

We are there when the Core Member needs our support.

Core Member Criteria:

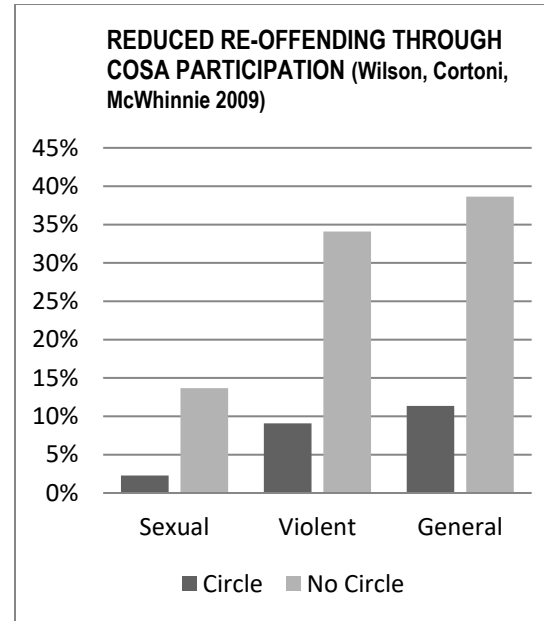
If you are a person serving time in, or recently released from, a prison for a sexual offence and:

- ❖ Have decided to move to the Vancouver/Fraser Valley area
- ❖ Are committed to not reoffend
- ❖ Have little or no support in the community

And . . .

If you are willing to enter into an agreement with members of your community, who in turn promise to work with you to achieve these goals, then Vancouver/Fraser Valley Circles of Support and Accountability may be able to help you.

2009 study results show CoSA effectiveness



MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal is to substantially reduce the risk of sexual victimization of community members by assisting and supporting released individuals in their task of integrating with the community, and leading responsible, productive and accountable lives.

For more information call:

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VFV CoSA

Vancouver / Fraser Valley



Keeping our

Communities Safe

Supporting

Released Offenders

in the Community

A program of
Catholic Justice Services Society

Program Coordinator: 604-791-1864

What is CoSA?

Vancouver/Fraser Valley Circles of Support and Accountability (VFV CoSA) is a community based volunteer program that assists people who have committed a sexual offence on their release from prison.

VFV CoSA works with released individuals who reside in the area from Vancouver to Hope and who meet the program criteria.

Each of these persons, whom we call a "Core Member", has a Circle of screened and trained volunteers. The Circle meets regularly and each of the volunteers commits to support, befriend and hold accountable the Core Member so that they may reintegrate successfully creating safer communities. The volunteer support includes helping the Core Member work with the concerns of community, police and media.

Our Volunteers:

VFV CoSA volunteers are individuals from all walks of life who are willing to help individuals who have committed sexual offences adjust to responsible community living. They believe that former offenders can live law-abiding lives when they are assisted and motivated. They are not paid professionals, nor members of Correctional Services of Canada.

Our volunteers are often faith-based, however it is not their role to proselytize, nor is there a requirement or expectation that Core Members be faith-based persons.

Our sole agenda is expressed in our values:

"No More Victims"
"No One Does This Alone"
"No One is Disposable"
"Community Safety"

Practically Speaking . . .



**Building a CoSA is Building
Community**

Our Core Members:

- ❖ Are men and women who voluntarily participate in the CoSA program and commit not to re-offend in any way.
- ❖ Are committed to being honest with his/her Circle. (In turn we commit to being honest with him/her.)
- ❖ Are aware of his/her offence cycle, and voluntarily choose to thoroughly discuss it with us.
- ❖ Are willing to be held accountable, understanding that we will not judge him/her.
- ❖ Are willing to live by any special conditions the police and courts may set. We will do our best to help him/her live responsibly within them.

When the Core Member and the Circle can agree on these conditions, a covenant is drafted and signed by all parties. It is not a legal document, but it is agreed to be binding to the Circle.