Mission Statement

As an in-prison organization, all of our members have been removed from the community for making bad decisions and bad choices resulting in their incarceration. With this in mind, our mission is to promote in these men a desire to change for the better while they are still in prison, so that they may live more productive, law-abiding lives upon returning to their respective communities. To this end, we strive to re-instill in these men such values as personal responsibility, respect for authority, and respect for others. Also, in order that they might begin to feel part of a greater whole, we place great emphasis on trying to make amends by giving back, wherever possible, to the communities that we harmed and left behind.

We operate on the premise that, in order to respect others, one must first respect himself. So, in order to build self-respect in our members, we do all we can to instill in these men a pride in our history, a love of our culture and a desire to live as positive examples of our Hispanic heritage. We try hard to strip away the negativity of criminal thinking and replace it with more positive thoughts and dreams. By more fully embracing our Hispanic traditions and values, we believe that our members can and will leave prison better equipped to live honorably and at peace with their neighbors upon their release.

About the Club

Among the activities we sponsor are presentations by outside guests who emphasize reconnecting our members to their cultural identity and historical roots. Some of these guests are teachers, some are business leaders, and others are community activists. No matter their background, however, these volunteers serve as the backbone of our effort to change our members’ lives for the better. They not only teach us about historical figures that overcame great odds to make meaningful contributions in this life. But, through the kindness and caring spirit they extend to our members, they impart hope and encouragement to those genuinely interested in turning their lives around.

We also sponsor a youth mentorship program, CHOICES, that allows us a unique opportunity to give back to the community in a deeply meaningful way. This program is dedicated to empowering interested teenagers to make better decisions and choices in their lives by sharing face-to-face with them the pitfalls of substance abuse, criminal thinking, and criminal behavior.

Drawing on our own firsthand experiences on the consequences of bad decisions, we meet with these youths on a monthly basis, emphasizing to them that they do have a choice concerning the kind of lifestyle they end up living.

The Latino Club provides valuable information-sharing services and special interest programs for the benefit of the Spanish-speaking population here inside the prison.