

## **Responsible Fathers' Program Implemented In Massachusetts Jail**

A program that will challenge incarcerated fathers to make a difference in their children's lives has been implemented at the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow, Mass.

Encouraged by Sheriff Michael J. Ashe, Jr., the program was implemented at the facility in November.

Ashe said the father's responsibilities within the family structure are the primary focus of the Father's Work Program. Its objectives include:

- Targeting the distorted thinking related to not taking responsibility for the support and development of children.
- Establishing the importance of a father's role in the development of children.
- Challenging inmates to connect their past experience with their father to their present situation of incarceration and their own role as a father. Inmates will also learn to look at their children's future and see how their behavior is influenced by their role as the father.

Program participants will develop an action plan for establishing and strengthening their role and relationship as a father with their children, provided the children's legal guardian agrees.

Male inmates who are fathers will participate in five sessions of two hours each.