



Hopeful Happenings

Helping inmates, ex-inmates, and their families in southwest Kansas have safe, stable, and productive lives.

Seeds of Hope Jail Ministry, Inc. Board of Directors

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Please call if you have financial management skills and can help meet this need.

First Crossroads Graduation Oct. 7, 2009

Three male Finney County jail inmates completed the first session of Crossroads anger management classes funded by the Garden City-Finney County Alcohol Fund Advisory Council.

For the first time ever, inmates in the Finney County jail have been offered the opportunity to participate in an evidence-based program to improve self-management skills and decrease re-incarceration rates. Crossroads is the same program offered to those on probation by Finney County Community Corrections staff members. Crossroads drug & alcohol classes will also be offered to inmates for the first time during the remaining months of 2009.

Changing thinking changes lives.

Numerous scientific studies have shown that cognitive-behavioral training like the Crossroads program makes it possible for those with problem behaviors to change their thought processes. This in turn enables them to alter their behavior patterns and significantly improve their lifestyle.

Housing an inmate in a state prison costs an average of \$24,000 annually. Accord-

ing to John Vratil, Republican vice president of the Kansas Senate and chair its Judiciary Committee, "Research has shown that by using new technologies and treatment strategies, community corrections programs can cut rates of repeat offenses by 25 percent. Rather than claiming new victims, these offenders have a decent shot at rejoining society, paying taxes and supporting their children."

Research also shows that the children of prisoners are five to six times more likely to become prisoners themselves later in life than their peers whose parents aren't incarcerated. Helping prisoners makes our communities safer because ex-prisoners who are working and supporting their families are much less likely to return to a life of crime.

Become part of the solution.

For more information on how you can get involved in Seeds of Hope, call us or go to www.ksrpc-southwest.org/events.html#SOH.