

FOR SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS GENEROUSLY
WITH OTHER WOMEN

A MENTORING AWARD

The rates of females in custody is increasing, as are the rates of recidivism. THE WOMEN IN PRISON ADVOCACY NETWORK (WIPAN) provide gender-specific social support through their volunteer Mentoring program. Ashley Thomson, as a mentor, uses her expertise as an occupational therapist for young people with mental health disorders to extend the WIPAN profile.

Her willingness and passion, for social justice and for women, is both memorable and inspirational, and is the reason she is so successful as a mentor. Her first 'mentee' was a long-time recidivist – a young woman who had endured decades of trauma prior to entering the criminal justice system. The two formed a genuine, yet professional, friendship and Ashleigh's mentee thrived, and is now living independently.

Ashleigh Thomson goes above and beyond the requirements of her role, and is a splendid example of a feminist mentor.

She regards empowering women as more than adequate payment for her volunteer role.



ASHLEIGH THOMSON