



In North Carolina, 2,000 children are wounded each year by the loss of their mothers before they are old enough to understand the difference between incarceration and abandonment.

Why is regular visitation with their mothers important to the well-being of children?

“Because a great many losses experienced by children occur during their years of magical thinking, and because school-age youngsters and adolescents are likely to revert back to this earlier kind of reasoning, a vast majority of children assume that they are in some way responsible for this loss...’I was so bad’ or ‘I was so unlovable that EVEN MY OWN PARENT didn’t want to be around me.’”

“Children’s needs are insatiable in the sense that they need their parents continuously throughout childhood...It takes 15 years before nature will awaken the urges to leave home and parents...In abandonment the order of nature is reversed...The preciousness and uniqueness which every human child possesses is destroyed through abandonment...The child is alone and alienated. Abandonment creates a shame-based core.”

children of incarcerated mothers need...

Reassurance that they are still loved by their mothers.

Reassurance that their mothers are safe and no harm has come to her.

Reassurance that they are not responsible for their mothers being taken away because of a “bad thought” or “bad behavior”.

A regularly scheduled visit time to reduce their fear that they may never see their mothers again.

A visit to their mothers in a pleasant setting to counteract fears that may develop from television and movie images of jails and prisons.

Volunteering for MATCH

Where will I be volunteering?

The MATCH Center is located on the grounds of the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women, but it is not accessible to the inmate population. The MATCH Center is a warm, comfortable, and non-threatening home-like environment that is designed to make children feel comfortable with their mothers. All visits supervised by volunteers take place within the MATCH Center.

What will I be doing?

MATCH needs volunteers in a variety of areas. The majority of our volunteers supervise three-hour visits between MATCH Moms and their children in the MATCH Center. Because correctional officers are not present during the visit, volunteers observe the visit and record their observations. Volunteers are there to make the visit possible, ensure that prison regulations are followed, and provide back-up support to the mother if needed during the visit. We also have volunteers from across the state who provide transportation for children whose caregivers are not able to bring them to Raleigh. Volunteers may also help with special events, such as our annual Mother's Day Dinner and Winter Celebration, or speak to groups about MATCH. Volunteers can also serve on the MATCH Board of Directors.

How often will I volunteer?

MATCH asks for a one year commitment with a minimum of three hours of volunteering per month, which could consist of supervision of one visit per month or transporting for one visit per month. Your time is scheduled at your convenience. Most visits during the school year occur on the weekends, although we do have a few weekday visits each month. During the summer and at the time of the Winter Celebration, we have more weekday visits.

How do I become a volunteer?

In order to become a volunteer with MATCH, you must complete the volunteer training offered by the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women (NCCIW) as well as MATCH Training. You will also have a criminal background check reviewed by the prison. This clears you for entry to the prison and is required for all prison staff and volunteers. As a new volunteer, you will work with experienced volunteers and staff for your first three visits. There will always be a minimum of two volunteers present when you are in the presence of inmates. Transportation only volunteers do not have to complete prison or MATCH training but must pass a criminal background check.

How will my contribution of time help MATCH mothers and their children?

Your service with MATCH will be a crucial link in re-establishing and maintaining the vital bond between a mother and her children. This lessens the children's sense of abandonment and strengthens their sense of family security. It allows the mothers to be an active parent and a positive influence in the child's life.

Mothers and Their Children
P. O. Box 14469
Raleigh, NC 27620-4469
(919) 828-4767



Volunteer Application

Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Day Phone: (____) _____ Evening Phone (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Gender: _____ Race: _____ Date of Birth: _____

This information for the background check will be blacked out after use:

Social Sec #: _____ Driver's License #: _____ State: _____

What paid or volunteer experience you have had in the past five years?

Why are you interested in volunteering with MATCH?

References (Please provide two)

1) Name _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone _____ Relationship _____

2) Name _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone _____ Relationship _____

(More on Back Side...)

Volunteer Opportunities with MATCH

Involvement with MATCH as a volunteer can be at a variety of commitment levels. We value your assistance at any level that you feel is appropriate to your time and lifestyle. Your help is vital to the success of the MATCH Program. Please take a moment to identify ways in which you would enjoy working with us.

Level I: COMMUNITY WORK (Training provided by MATCH)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talk with small groups about MATCH | <input type="checkbox"/> Donate frequent flyer miles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Search grant opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Write grant applications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organize and support fundraisers/donation drives | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invite MATCH to come speak to your organization, club, church or other meeting or group | |

Level II: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Training provided by MATCH; involves 8 meetings/year in Raleigh and/or committee work)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Committee | |

Level III: PROGRAM ASSISTANCE (Training provided by MATCH; some must also receive NCCIW training.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supervise Visits | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with special events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transport children | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertain/Assist Out-of-State Families Visiting in Raleigh (lodging is provided by MATCH) | |

Please indicate the days and times you are available to volunteer with us:

Days	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Morning (9am-12pm)							
Afternoon (12pm-3pm)							
Evening (3pm-6pm)							

**On behalf of all the mothers and their children,
THANK YOU for your interest in MATCH!**