



PWP

HOPE. VISION. PURPOSE.

PARENTING THE FUTURE WITH PURPOSE a program for incarcerated mothers and fathers

More than 15,000 children in the state of Minnesota have a parent who is incarcerated.

Parenting the Future With Purpose (PFWP) provides parenting education and support for incarcerated parents. Classes are designed to meet the needs of inmate moms and dads who desire to learn how to be better parents, restore and strengthen their family relationships and build a strong foundation in their homes.

PWP is dedicated to restoring families by equipping the parent to:

- set healthy boundaries
- understand the power of forgiveness
- fulfill their role as an effective parent in their children's lives
- reconcile with their children and other family members
- guide and nurture their children through positive communication and healthy discipline

Over 80% of the incarcerated parents served rated themselves higher in their parenting skills upon class completion.

Inmate parents completing the classes that desire additional individualized parenting support are then linked to a "Brother's or Sister's Keeper". Their role is to assist participants as they parent their children from inside the prison and after release maintain and strengthen their personal commitment to be a positive influence in the lives of their children. It's a personalized volunteer support system that assures the parent will be connected with a positive influence, someone who will be a source of emotional support, spiritual guidance, hope and encouragement.

Hundreds of incarcerated moms and dads attend PWP's parental education groups annually at the Minnesota Correctional Facilities at Shakopee and Faribault, the Willow River Challenge Incarceration Program, as well as the Hennepin County Jail.

Through its relationships with incarcerated moms and dads, PWP establishes solid connections with entire families, offering continued support and guidance. Once a parent is released we offer referrals for employment, housing, furniture, food and clothing to create the opportunity for parents to live productive lives once they are released back into their homes and our communities.

Goals

- Increase positive parental involvement in their children's education, behavior and well-being at home, in school and in the community
- Reduce parental stress which leads to child abuse and neglect
- Reduce the risk of intergenerational criminal behavior among youth
- Reduce the rate of recidivism among incarcerated parents



"I have learned... how to be a better parent and offer a good safe home for my children."

Children of incarcerated parents are seven times more likely to exhibit similar behavior.

Natural relationship matches are formed through interaction of mentors (Life Coaches) in an activity or group setting with interested youth (Life Students). PWP trains Life Coaches to meet and relate to the unique needs of prisoners' children.

The Mentoring for Life Change (MLC) program provides one-on-one mentoring for children ages 5-16 affected by a parent's incarceration. PWP has the passion and commitment to build quality, life-long mentoring relationships that change children's lives forever.

A trusting relationship with a caring adult provides stability—often with a profound, life-changing effect on the child.

The Life Coach and Life Student participate in a committed, trusting relationship that devotes weekly focused time involving a pre-approved age-appropriate activity. The participants of Mentoring for Life Change are involved in this program during their parents' incarceration, as well as after their release. In addition, MLC large group meets monthly to receive a message of hope and encouragement.

More than half of all incarcerated parents never receive personal visits from their children.

Mentors may provide transportation for children to visit with their incarcerated parent. Through these visits, the inmate parent has the opportunity to build healthy relationships with their children.

Goals

- Re-establish, strengthen and maintain the family emotional connection between parent and child
- Decrease the chances of self-destructive behavior or criminal activity in children of incarcerated parents
- To break the intergenerational cycle of crime and violence
- Improve school attendance and academic achievement
- Improve relationships between youth, parent and guardian
- Improve behavior in the home, school and community

"PWP helped me realize that I am valuable and I can be anything I want to be"

—a child of an incarcerated parent



"They never gave up on me even when I pushed them away. Now I know they love me."

—a child of an incarcerated parent



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THE NEED

Having an incarcerated parent creates a crisis for the entire family—economically, socially and emotionally. The family is in pain, vulnerable, and under significant stress. Those most impacted are the children of inmates who experience loneliness, anxiety and anger caused by separation from the incarcerated parent.

THE MISSION

To instill hope, vision and purpose in the lives of incarcerated parents and their children in need of healing and restoration.

Parenting With Purpose began in 1995 providing parent education classes and support groups in prisons and jails. PWP remains committed to serve as a positive influence in the lives of children affected by a parent's incarceration and to provide the necessary guidance for incarcerated parents to restore their family relationships. PWP is unique in that it works with entire families and plays an integral part to bring healing and restoration. Results show:

98% of released parents involved with PWP remained crime free within their year of involvement

91% of teens involved with PWP were not implicated in any criminal behavior during their year of involvement

86% of the families involved with PWP enjoyed improved family relationships



Paul and Lori Strong

Co-founders

Paul and Lori Strong are committed believers with compassionate hearts to minister to children and their incarcerated parents. Their 30-plus years' experience working with people from different cultures, races and beliefs enable the Strong's, together with their faithful staff to address issues facing fathers, mothers and children in a variety of situations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

1. Mentor a child of an incarcerated parent
2. Become a "brother's keeper" or "sister's keeper"
3. Volunteer to provide transportation for a child to visit their parent
4. Prepare Lunches of Love
5. Volunteer for administrative services
6. Attend a PWP fundraising event
7. Make a donation
8. Volunteer your time and talents
9. Solicit (or donate) auction item(s) for one of our events
10. Spread the word about PWP
11. Organize members of your company to volunteer

Parenting With Purpose is a 501c-3 organization.
All donations are tax-deductible

*Turning parents' hearts to their children,
and children's hearts back in response...*



OBJECTIVES

- Bring healing, restoration and reconciliation to families and communities affected by incarceration.
- Break the intergenerational cycle of crime that affects the children of incarcerated parents.
- Reduce the risk of recidivism (relapsing into crime) which destroys families and the lives of children.
- Reduce violence at home and in the community.
- Assist the affected children in achieving their hopes and dreams.
- Serve as a voice for the children by sharing with communities the statistics and life stories of the very children we serve.