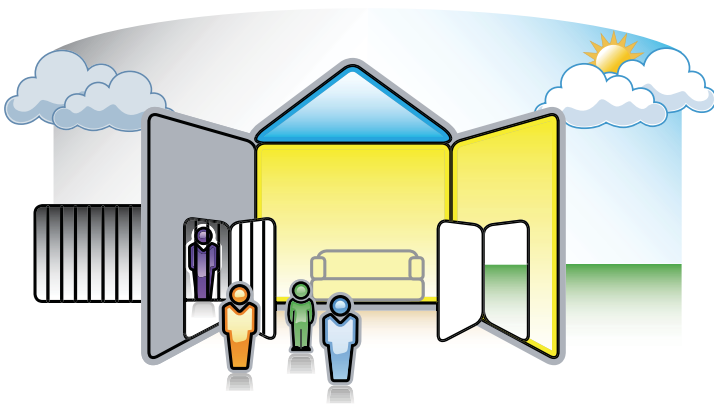




## Opening Doors® in the Family

**In Ohio about 50,000 children are impacted by a parent's incarceration. These children are the "Invisible Victims." It is the children who are left behind dealing with depression, low self-esteem, emotional withdrawal, often resulting in inappropriate or disruptive behavior at home and in school.**

Many studies show that unless caring adults intervene in their lives and offer support and encouragement, nearly 70% of these children will follow the path right to prison.



**Opening Doors in the Family helps these children.** The incarcerated parent identifies a co-parenting partner to go through the program with him or her. By combining family mediation with evidence-based curriculum and strategies, we help them to strengthen their family ties, improve communication and parenting skills, enrich their marriage (if applicable), and decide how best to support each other during incarceration and after the offender's release from prison. Through our collaborative partners, the children are offered mentoring and camp opportunities that can be life changing.

**And these children will be invisible victims no more.**



## Opening Doors® in the Family

### **What is the vision of Opening Doors?**

The vision of Opening Doors is to help those impacted by incarceration to build healthier relationships resulting in strengthened families, steady post-release employment, reduced recidivism and restored communities. We do this by creating effective partnerships with individuals, the faith community, the prisons, and the corporate community.

### **What is the mission of Opening Doors?**

Opening Doors of Ohio is a Christ-centered ministry that believes dramatic life transformation occurs when a healthy, loving community is experienced. Poor skills, social isolation and the absence of caring role models have often prevented those impacted by incarceration from developing healthy supportive relationships. When faith-based volunteers work together with prisons, families and corporate communities, lives are transformed, families are strengthened, and communities are restored.

### **Who qualifies for Opening Doors in the Family?**

Offenders who have completed an Opening Doors program are invited to participate. Opening Doors in the Family allows these individuals to use the new skills learned to build stronger, healthier family relationships.

### **How does it work?**

After an offender and his/her identified family support person have agreed to participate, the following curriculum and services are made available to them:

- Interactive Journal® for offender and family member
- Relationship skill building curriculum
- Parenting curriculum
- Family mediation
- Post-release mentoring
- Mentoring for children in the family
- Summer camp
- Employment support
- Case management

### **Who pays for these services?**

Opening Doors in the Family is supported by financial contributions from individuals, private foundations plus some grants so that the inmates and their families can participate in the program at no cost.