unless (1) Such conduct constitutes willful or wanton misconduct or intentionally tortious conduct; or (2) such volunteer is required to be insured by law or is otherwise insured against such acts or omission but, in such case, liability shall be only to the extent of the insurance coverage.

- Federal Law under the Volunteer Protection Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 14501-14505 Section 14503

Volunteer Protection Act (cont.)

In general, the Volunteer Protection Act states:

[N]o volunteer of a nonprofit organization or governmental entity shall be liable for harm caused by an act or omission of the volunteer on behalf of the organization or entity if-

- (1) the volunteer was acting within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities in the nonprofit organization or governmental entity at the time of the act or omission;
- (2) if appropriate or required, the volunteer was properly licensed, certified, or authorized by the appropriate authorities for the activities or practice in the State in which the harm occurred, where the activities were or practice was undertaken within the scope of the volunteer's responsibilities in the nonprofit organization or governmental entity;

Volunteer Protection Act (cont.)

- (3) the harm was not caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of the individual harmed by the volunteer; and
- (4) the harm was not caused by the volunteer operating a motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or other vehicle for which the State requires the operator or the owner of the vehicle, craft, or vessel to- (A) possess an operator's license; or (B) maintain insurance.

Bottom line: Volunteers are given some protections from ordinary negligence claims under these provisions.

Mentoring- summary

- Volunteering is encouraged by the law.
- Risks is managed by training and insurance.
- Chance to change lives and help the community
- We have freedom to do so.
- Government grant requirements (religious activities must be conducted at separate time OR location) come from 1st Amendment rights establishment clause and are balanced by the free exercise clause.
- How does this affect Mentoring?

Mentoring- summary (cont.)

- It is not “illegal” for a volunteer (not an employee) to share their faith with a Mentee. All that is at risk is the grant funding. As long as the “separate time OR place” rule is followed, grant funding should not be put at risk by “religious activity”.
- Not forcing our faith on others is really what’s required to comply with separate time OR place requirements of grant funding.



Thank you

For your interest in Seeds of Hope, in mentoring and in having a positive impact on our communities.