

B.A.S.I.C.S.

BAR ASSOCIATION SUPPORT TO IMPROVE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Promoting citizenship & protecting society

In 1976, when Chief Justice Warren Burger, of the U.S. Supreme Court, challenged this nation's lawyers to become more involved in making improvements in the criminal justice system, no one could have foreseen that the BASICS program, established by the State Bar of Georgia, would survive for 30 years. But, as it begins its 31st year, we can proudly report that BASICS has survived and has been successful in its mission to improve our communities by helping reduce recidivism in the criminal justice system.

Although the BASICS Program provides services to inmates in the diversion and transition centers of the Georgia Department of Corrections, budgetary and political considerations impact the funding available to the program from the state of Georgia. Consequently, state financial support for BASICS is sporadic, making it necessary for BASICS to continually solicit private funding to carry out its mission.

The BASICS program has survived because of the sincerity of the inmate participants and their willingness to apply to their everyday lives the values they have learned from the BASICS program. Over the course of the last 30 years, BASICS has presented the "World of Works" curriculum to over 10,000 Georgia prison inmates. These inmates have returned to our society as contributing citizens, better able to secure and maintain steady employment and less likely to return to a life of crime. Some former inmates have even been inspired to start their own businesses after completing the BASICS program. Among the records available from the Department of Corrections, BASICS graduates have a recidivism rate of only 16 percent!! The BASICS program is very effective and contributes much to the criminal justice system, and ultimately, performs a great service for our society.

With a recidivism rate of around 16 percent, and a cost per inmate of considerably less than \$1,000, this program is an outstanding example of what education and training can do for everyone. Please consider donating to this worthy program. You can do so by clicking [here](#), and scrolling down to BASICS. Or by mailing your contribution to Lawyers Foundation of Georgia, 104 Marietta St. NW, Suite 630, Atlanta, GA 30303.