

Outreach, Service and Social Justice Opportunities

Fact Sheet and Awareness Building

St. John Fisher Parish

Purpose: As we offer our parishioners opportunities to demonstrate our Catholic faith, we will provide a fact sheet on the various organizations as we build awareness of what they do, their value added, the opportunities for involvement and how it relates to what we are called to do as Catholics.

Organization: CT Children with Incarcerated Parents Initiative (CIP)

UCONN School of Public Policy
10 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Scripture Reference: Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Hebrews 13:3

Why we like this organization:

CIP is focused on impacting more effective juvenile justice policies by addressing the front-end needs of youth with incarcerated parents. CIP also recognizes the negative and long-lasting impact on both children and parents when they are separated. CIP positively impacts the lives and relationships of incarcerated parents and their children by supporting the children's needs and their family unit.

What is CIP's focus:

- Addressing unique Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) which include trauma, stigma and shame
- Resulting economic hardship
- Efforts to build and sustain parental relationships
- Recidivism Reduction and Case Management
- Children of Incarcerated Parents: Bill of Rights

Current Initiative:

Positively influence the parent and child connection by collecting new children's books and lightly used (or new) children's toys to create child-friendly waiting and visiting rooms in the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution and in the creation of an outdoor play area for children who come to visit their parent(s).

How You Can Help:

Donate new children's books (for ages birth through 10 years old) and/or new or gently used children's toys appropriate for a waiting room or outdoor setting. May include bi-lingual, multi-ethnic and/or multi-racial books, topics that are encouraging and uplifting, may also be faith-based, could be about children with parental or familial incarceration.

These items will be collected the weekends of May 20/21 and May 27/28 in our church vestibule.

If You Have Questions: Sabrina Paradise - csparadise@comcast.net or 860-966-7146

For More Information on other CIP Initiatives or Involvement: CTCIP.org