



# Bridges To Life

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

## **Who We Are**

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. **Over 85,000 offenders have graduated from the BTL program since inception, with the help of more than 3,800 volunteers.** Bridges To Life has been conducted in 234 facilities, and its curriculum has been used in 17 states and 7 countries.

*In 2024, the Bridges To Life program will be conducted in over 120 prisons and alternative facilities, graduating more than 7,700 participants from the program.*

## **Why We're Needed**

The goal of the BTL program is to effect a transformation in the minds and hearts of offenders so that, once released, they will not return to their former life of crime. This reduction in recidivism has significant economic and societal impact, saving taxpayer dollars and making our communities safer. The cost to the taxpayer to incarcerate an offender in a Texas prison over the length of the average sentence is approximately \$105,000, and that is without the collateral costs of judicial process prior to incarceration.

*The cost of the Bridges To Life program in 2023 was \$186 per graduate.*

## **What We've Accomplished**

The BTL program has proven to reduce recidivism, which is the rate at which released offenders return to prison. A 2020 National Police Foundation independent research study compared the recidivism rates of a group of released offenders who had not taken the BTL program while incarcerated, with a matching group of BTL graduates. The study found that BTL significantly decreased the overall recidivism rate. Most notably, only 1.4% of released BTL graduates were reincarcerated for a violent crime, compared to 3.7% of the non-BTL group. Furthermore, the most recent recidivism studies of BTL graduates compiled with the assistance of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice reveal that:

*Over 86% of BTL graduates do not return to prison within 3 years after release!*

## **How You Can Help**

BTL always welcomes new **volunteers** to assist with the program, and all necessary training is provided. Your **financial support** will ensure BTL's continued impact in Texas and beyond.

**To learn more about how you can make a difference in the lives of others,  
call 713-463-7200 or visit [www.bridgestolife.org](http://www.bridgestolife.org).**