



JAIL & OUTREACH MINISTRY

Oakland County MI
Jail Chaplaincy

Volume II Number 1

Justice...heals

"When a heart beats with compassion, God is there."



Cameron's mom donating baskets to JOM-Margaret D and her niece.

MEET CAMERON'S MOM DURING EASTER 2016... A COMPASSIONATE HEART

Cameron, a five month old baby boy was a joy to his parents. Just imagine the dreams of young parents for their first born. A very unexpected and sad event happened on December 26, 2015. Cameron was taking a nap and died in his sleep.

A mom wanted to do something in her child's name. Cameron's mom created, solicited, and donated 40 Easter Baskets in Cameron's name to the children of victims and offenders. We thank God for Cameron, his parents, and all who share their compassionate heart with others.



GETTING READY FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

MEET JOHN MITTELSTADT, OUR LUTHERAN LAYMAN OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to John Mittelstadt, Lutheran Layman of the Year.

John Mittelstadt has been honored as Detroit Area Lutheran Layman of the year.

"He was selected for his service with South Oakland Shelter, Oktoberfest, Jail & Prison Ministry, and his portfolio of Christian art work, frequently featured in galleries and exhibits throughout the state of Michigan."

John shares his life, art, and wisdom on a regular basis with Oakland County Jail Ministry, Jail and Outreach Ministry Board, assisting with our website, and various projects.

John is most willing to serve where needed....and invites others to join him in jail ministry.

Thank you and Congratulations!!!



Justice...heals

CHILDREN AND THE INCARCERATED

In our previous newsletter, we mentioned a 7 year old visiting JOM Outreach. At the time, the child was suspended from school and expressed his desire to have a “prison home.” (Fall/Winter 2015) Basically, he was saying he wanted to live with his favorite uncle in prison. We could examine restorative practices vs zero tolerance in the school system or how we try to understand a child that is acting out. It was that experience of a seven year old child in our JOM Office that led to the focus article in this issue on children and the incarcerated in this newsletter.

(Fall/Winter 2016)

VIOLENCE AND TRAGEDY...PEACE AND HEALING...

All of us are called to be involved in the work of peace.



Now, as we are getting close to publishing this newsletter, our life and images are filled with the tragedy of Florida, Dallas, Louisiana, St Paul, Tennessee, the west side of Michigan, and many others. The grief and pain is palpable locally, across the country, and touches our world. In the midst of all this tragedy, how do we create and honor peace in the midst of so much violence? Where am I in the midst of so much violence?

Let us pray for healing, safety, trust, mercy, and peace for all!

Justice Heals...

Prayer for Healing

“Where wholeness is splintered or shattered

Goodness damaged or marred,

And beauty bruised or broken,

We ask for healing and deep peace

Be healing balm for this world:

For all people, creatures,

Places, events, and for the environment

We welcome the touch of

Your Healing Love

And Gentle Presence...”

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

The full report, ***A Shared Sentence - The Devastating Toll of Parental Incarceration on Kids, Families and Communities***, is available at: <http://www.aecf.org/resources/a-shared-sentence/>

A SHARED SENTENCE THE DEVASTATING TOLL OF PARENTAL INCARCERATION ON OUR KIDS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

“In America’s age of mass incarceration, millions of children are suffering the consequences of their parents’ sentences and our nation’s tough on crime practices.”

The Annie E Casey Foundation www.aecf.org

This article in the 2016 JOM Newsletter is based upon the Annie E Casey research and experiences of Jail and Outreach Ministry-Pontiac MI. JOM article prepared by Pierre Flajole, Doug Zande, and Peggy Devaney, IHM

WE ARE NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD...

THE UNITED STATES HAS MASS INCARCERATION- 2.2 MILLION BEHIND BARS

For those of us who have been involved with the Jail and Outreach Ministry (JOM), and its mission and goals for any time, we are well aware of some of the incarceration statistics of the United States. While the US has only 5 percent of the world's population, it has nearly 25 percent of its prisoners — about 2.2 million people (2014 data). We have all heard it reported that no other country in the world imprisons its citizens as we do in the United States. Over the past four decades, the nation's get-tough-on-crime policies have packed prisons and jails to the bursting point, largely with poor, uneducated people of color, about half of whom suffer from mental health problems and various addictions

IS THERE A COST FOR ALL OF US TO HAVE MILLIONS OF CHILDREN SUFFERING THE ABSENCES AND CONSEQUENCES OF INCARCERATION?

This startling reality has cost U.S. society in many ways. There is no question that our country’s practice of mass incarceration is flawed, costly and in need of change. Policymakers on both sides of the aisle have pushed for better solutions, and several states have overhauled their correctional systems, favoring less costly alternatives for addressing nonviolent offenses, while maintaining public safety.

MASS INCARCERATION HAS CONSEQUENCES

A recent report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation discusses a largely untold consideration in America’s age of mass incarceration; that millions of children are suffering the consequences of their parents’ sentences and our nation’s tough-on-crime practices.

These children feel the absence of that adult — whether it is several nights in jail or years in prison — in myriad ways, even if they weren’t sharing a home.

They feel it when their refrigerator is bare because their family has lost a source of income or child support.

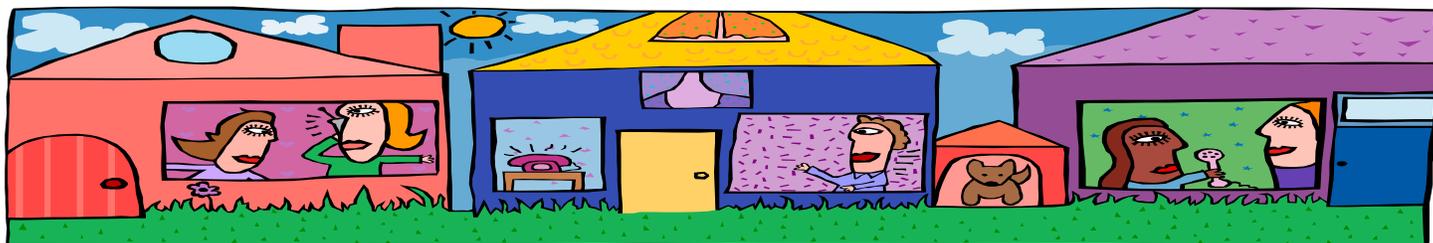
They feel it when they have to move, sometimes repeatedly, because their families can no longer afford the rent or mortgage.

And they feel it when they hear the whispers in school, at church or in their neighborhood about where their mother or father has gone.

Yet policy debates about incarceration rarely focus on the burden borne by children and families. There are stories of things lost: connections, jobs, income, homes — and hope. And communities, in turn, suffer from losing so many parents, whose absence leaves the economic and social fabric of their neighborhoods in tatters.

CHILDREN CAN’T WAIT..

While momentum for criminal justice reform continues to build, we know progress will take time. But we also know children can’t wait — nor can we as a nation afford to let them and their parents flounder, perpetuating poverty from one generation to the next. Children need stability and support to minimize the impact of incarceration on their lives, which requires families and communities equipped to properly care for them, as well as parents prepared to provide for them and contribute to their communities upon release.



WHAT DO CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS....NEED?

Children of incarcerated parents — like all children — need strong, supportive families and communities. Making smart investments in them, their families and the places where they live can help ensure they have solid support systems.

THREE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION REPORT

The Annie E. Casey Report offers three recommendations for state and local policymakers, criminal justice systems, public agencies and community and faith-based organizations to put children's best interests first when designing programs and policies around parents who are incarcerated.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN?

- 1) Ensure children are supported while parents are incarcerated and after they return. Research shows preserving a child's relationship with a parent during incarceration benefits both parties. It also benefits society, reducing children's mental health issues and anxiety, while lowering recidivism and facilitating parents' successful return to their communities. Providing mental health and counseling programs to family members who step up as caregivers during incarceration can help children withstand the repercussions of this disruption in their lives.

HOW TO CONNECT RETURNING PARENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY?.....

PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION/TRAINING AND JOBS

- 2) Connect parents who have returned to the community with pathways to employment. Providing sector-specific education and training — starting in prison — for jobs in high-demand industries such as information technology can help parents develop the skills necessary to resume their role as providers, while reducing their likelihood of returning to prison. Research indicates that participating in prison education and training programs lowers the chances of re-incarceration and increases the likelihood of securing employment.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

- 3) Strengthen communities, particularly those disproportionately affected by incarceration and reentry, to promote family stability and opportunity. Stronger, safer and healthier neighborhoods can reduce not only the likelihood of crime but encounters with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

SOME JO.M. LOCAL EXPERIENCES OF FOLKS RETURNING TO THE PONTIAC COMMUNITY

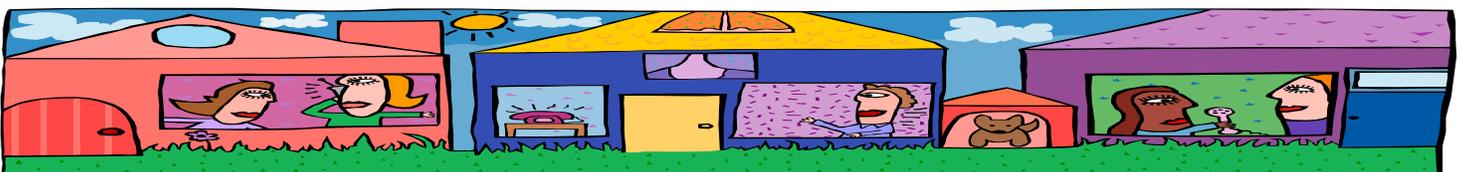
We at JOM and many faith communities and agencies in Oakland County take to heart, the needs of families and children of people currently or formerly incarcerated and victims of crime in our core mission. We assist formerly incarcerated people to solve some pre-employment problems by helping them obtain ID's, a bus ticket to get to a job or keep it, a bike to get from point A to point B, info and referral to agencies for health care, case management for mental health, emergency shelters, and countless other basic necessities that may seem obvious but are major obstacles when released from incarceration.

A RECENT EXAMPLE OF PRISONER "WELCOME BACK" AT JAIL AND OUTREACH IN PONTIAC

Recently, a group of several men and women just released from prison came into the JOM outreach office in Pontiac a half hour after they all arrived in Pontiac from prison. What was the rush to JOM Outreach? What was the immediate need? It boiled down to shoes, socks, underwear, belts, t-shirts, tops, pants, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, soap, bus tickets, food, bedding, towels, sports bags, and listings of emergency resources in the area. We say "welcome back" to the community with some needed basic items, if we have them. Some were seeing their children in a day or two.

BASIC NEEDS AND SUPPORT ARE A STEP....

However, preparation and re-entry which needs to include families is a major component of ministry and policy in our country that needs to be developed and expanded. We see our all volunteer organization as initial crisis response and in relationship with the community. Long term solutions within Criminal Justice is needed. The report in this newsletter is just a beginning of awareness that can be a basis of future works and policy. Criminal Justice in our nation is at a time of reformation. Putting more folks in prison is not the answer to basic social needs and violence in our society. Children need our love and support.

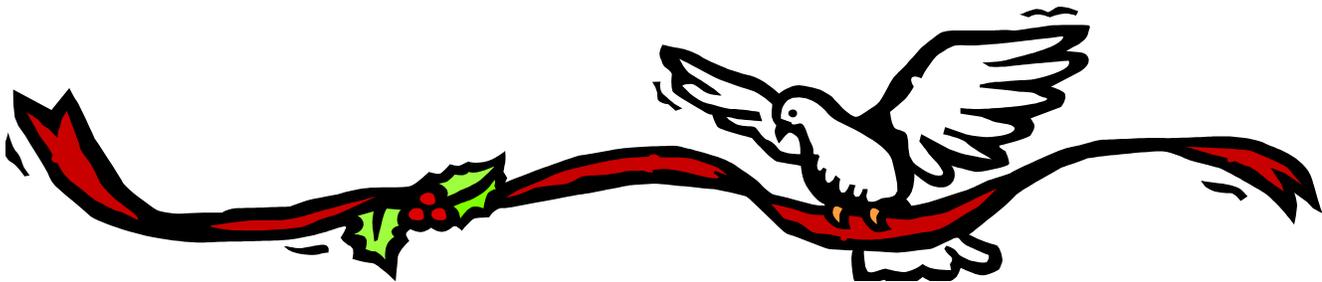




JOM SEASONAL PROJECTS – VOLUNTEERS, CHOIRS - SINGING GROUPS-DONATIONS

JOM FAMILY THANKSGIVING

Distribution begins at Outreach– **FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18-NOVEMBER 21**. We hope to assist 100+ families. If you would like to Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving or Christmas give us a call. 248-338-9310



DETAILS ON THE CHRISTMAS AT THE JAIL PROJECT.

BEGIN PREPARATION OF JOM JAIL Package for inmates at Oakland County Jail-
MONDAY DECEMBER 5 Preparation at Outreach—starts **Monday December 5, 2016**
in the afternoon at the JOM Outreach Center.

Pick up of materials at collection sites is in the morning of December 5.

JOM Jail PRE-Packaging at Outreach—TUESDAY DECEMBER 6

(ALL DAY/TIL FINISHED) - Volunteers needed; We are pre-packing items for 1600 packages at JOM Outreach for the Jail.



JOM Assembling of Packages and need for Choirs during Jail Project

SATURDAY December 10 9:15 AM until finished with packages
(registration required) Meet at Jail Building 1201 N Telegraph –BLDG. 10 East
–Employee entrance and parking.

JOM Choirs at the Jail—SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 6:15 PM—9:00 PM
(meet at assigned locations—registration required)

DETAILS ON THE ADOPT-A- FAMILY PROJECT CHRISTMAS PROJECT

We receive Adopt a Family donations in December. Usually, we have over 100 families that churches, individuals, organizations, and various groups adopt.

We distribute the gifts during the week of December 18th before Christmas through the JOM Outreach Office.

