

Faith and Character Based Program



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MISSION

The Georgia Department of Corrections protects the public by operating safe and secure facilities through the development of professional staff and effective offender management.

Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner Inmate Services Division

The Faith & Character Based Program (FCB) is a holistic program, secular in nature, designed to equip its participants to explore and choose alternatives to criminal thinking and behavior through an emphasis on spiritual, moral, and character development and life skills training. The goal is to meet the needs of the offender population, their families and communities, enhance existing programs and involve the community in the re-entry efforts.

MISSION



To reduce recidivism through the utilization of faith-based and community partnerships that will support the offender's successful transition from custody to community.

VISION



To establish a network of government agencies, community, and faith-based organizations, businesses, and citizens committed to successful offender transition from custody into the community. To create a sustainable transition and reentry process that ensures coordinated services and supervision for offenders released from prison.

MILESTONES

- Began in 2004, with the support of the administration of President Bush, who proposed a four-year \$300 million initiative to reduce recidivism by harnessing resources and experience of faith-based community organizations.
- June 1, 2004, GDC implemented an FCB dormitory program at six facilities.
- In 2011, GDC commissioned Walker SP as Georgia's first FCB prison.
- Currently, there are a total of 18 faith and character- based sites.

MODEL

The GDC FCB model is nationally recognized.

- A National Institute of Corrections study in 2005 found that more than a third of state prison systems (41%) were operating or planning faith-based housing units.
- GDC has been one of the leading agencies in advising, promoting and supporting other states' FCB programming.

INFORMATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

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PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The Program consists of eight major components, which are divided into four phases. The components are Faith Enrichment, Character Building, Career planning and Workforce development, Academic Education, Leisure Skills, Substance Abuse, Cognitive Behavioral Programming, Community Service, and Family Relationships.

PHASE I-FOUNDATIONAL

- Offenders will be assessed to determine criminogenic risk and need in the eight component areas

PHASE II-DISCOVERY

- Offenders will explore their strengths and weaknesses.
- Programming, identified by the Next Generation Assessment will begin.

PHASE III-TRANSFORMATIONAL

- Offenders should begin to exhibit signs of change in many aspects of their lives.
- Participation in all programs from the Discovery phase will continue.

PHASE IV-TRANSITION

- Offenders learn to apply lessons learned from program to their community either on the outside or inside the facility.

GRADUATION



- All offenders participate in a formal graduation ceremony.
- Graduates returned to the general population within the facility and continue community development and discussion of future goals and projects.
- Some offenders from each graduating class volunteer as mentors to assist in a variety of areas within facilities.

FCB DORM



A specially designated living unit within a facility providing a pro-social, programmatic environment for change to those offenders who voluntarily request to participate in the program. The housing unit will foster moral & character development and cultivate pluralistic spiritual enrichment. This one-year program is guided by a program coordinator (counselor), chaplain, prison staff, and community volunteers.

FCB FACILITY: WALKER STATE PRISON

Walker State Prison is a specifically designed prison that provides a pro-social, programmatic environment for change to those offenders who voluntarily request to participate. The facility fosters moral and character development and cultivates spiritual enrichment.

CURRICULUM



- A two-year curriculum
- All core programming includes basic counselor and group facilitation of the following components:
 - Motivation for Change
 - Moral Reconciliation Therapy
 - Thinking for a Change
 - Effective Communication
 - Faith and Character Based Concept

APPLICATION



- Applications are made available in areas designated by the facility to include dorm bulletin boards, counseling, chaplaincy and officer workstations.
- Interested offenders must complete an application with a Counselor and/or Chaplain.
- Applications will be submitted for review of eligibility to the Facility Classification Committee.
- The Classification Committee will process a request reassignment to Walker FCB Prison of approved applicants with Offender Administration via SCRIBE.
- Applicants receive final approval at Walker State Prison

INFORMATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS