

The News-Sentinel

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

New agency to offer help to young offenders

From staff reports

Reaching youth who have already made mistakes in life but have yet to spiral into a cycle of behavior that endangers public safety and eats up tax money is the goal of a nonprofit organization coming to Fort Wayne.

On Sept. 18, Miami-based ARISE will teach the 40-45 officers and sergeants at Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility, 7117 Venture Lane, a life-skills program they can then

pass on to the 100 or so at-risk male youths there.

"ARISE's Intervention/Re-entry and Staff Training Program is designed specifically to tenderize tough youth," said Edmund F. Benson, the organization's co-founder. "ARISE protects public safety by preparing offenders for their eventual reintegration into the community. We know it saves communities money and prevents crime."

Listening and opening lines of positive communication are central to the program, which teaches everything from job skills to parenting and social skills.

Since 1986, ARISE has trained more than 3,000 instructors on its program, who have gone on to teach its life skills to more than 500,000 youths nationwide.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility opened in 1992.
