

## Volunteers help beat crime

### What Is Volunteers In Probation and Parole?

Volunteers in Probation and Parole is an organization designed to match one citizen volunteer with one offender who has been placed on probation or parole by the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas.

VIPP attempts to develop a positive, helping relationship between the volunteer and the probationer or parolee based upon a sense of common friendship and mutual trust. The volunteer attempts to be a nonauthoritative friend to the individual with whom he is matched.

The volunteer works under the supervision of the Court of Common Pleas and the Volunteer Coordinator. However, each volunteer is free to spend his time with the probationer in whatever constructive activities he desires.

### Goals of Volunteers In Probation and Parole

1. To foster a mutual, personal relationship between a volunteer and an offender.

2. To complement and to aid the official work of the Probation and Parole Department.

3. To provide a stable identity figure in the form of a volunteer friend for each assigned individual probationer or parolee.

4. To ease the adaptive move from the criminal sub-culture to a positive, productive, stable life-style.

5. To intensify the valuable direct contact with selected offenders.

6. To create a positive opportunity for concerned citizens to aid in reducing the crime rate in general; and to reduce the rate of recidivism (a probationer or parolee returning to crime.) in particular.

7. To provide better contacts with, and to help educate the general public as to the work of the Probation and Parole Department.

### Desirable Characteristics of Volunteers

Helpfulness - sensitivity to human feelings and needs

Integrity - a positive, stable role model

Patience - ability to continue in spite of frustration

Dedicated - can serve and contribute

"Listener" - will listen and hear, not preach

Responsible - can keep commitments

Reliable - can be trusted

Dependable - can be "counted upon"

### Commitment:

1. Do YOU have at least four hours a month to devote to a personal individualized program.

2. Can you work with a client through the entire length of his or her probation, from three to twenty-four months, varying upon the individual case?

If so then get in touch with Volunteers in Probation and Parole, 53 N. Duke St., (1st floor, rear), Lancaster, Pa., 17602. Phone (717) 299-3840.

"We can no longer rely on traditional methods to solve the problems arising in the administration of the criminal law. . . We cannot contend that the creation of the volunteer program will solve all of our problems; we can foresee, however, that it will be a substantial factor in preventing a repetition of criminal and delinquent conduct."

WILSON BUCHER, Judge  
Court of Common Pleas  
Lancaster, County, Pa.  
(Native of Marietta)

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