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# The Family Preservation Project



Interrupting intergenerational cycles in families of criminal justice involvement, poverty, and addiction.

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**20,000 children** in Oregon have an incarcerated parent.

Children with an incarcerated mother are more likely to be placed in **foster care** and more likely to be **incarcerated** in their lifetime.

Connecting those children with their mothers and engaging families in therapeutic support **reduces their trauma** and those likelihoods.



# Objectives

- **Reduce the effect of childhood trauma** and the impact of parental incarceration on children (ACEs)
  - **Increase ability to thrive** and likelihood to succeed in school and beyond
  - **Reduce unnecessary termination of parental rights** and DHS involvement
  - **Reduce need for support** from local, state, and federal systems to serve their needs
- **Support successful re-entry** to ensure thriving communities and to help decrease the risk of recidivism
  - **Connectivity with family is the leading factor** for successful re-entry of women





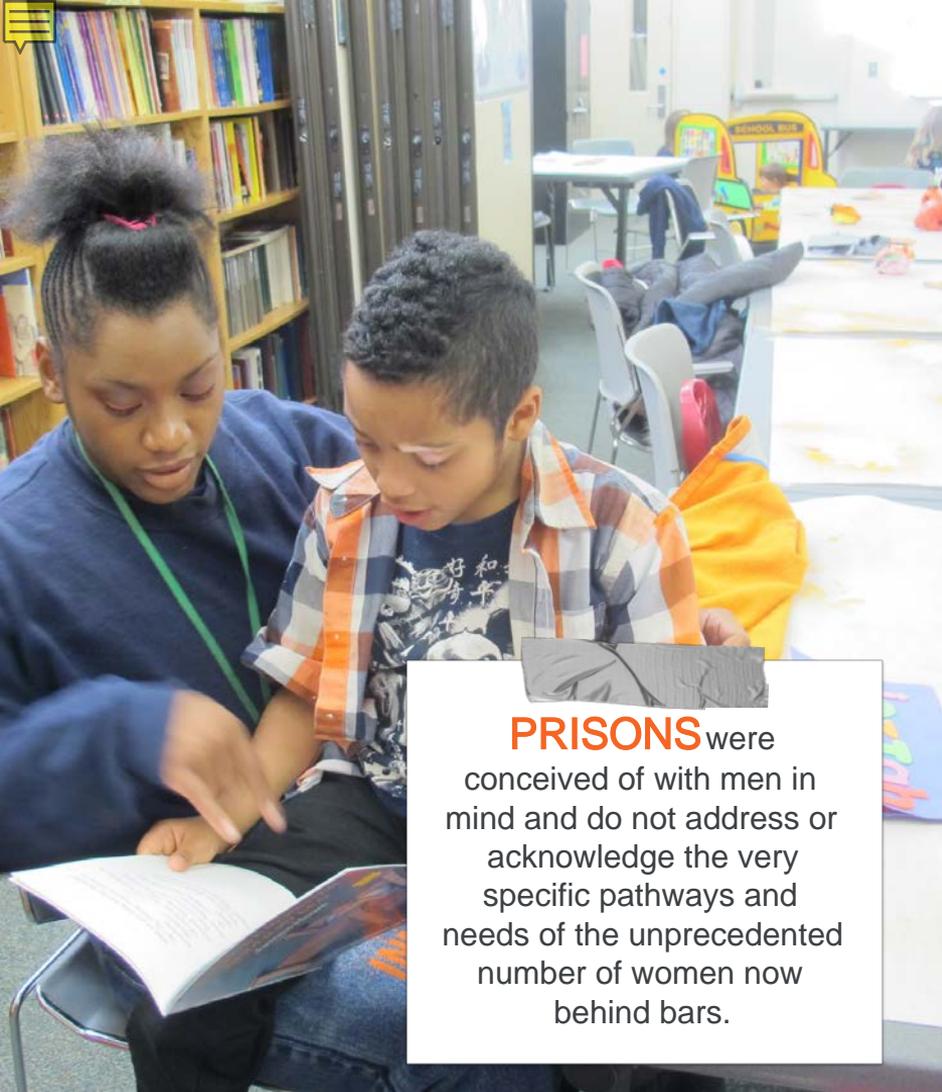
## History

- *2000-2010*: Federally Funded Literacy Program
- *2010-2014*: Intensive Program
- *2015-2019*: Expansion to 3 Tiers of Service

## Three Tiers of Service

**Serves approx. 200 women per month in the:**

- Intensive Family Reunification
- Family Resource Center
- Speaker Series



**PRISONS** were conceived of with men in mind and do not address or acknowledge the very specific pathways and needs of the unprecedented number of women now behind bars.

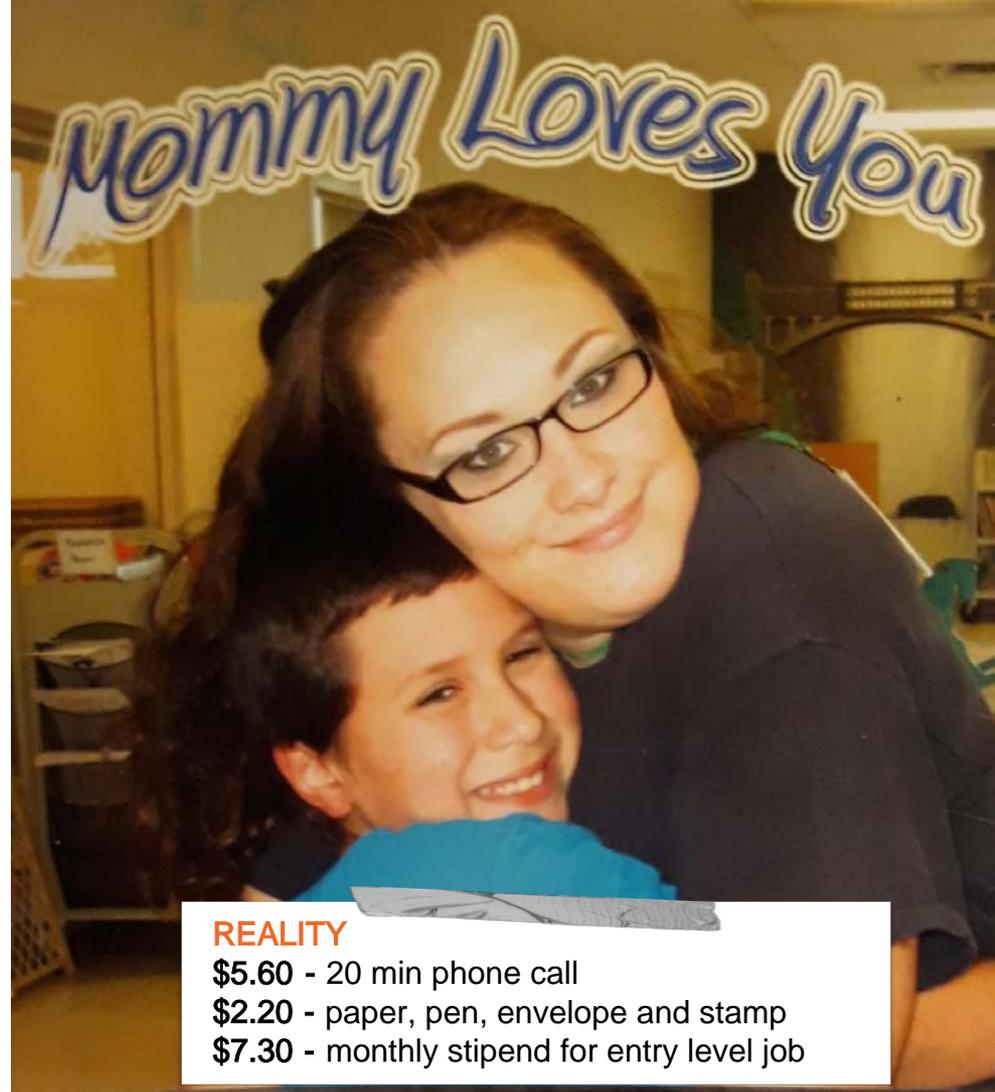
# Tier I: Intensive Family Reunification

- 18 month program for 12 -15 women, their children, and caregivers – approx. 50 participants per cohort.
- In the 10 years of this program, 2 women have returned to prison.
- Women in the program reflect the general population – race, recidivism, etc.
- Services include:
  - Bio-psycho-social assessments/narrative histories
  - Therapeutic visitation and family meetings
  - Caregiver support
  - Facilitation of parent -teacher conferences
  - Support and advocacy with child-welfare system
  - Individualized transition support and planning
  - Bi-weekly groups
  - Financial and tenant education
  - Employability support
  - Nutrition/wellness education



## Tier II: Family Resource Center

- Primarily focused on reducing barriers to contact between incarcerated mother's and their children
- Serves approximately 100 women per month
- Services include:
  - Communication support with caregivers/domestic relations
  - Communication with children
  - Connection to youth correctional facilities
  - Support with visitation issues
  - DHS involved mothers support groups/individual consultation
  - Support Groups: Parenting, Parenting Teens, Grief & Loss, Healthy Relationships, etc.



### REALITY

\$5.60 - 20 min phone call

\$2.20 - paper, pen, envelope and stamp

\$7.30 - monthly stipend for entry level job



**WOMEN** are often an afterthought - a reflection of policy and society in general.

## Tier III: Speaker Series

Serves approximately 70 women per month.

- Supporting children's mental health
- Navigating the child -welfare system
- Re-entry support
- Civic engagement
- Post-secondary education fair
- Second-chance employment fair
- Mentoring from directly impacted women
- Networking opportunities - life after prison



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# Current Status

**UNFUNDED  
2019-21**

- The program was funding in 2015 & 2017 through a direct allocation in the end of session budget reconciliation bill.
- No funding was allocated for the program in the 2019 Legislative Session.
- The YWCA has secured grants and launched a gofundme campaign to keep some elements of the program up and running until the 2020 session.



# 2020 Legislative Concept

- Create the Family Preservation Project in statute.
- \$650,000 to cover project staffing, administration, and limited project expenses.
  - *Primarily funds 3.5 Master's Level or Higher staff (JDs, MSWs, etc)*
- The YWCA will continue to fundraise to cover the cost of wrap-around services.



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