### Illinois-Logo-Full-Color-RGB Education Justice Project

**Chicago/Community Anti-Violence Education (C.A.V.E.)**

**Due March 1st**

**About C.A.V.E.**

Thank you for your interest in the Education Justice Project’s Chicago/Community Anti-Violence Education program. We are grateful that you want to learn more about this exciting program.

C.A.V.E. started in 2010 when students of the Education Justice Project expressed a desire to contribute to putting an end to violence on the streets of Chicago. They were especially concerned about the impact of violence on Chicago youth. Committing themselves to work slowly and deliberately through literature on urban violence, human development, and various intervention models, they selected a curriculum, proposed a program, and recruited members. Full implementation of C.A.V.E. began in fall 2014, reaching out to other incarcerated men at the Danville Correctional Center. This is our mission statement:

“C.A.V.E. is a peer-driven anti-violence program that empowers incarcerated men through mentoring, education, and character-building to return to their communities as peacemakers.”

They seek your participation in their work. Outside members (i.e., those who are not incarcerated) will serve the program as facilitators alongside the EJP students.

C.A.V.E. has adopted a structured but open-ended counseling curriculum rooted in understanding trauma, with room for input from everyone. The program consists of regular meetings at the prison with both EJP students and men from the prison population who commit to completing a year of meetings, and to continuing contact with released EJP students once they are released. Everyone who works with C.A.V.E. will be expected to go through a training program and to contribute to shaping the training for future members.

C.A.V.E. has been meeting on Monday evenings and Friday mornings at the prison. This will not necessarily be the schedule permanently; that will depend on prison scheduling and the availability of C.A.V.E. members. The outside C.A.V.E. members also meet online every other week.

**2023 - 2024 COVID-19 Protocol at the Prison**

To help keep our members safe EJP and the state of Illinois have implemented the following safety precautions:

* **Vaccination** –The prison requires submissions of proof of COVID-19 vaccination;
* **Masks** – EJP encourages you to double mask, by wearing your own mask, brought from home, on top of any supplied by the prison;
* **Social Distancing** – Members maintain 3-feet social distancing at the prison when possible.

**Application Process**

Please take several minutes to fill out this form and provide some information about yourself. If possible, fill it out in a word processing program so that your answers can be as extensive and complete as possible. We want to know more about you.

There are no special qualifications for being a member of C.A.V.E. We are looking generally for seriousness of purpose, sophistication about the social contexts that incarcerated people come from (particularly in Chicago), and commitment to anti-violence. Flexibility, humility, a high level of emotional intelligence, and the ability to work collaboratively will be helpful. Both men and women are welcome to apply. You must have a bachelor’s degree. Experience in violence prevention work, with programs for young adults, or therapeutic or counseling experience is not necessary, but beneficial.

All applications are welcome. However, because EJP aims to create a supportive learning environment for our incarcerated students, we especially encourage applications from individuals whose backgrounds align with those of our students. This includes members of racial minority groups, first-generation degree holders, and individuals from low socioeconomic status backgrounds. Please note that the educational offices are on the second floor of the prison and that there is no elevator.

According to Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) policy, if you are formerly incarcerated within Illinois or are actively visiting a friend or family who is incarcerated in IDOC, it is unlikely you will be able to receive IDOC clearance. Unfortunately, this is beyond our control.

Completion of Department of Corrections clearance application, a lengthy process, is required for all C.A.V.E. members. It includes paperwork and at least two visits to the prison.

After we receive your form, we will contact you to discuss your application. Those who end up working with the program will be required to attend a half-day training (online) and review and demonstrate knowledge of the C.A.V.E. handbook.

Thank you again.

C.A.V.E. Facilitators

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | Email: |
| Phone: | Mailing Address: |

1. How did you hear about the Education Justice Project?
2. What interests you about getting involved with EJP and C.A.V.E.?
3. What commitment do you have to nonviolence?
4. What experience do you bring working with issues of:  a) mass incarceration b) mental health c) violence prevention?  Please answer for all 3.
5. EJP represents a significant time commitment. Are you able to participate at least once every week in C.A.V.E. meetings at the prison, in addition to attending other EJP events at least once every two weeks?
6. Please tell us anything else you’d like to share about your personal background that you haven’t addressed yet.

Please send this form, along with three names and phone numbers for personal and/or professional references to [cave@educationjustice.net](mailto:cave@educationjustice.net).

Education Justice Project

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References: