Living Stones International

A Children and Family Outreach Ministry

October 2, 2013





They have a secret. . .

And pray you don't find out?



As Nana, I often ask our grandchildren what they want to be when they grow up. Since they were little tykes, I always instilled in them to be an engineer, inventor, or a scientist. When my oldest grandson was seven and I asked him the same question, he repeated the known answers-engineer, inventor, and scientist. But then he asked me could he be one more thing and I asked what is it? He said with his eyes twinkling and his gaze locked on my eyes "could he be a fireman, too? Of course, I said.

How many children are given choices? Or how many children even know they have choices? My children were always given the opportunity to decide for themselves what they wanted to be when they grew up. They lived on fertile soil and I see the same type of soil that my children are cultivating with their own children, our grandchildren.

Yet there are children who may never know their potential, because they're not being cultivated, nurtured, nor sown seeds of opportunity. That's why Living Stones has a passion for children.

Now I can let you in on the secret these children have that you may not know about.

Children of Inmates' Program *

70% of Children Going to Prison



1) We need your prayers.

Prayers do work and we need you to keep Living Stones in your daily prayer.

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2) We need financial gifts.

It does take resources for trip after events, toys, games, an food for the bonding parenting program. It can be reasonable and simple as paying for a cup of Java.

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We need Y-O-U.

You make the difference in a child's life as a mentor or tuto Try it today.

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The secret is "they have an incarcerated parent." Statistics says such a child is seven times more likely than his or her peers to be incarcerated, as well. Yet, like other children, children of incarcerated parents enter social service systems for some of the same reasons ~ poverty, learning deficits, or misbehavior. That is one of the reasons Living Stones was inducted into the Service Network: Children of Inmates. We became a Care Coordinator and a role model for so many children.

What do we need?

Well number one we need your prayers. Our program is now expanding into Gadsden (women) and Liberty CI. That means the 60 children we now help will probably double by year end 2013 to 120.

Number two we need financial resources. It takes approximately \$3,000 to make one trip--how about multiplying that times four prisons.

Number three we need Y-O-U. The care coordination is not only about providing services, but being a mentor, tutor, and giver of hope.

As a monthly recurring giver, you assure our ministry has the needed funds to increase the services to other children. It's worth giving up that extra cup of Java or two. Just \$25 per month is less than a cup of coffee for five days (brand name).



Did you know that incarcerated parents in state prisons within the counties of Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, and Wakulla are parents to 14,400 children statewide? That does not include those children whose parents are in jail or federal prison. That's a lot of children not being cultivated with hope or encouragement.

 $14,400 \times 70\% = 10,080$ children have potential of following in their parent's footsteps.

Disturbing isn't it. Living Stones is here to state emphatically that our work with these children and the research and six years of programs and services from The Service Network: Children of Inmates proves otherwise. The Department of Corrections thinks so too.

Sign up today as a volunteer. <u>Click here</u> to fill out the application online or the quick response email. Your heart will never be the same again.

Thanks to our supporters, volunteers, and interns.

Become Stones Builders with us,

Josephine Gamboa-Montgomery Executive Director



* Living Stones is a voting member of the Service Network based in South Florida and as a member, we are responsible for establishing bonding visits between children and their incarcerated parents in North Florida State Prisons. The program called The Children of Inmates has provided quarterly bonding visits for the last six years a state prisons throughout mainly South Florida and now North Florida.

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