

Matthew 25:36 Prison Ministry @ Red Mountain United Methodist Church

Matthew 25:36 Prison Ministry will provide a \$1,500.00 Stipend for an ASU Criminal Justice Student Intern. We can also help to defray gas expenses up to a max. of \$500.00 reimbursement for related mileage.

1. **Matthew 25:36 Prison Ministry @ Red Mountain United Methodist Church**
2. Sallie Klum salliek@tedklummouthpieces.com or 603-315-1849 (cell)

or Karen Spencer-Barnes kspencerbarnes@gmail.com or 480-522-4946 (cell)
3. RMUMC 2936 Power Rd., Mesa, AZ 85215
4. RMUMC office 480-981-3833
5. rmumc@rmumc.com
6. www.RMUMC.com
7. Faith based organization
8. Women incarcerated @ Perryville Prison who are about to be released or are recently released
9. We would be thrilled to start with one intern with hopes of adding to that in the future as our program grows.
10. Please see below for a synopsis of our history

We are a part of RMUMC's social justice ministry. Our primary goal is to help women who are incarcerated at Perryville Women's Prison in Goodyear, Az. to develop insights and behaviors that will lead to: financial independence, successful personal relationships, and, above all, to avoid returning to prison. To that end, we have reduced the Az. state recidivism rate of 60% down to 6% among our pen pals who have become returning citizens. We began with a pen pal program. Today many returning citizens are now fast friends with their former pen pals and frequently enjoy sharing planned activities with many members of our congregation. With an emphasis on education, Matthew 25:36 has funded 65 GED scholarships at \$100. each since 2015. In addition, we have funded 7 scholarships through our collaborative work with Arizona Women's Work and Employment (AWEE) at the cost of \$2,650 each for women to pursue Peer Counseling Training and internships to enhance their job opportunities. These recipients had worked hard to better themselves and had already demonstrated their potential. They have since met with great success.

We are also pursuing a collaborative partnership with UMOM's new day program and their Women's center which should be completed this Spring. We are hoping that this facility will be able to offer a few of our returning citizens housing and numerous services to help them design a plan for their futures.

In late 2015, we were invited by AWEE to partner with them. We agreed to supply faith based mentors in an experimental program which is being funded by a grant from the Dept. Of Justice. This grant will provide services to 200 women from Perryville's medium and maximum security yards over the next two and a half years. Not a "give away", these services must be earned through study, consistent attendance, and demonstrated motivation and ability to "follow through". We already have mentors in training as well as mentors who are currently working with soon to be released and recently released returning citizens.

ASU Criminal Justice Intern will assist with the following:

1. Research available good job opportunities for returning inmates. Intern will research companies in the Tucson - Phoenix - Flagstaff corridors who will hire persons with a felony record.
2. Help the coordinator to recruit more potential mentors for our AWEE partnership and to assist in recruiting and training new pen pals.
3. Assist with grant research and grant writing to fund more community partnerships.
4. Be a legislative presence to keep our congregation informed of ways the legislature is addressing, or not addressing, prison reform and how we can more effectively respond.
5. Formulate a book with documentation about this prison ministry as a model for future faith-based communities.

As you can see there are many ways in which an intern could help us. I have listed only the top five priorities from an extensive long range list of possibilities. Our most urgent need, of course, is help to secure more and better job opportunities. We would hope to marry the selected intern's interests, skills, and experience with our needs in order to provide a meaningful experience for us both. I am confident that your intern would find us to be a group of dedicated, hard working, and cooperative people. This is such an exciting program and we look forward to sharing it with your students. Interested applicants should contact us to facilitate submission of the following:

1. Statement of reasons for applying.
2. Brief resume of related experience. (This need not be a formal business resume).
3. Academic record.

4. Statement of interests and skills applicant could bring to our combined efforts.

5. Arrangements for a personal interview.`