



Supporting Children With A Parent In Prison



Winter 2021 Newsletter

ExtraGive! Was Extra Successful!



Ambassadors for Hope had its most successful ExtraGive fundraising campaign, ultimately receiving \$10,041.72. Everyone associated with Ambassadors for Hope greatly appreciates the incredible generosity of the community and we look forward to using these funds to provide needed resources for children with a parent in prison.

Plans for these funds include:

- Help with stopgap childcare for caregivers who are applying to the Early Learning Resource Center
- Funds to help pay for before and after school programs, summer day camps and other positive activities
- Assistance to meet emergency needs, especially to prevent homelessness
- Car seats and cribs when needs arise suddenly
- Age-appropriate books to help children with a parent in prison better understand their situation

- Writing materials and stamps so that children and incarcerated parents can maintain positive connections
- Printed materials for caregivers to help them handle the challenges they face
- Recordable bears

The Family Services Advocate at Compass Mark will handle requests for financial resources. If you become aware of persons dealing with parental incarceration who require assistance, please make a referral to the FSA by calling 717-299-2831.

Family Service Advocate Report



During the winter months, the work of the Family Services Advocate has been challenged by the continued COVID19 pandemic, which has greatly affected both inmates and staff at the Lancaster County Prison. This program, housed at Compass Mark, has had no access to the prison for 11 months, raising serious concern over the breakdown of the referral process. The need for children to be identified and supported during their parent's incarceration is a need that has not changed due to COVID. In fact, this need only grows as youth mental health declines and youth suicidality has increased significantly as a direct result of COVID. The Family Services Advocate will continue to pursue other ways to identify the children of the incarcerated outside of the prison. To refer a child with a parent in prison, or their caregiver, contact Lindsey Ober, the Family Services Advocate at Compass Mark, at 717-299-2831.

Additionally, for the last 10 months, parents and children have not been able to visit either in person or through video. There remains an overwhelming amount of need for the children to be connected to, or communicate with, the incarcerated parent when

able. Ambassadors for Hope will be providing the Family Services Advocate with writing materials and stamps to facilitate parent-child contact when appropriate.

Incarceration Affects Many Families



Research done by the bi-partisan FWD.us in partnership with Cornell University has found that one in five Americans has had a parent incarcerated in a prison or jail. Rates of family incarceration are higher among African American families and among families with low income. Incarceration of a family member is associated with personal, financial, and emotional costs. Check out the details in the article found on the Equal Justice Initiative website.

[Read the whole article](#)

Contact us:

Ambassadors for Hope: Supporting Children with a Parent
in Prison

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