



Bridges To Life

Fact Sheet

*Healing Crime Victims. Rehabilitating Offenders.
Making Our Communities Safer.*

Bridges To Life (BTL) is a faith-based, restorative justice program for incarcerated men and women that reduces recidivism among program graduates and helps make our communities safer. BTL accomplishes this mission by utilizing a unique 14-week curriculum centered on *victim impact* and facilitated by volunteers.

Current Program Summary

In 2019, Bridges To Life completed over 200 projects in 107 prisons, juvenile, and alternative facilities with the assistance of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and other partners. More than 7,000 inmates graduated from the program with the help of 949 active volunteers, who contributed 87,950 service hours valued at over \$2,200,000 in-kind!

Recidivism Study Outcomes

Recidivism studies, conducted by BTL with the assistance of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), reveal that **over 84% of BTL graduates do not return to prison within three years after release**. BTL is one of the programs that has contributed to an overall decrease in recidivism in Texas, with a recidivism rate significantly lower than the average for the nation and for Texas.

Over 52,000 offenders have graduated from the BTL program since its inception, with the help of more than 3,000 volunteers. Bridges To Life has been conducted in 169 facilities, and its curriculum has been used in 12 other states and 6 foreign countries.

The Need for Bridges To Life

Reducing recidivism has significant economic and societal impact. The cost to the taxpayer to incarcerate an offender in a Texas prison over the length of the average sentence is approximately \$100,550. In 2019, the Bridges To Life program provided services to over 7,000 offenders, at a cost of \$200 per graduate. **BTL is making our communities safer and saving taxpayers millions of dollars every year.**

Program Recognition Highlights

Bridges To Life and its numerous volunteers are blessed to have received many awards and honors for their work in the restorative justice field and for the program's positive impact on victims, offenders, and the community. A complete list of these awards and media samples can be found on our website at www.bridgestolife.org.

Volunteers and Donors Needed

If you are a good listener with a willing heart, you can make a difference in the lives of others. BTL is always in need of dedicated volunteers to facilitate our curriculum, and all necessary training is provided. As a growing nonprofit organization, we also need your donations to support our ongoing service and success. To learn more, call 713-463-7200 or visit www.bridgestolife.org.

Founded in 1998, Bridges To Life is a faith-based nonprofit corporation exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.