



The Family Preservation Project



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



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





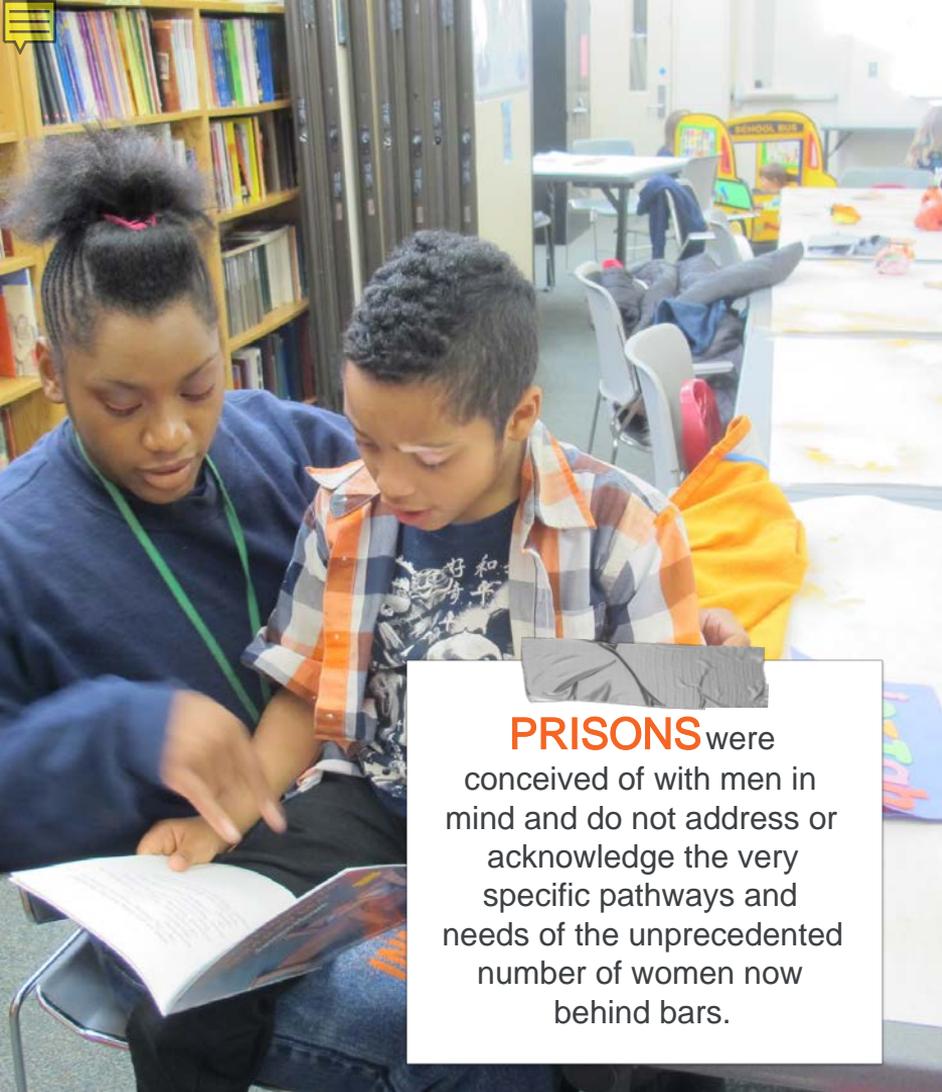
History

- *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.

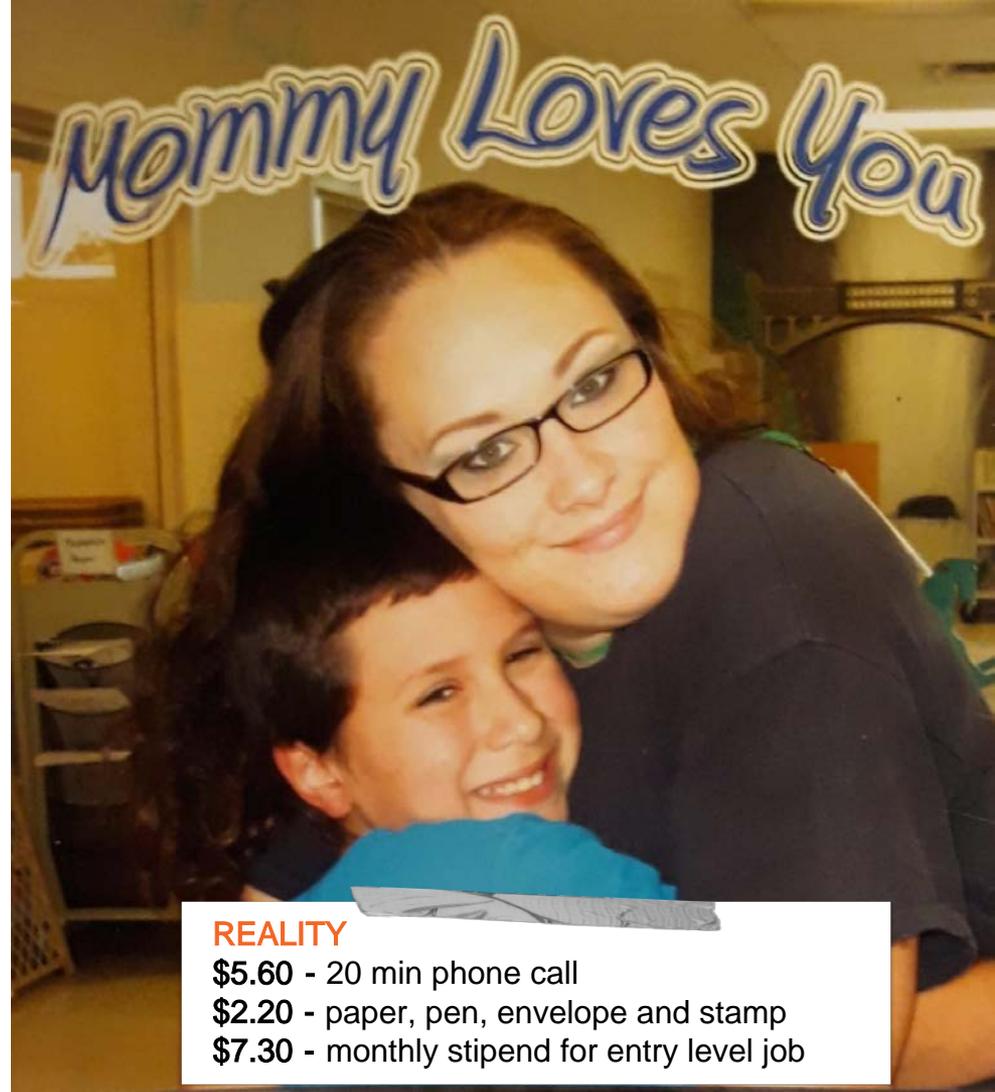
Tier I: Intensive Family Reunification

- 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





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.