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### HISTORY OF LIVING STONES

Living Stones International (LSI) delivers a comprehensive, multi-component, program developed to address the effects of parent incarceration on children and their families. Services include one-toone, group and mentoring services to justice-involved youth who are fathers and mothers.



Co-founder Pastor Gary & Elder Josephine Montgomery

Also as an agency with The Service Network: Children of Inmates' Program in Miami, Florida, Living Stones is tasked to provide in-care coordination and special bonding visits between children and their incarcerated parents.



The following is a summary of program and services LSI is performing in the Big Bend region:

# THE ISSUES

#### **Children of Value (COVE)**

- Free after school program featuring academic tutoring, mentorship, group talk, arts activities and education.
- Participants receive transportation to LSI, nutritious snacks and a safe, supervised environment.
- COVE meets four times weekly.

#### **Children of Inmates**

• Takes children and families to visit and bond with moms and dads in state prison facilities quarterly.



**Growing Together** 

- Gardening program created in partnership with Florida A & M University.
- Growing together combines family-time with healthy nutrition and outdoor exercise.

#### Parents Engaged for Life

- Helps parents to understand that health family environments lead to healthy, productive children.
- LSI utilizes a number of curricula that will aid parents with tips, setting boundaries, better communications, and providing the level of support their children and families need to thrive and survive.

## SOLUTIONS

Program goals are:

- Improving behavioral health outcomes (such as substance abuse, delinquency and mental health) for youth age 5 to 17
- Increasing family strengths & resilience and reducing risk factors for problem behaviors in high-risk children.
- Improving family relationships, parenting skills, and the children's social and life skills.



Children & Families in the program experience:

- · Less antisocial behavior
- Better grades and test scores
- Less involvement with abusing drugs & alcohol

