Resources for Children of Incarcerated Parents & Their Families
Southeast Michigan

Support Groups

Prison Ministry Support Group for Families with Incarcerated Loved Ones
Hope Community Church’s Prison Ministry holds a support group that meets the first and third Mondays of every month from 6-8pm at Hope Community Church (11456 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48215). Refreshments and childcare provided.
Contact: June Walker, junewalkerwork@yahoo.com, 313-492-0035

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Groups (GRG)
The GRG Support Group is a program of Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA). The Support Group meets monthly and also has quarterly “inter-generational events” for grandparents and grandkids. Contact Lisa Grodsky for time and location information. Open to residents from all counties; transportation is available from the OLHSA office in Pontiac.
Contact: Lisa Grodsky, LisaG@olhsa.org, 248-209-2622
Website: http://www.olhsa.org/

The Grandparents As Parents (GAP) program at Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw is a support group for grandparents and kin who are raising their grandchildren, often due to incarceration. GAP offers three group support meetings per month in Ypsilanti and Chelsea. Contact Linda Leonard for time and location information.
Contact: Linda Leonard, LLeonard@csswashtenaw.org, 734-712-3774
Website: http://csswashtenaw.org/

Family Participation Program
The Family Participation Program is a resource for families impacted by incarceration, currently running in three pilot prisons in Michigan. FPP holds workshops throughout Michigan, reaching out to those who are dealing with incarceration or would like to assist those who are incarcerated. Current pilot sites: Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility in Muskegon, Macomb Correctional Facility in New Haven, and Central Michigan Correctional Facility in St. Louis.
Contact: Lois DeMott, familyparticipationprogram@gmail.com, 517-515-5787
Website: http://www.familyparticipationprogram.com/

Transportation Assistance

Prison Ministry Prison Visit Transportation Service
Hope Community Church Prison Ministry in Detroit provides transportation for families to visit their loved ones in prisons all over the state. Also provides assistance with obtaining LEIN clearance. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.
Contact: June Walker, junewalkerwork@yahoo.com, 313-492-0035
Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA)
OLHSA provides transportation for children and their caregivers as part of their Father Factor and Headstart Connections programs at local prisons and jails. Open to residents from all counties.
  
  Contact: Trina Burrell, trinab22@olhsa.org, 248-409-1644
  Website: http://www.olhsa.org/

Motherly Intercession
Motherly Intercession provides transportation for children to visit their mothers at the Genesee County Jail. Motherly Intercession is located at 3444 Lennon Rd., Flint, MI 48507.
  
  Contact: mi-info@comcast.net, 810-424-9909
  Website: http://miforu.org/

Legal & Social Work Services

University of Michigan Law School Prison & Family Justice Project (PFJP)
By providing a range of family law services to people in prison and their families, PFJP works to reduce the likelihood that parents will lose their children permanently as a result of their incarceration. PFJP runs legal education classes in prisons, jails, and pre-release centers, as well as workshops for relatives caring for children with incarcerated parents. PFJP also trains foster-care workers, attorneys, and other child welfare professionals on maintaining parent-child contact, facilitating prison visits, and supporting children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers.
  
  Contact: Amanda Alexander, alexanas@umich.edu, 734-763-7794
  Website: http://www.law.umich.edu/centersandprograms/pcl/Pages/pfjp.aspx

Father Factor Program (Macomb Correctional Facility)
The Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA) in collaboration with the Macomb Correctional Facility offers a program for incarcerated fathers, their children, and caregivers called “Father Factor.” This program offers an opportunity for parents and their children to maintain a relationship during incarceration. The program includes visits at Macomb Correctional Facility and classes for fathers and caregivers. Open to residents from all counties.
  
  Contact: Trina Burrell, trinab22@olhsa.org, 248-409-1644
  Website: http://www.olhsa.org/

Headstart Connections Program (Macomb Correctional Facility & Oakland County Jail)
OLHSA’s Headstart Connections Program promotes positive interactions between parents and children, while maintaining and strengthening the bond between incarcerated or recently released parents & their preschool-aged children.
  
  Contact: Linda VanderWaal, LindaV@olhsa.org, 248-409-1646
  Website: http://www.olhsa.org/
Motherly Intercession
Since 1999 Motherly Intercession has remained committed to providing services for the Children of Incarcerated Parents in Genesee County. Support includes academic and emotional support and more. Located in Flint.
   Contact: mi-info@comcast.net, 810-424-9909
   Website: http://miforu.org/

Mentoring

VIP Mentoring Program
Short for Volunteers in Prevention, Probation, and Prisons, Inc., VIP Mentoring in Detroit aims to make a difference in the lives of high-risk youth ages 7 to 14. VIP mentors are men and women from all walks of life who volunteer to be matched with a child of an incarcerated parent and meet with them for 2 hours each week. The pair stays matched for at least 12 months, even after the parent is released.
   Contact: staff@vipmentoring.org, 313-347-9926
   Website: http://www.vipmentoring.org

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program
Since 2003, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit has provided a specialized mentoring program for children with an incarcerated parent and/or significant family member.
   Contact: Antoine Jackson, Antoine.jackson@bbbsdetroit.org, 313-309-9223
   Website: http://www.bbbsdetroit.org

SKIP, Inc. Community Resources
Founded in 1979, SKIP, Inc. Community Resources serves children ages 6 to 16. They partner with community organizations to provide an enrichment program to ensure kids receive the attention they need to keep them on track. Through SKIP, Inc., children are provided with academic and social enrichment, health education and mentoring. They also get the chance to participate in cultural experiences like field trips to museums, aquariums and concerts. Located in Southfield.
   Contact: Miriam Murphy, skipmi@skipinc.org, 248-990-6729
   Website: http://www.skipinc.org/view/michigan-chapter.aspx

Youth Development

Project WHAT! (We’re Here And Talking)
Launching in summer 2015, Project WHAT! is a youth development program that will serve teens with incarcerated parents in Detroit. Based at the Harriet Tubman Center, Project WHAT! will provide organizing and advocacy training for youth with the goal of improving services and policies that affect them.
   Contact: ProjectWHAT@tubmanorganizing.org, 734-763-7794
   Website: http://tubmanorganizing.org/what/