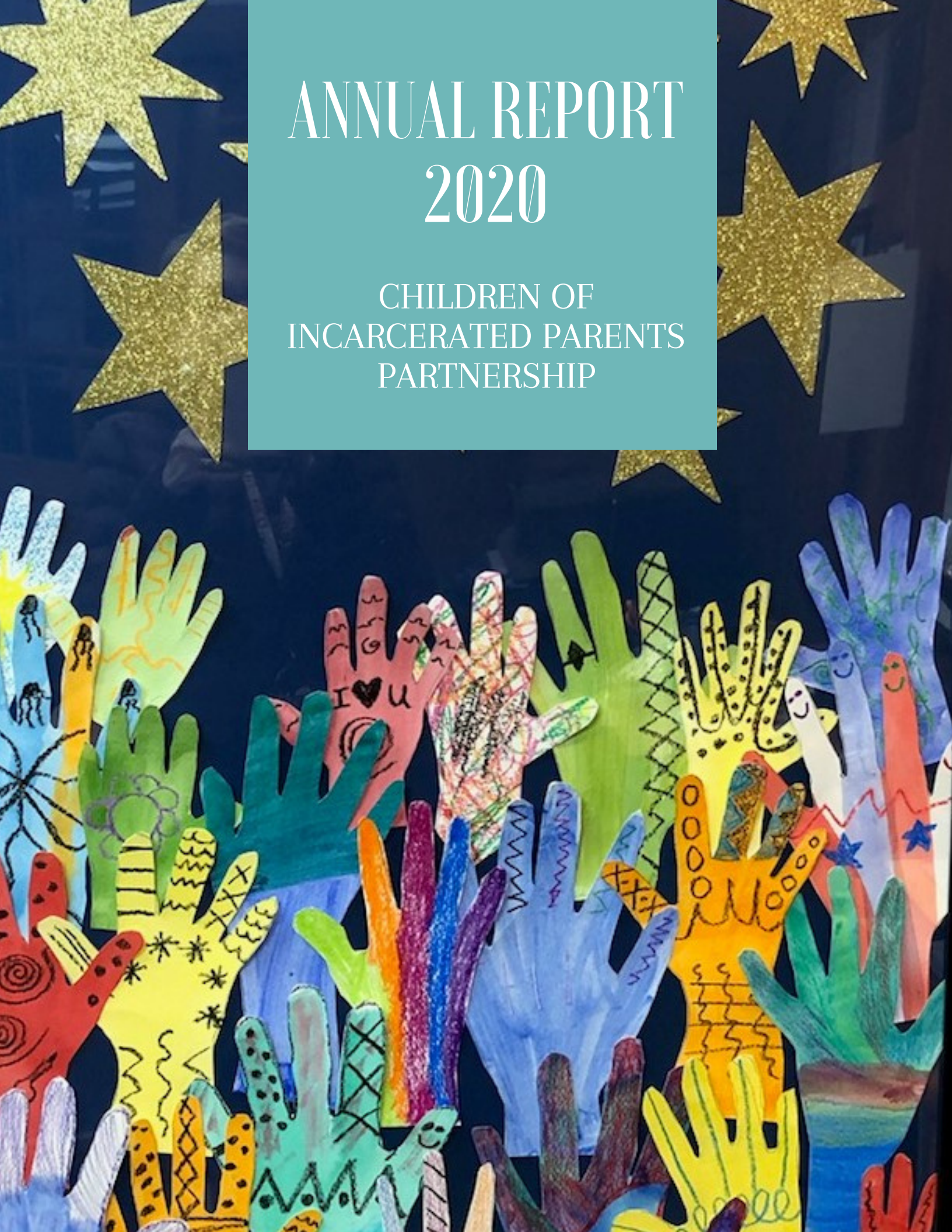


ANNUAL REPORT 2020

CHILDREN OF
INCARCERATED PARENTS
PARTNERSHIP





C.O.I.P.P.

Children Of Incarcerated Parents Partnership

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RACHEL'S STORY...



"I am currently enrolled at FCC pursuing my second associates degree specializing in Addictions counseling and mental health. I already have an Associates Degree in nursing and have been an RN since 2003. I am a mom to four wonderful kids. My oldest girls are married and my second daughter has a baby girl. My youngest two are 16 (boy) and 13. (Girl) In 2018 I left a 20 Year marriage due to domestic violence that was exacerbated by alcohol. I had to start a new life from scratch. I have been to jail after getting a 3rd DUI.

This is where I met Shari and it is where I took the parenting from afar class. Shari and COIPP were a huge catalyst in both recovery and pursuing a new career path in my life. I am in recovery as well. I was addicted to alcohol. My passion is to help other addicts recover and build a new life. This was so freely given to me by Shari, COIPP and the help of mental health counselors and doctors, friends and AA. I want others who have experienced incarceration, who have fought the battles of mental illness and addiction, and have broken families know that there is a better way and not to give up hope that they can have a happy and productive life. Together we can stop this legacy of domestic violence, depression and abuse.

Miss Shari told me this one time and I've never forgotten it. "You can't go to college unless you fill out the application." Set the goal of changing your life, but don't let it overwhelm you. One day at a time. Small steps over time become miles traveled. I started college spring 2020. I've completed 6 classes, and received A's in all of them. This semester I am taking 4 classes. I did it one day at a time. You can too."

Highlights of COIPP Activities



Family Support

Children's Activities - Our previous monthly in-person children's activities were replaced in December by virtual activities via Zoom. Always free, these diversions provided fun and entertainment for our children. Twenty-five children and seven caregivers participated in one activity in February, while 22 adults and 43 children played Bingo via Zoom in December.

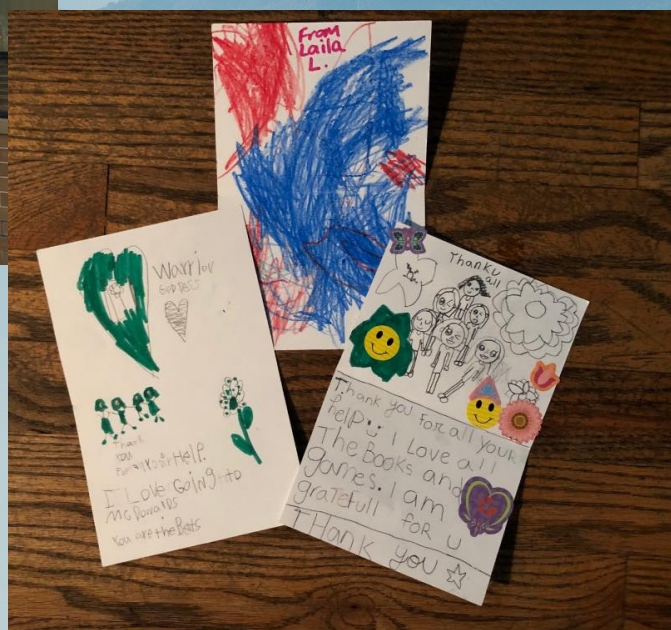
Respite Meetings - In-person caregiver respite meetings were replaced by Zoom sessions in the spring. Resources and strategies for helping the children were shared, while participants had the opportunity to communicate and bond with one another. There were six respite meetings with nine participants each during 2020.

Workshops - Five in-person or virtual workshops, partially funded through Families Impacted by Incarceration Program (FIIP), were presented to over 40 participants. These three-hour sessions focused on topics such as Building Resilience, Managing Children's Feelings, and Dealing with Loss.

Postcards and Phone Calls - Due to COVID safety protocols at the Frederick County Detention Center, visitation was no longer permitted. To enable those incarcerated to communicate with their families, COIPP distributed over 1,200 pre-stamped postcards to the inmates. Twice COIPP also put money on the commissary accounts of over 30 inmates who had participated in our parenting classes, thus providing opportunities for parents to connect with their children via telephone.

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Staying Connected Booklets- COIPP created and distributed, to both inmates and caregivers, over 100 booklets containing easy, creative, no-cost strategies for parents in jail and their children to help them stay connected.

Reconnecting Classes - Held monthly, these classes dealing with issues families face when a parent returns home were popular with the men who had children and were getting ready for release. Over the winter, 28 men attended these sessions.



Basic Needs

Outreach- When a family had emergency needs, COIPP provided grocery or Walmart gift cards that enabled struggling families to meet their children's needs. In 2020, we gave emergency gift cards to 44 participants.

Sharing Fairs- Prior to COVID, Sharing Fairs were held at the Frederick County Adult Detention Center (FCADC) outside the visitor entrance during visitation. COIPP distributed blankets, hygiene supplies, children's clothing, books and more. In 2020, one such fair was held serving 30 caregivers and more than 50 children.

COVID Emergency Giveaways (CEG)- In the summer, COIPP began holding monthly 'drive up' giveaways. Families were provided with a bag filled with various needed resources and a supermarket gift card. Nine of these giveaways were held. Participation grew steadily from 12 caregivers representing 37 children in March, to 41 caregivers representing 95 children in December.





Education

Scholarships- For many years, COIPP has been granting scholarships to Frederick Community College for caregivers, grown children with an incarcerated loved one, and former inmates. In 2020, seven people received scholarships, partially funded by a grant through Frederick Women's Giving Circle.

Read Alouds- During the summer, COIPP taped and sent out read aloud videos of award-winning books that showcased important issues and had diverse characters. to our children during the Summer of 2020. Seventy-two recordings of such books were sent out to each COIPP child.

ICAD Project- Children aged 8 and older participated in Index Card A Day (ICAD) art activities. Each day the children received prompts on creating art using materials provided by COIPP. Thirteen children received these art kits.

CEG Book Giveaways- At each of our CEGs, we distributed books upon request to each of our children. This project expanded throughout COVID. In the month of December, 124 books were given to 33 caregivers for their children.

Relevant Topical Book Giveaways- COIPP maintains a library of over 100 book titles that are specific to the needs of our participating children. These award winning, highly acclaimed resources are given away at workshops, parenting classes, meetings and upon request. 493 books were distributed in 2020.

Family Resource Boxes- Thanks to several grants and our partnerships with Curious Iguana Book Store and Dancing Bear Toy Store, COIPP was able to send five different boxes filled with educational and fun resources to our families. Each box was filled with age-appropriate books and games around a chosen theme. In December, 80 boxes, serving over 350 children and caregivers, were sent out.

Parenting from Afar- In the first months of 2020, parenting classes were held at the jail for both men and women. Funded by FIIP, these ten session classes were based on children's developmental needs and the specific issues facing those who are parenting from inside a jail. In 2020, between 25 and 30 people participated in these sessions.






Testimonials...

"I'm a mother of four and am currently incarcerated at FCADC. This is my first time in Parenting class. This class has taught me and shown me some good ways and techniques for handling situations with all ages of children. I also learned reasons why children behave and do the things they do. We have a great time starting situations and making suggestions. The Parenting From Afar Handbook is a very educational and helpful guide for the class. The topics were very realistic and current with time/date of our era. I especially like it when Shari reads to us. It touches the little girl inside of me and helps remind me what it is like to be little again. Seeing Shari and Cathy every Wednesday come through the door gives me strength and hope and know that "I Am a Warrior Goddess".

--A Mom in a March Parenting From Afar Class at FCADC



"I have been a member of COIPP for at least five years now and it never ceases to amaze me the fabulous work this organization does for the children of incarcerated parents. It is not just the gifts, giveaways and clothing, etc; it is foremost the unconditional love and support that you and your organization provide, You make us feel so appreciated and our children so important and loved when we meet in person or virtually."

-- A Grandmother

"Today's meeting helped me so much, I was actually relaxed and enjoy it very much . It was so nice bc I'm always worrying or stressed out . This group has helped me so much for several months during hard times even before COVID . Everything you guys do is so positive and helps in ways emotionally, financially and physically . I'm very grateful and look forward to more meetings. Glad I have memories of cookies and hot chocolate, bowling, blankets and goodies at visits etc. Events my daughter had so much fun at. Even though due to the virus we can't have events and be face to face like before the emergency meets and videos are just as great . Thanks for everything you all do! hugs and kisses love
□□□□□"

-- Letter from a Mother after a Respite Meeting.

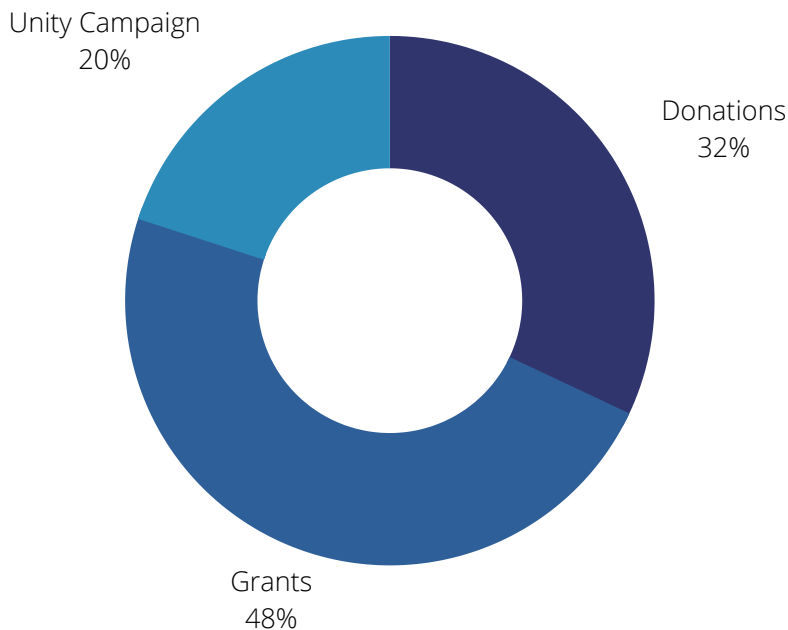
...just three of so many more

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Despite the difficulties that COVID-19 presented this year, COIPP continued to serve its children and families, pivoting to meet them where they were. This included offering more to meet basic needs.

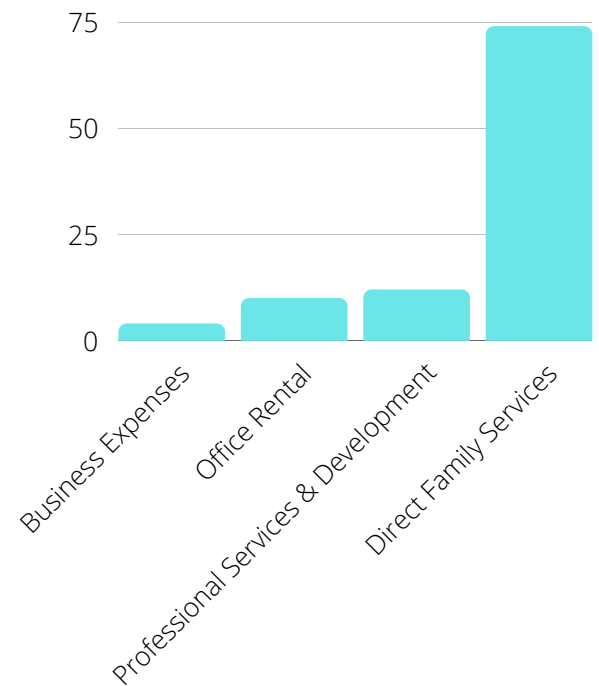
REVENUE SOURCES

COIPP relies upon a myriad of different sources to operate the organization.



EXPENSES INCURRED

COIPP is an all volunteer organization and has no staffing costs.



600+

Number of
individuals served

Many Thanks to Our 2020 Partners!

Collaborating Partners

Frederick County Public Schools
Delaplaine Education and Arts Center
Frederick Birth Center
Mental Health Association of Frederick
Frederick County Adult Detention Center
Curious Iguana Book Store
Dancing Bear Toys and Gifts
InBloom Jewelry
Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association
Federated Charities
Second Chances Garage

Grantors and Major Donors

Delaplaine Foundation
Frederick Women's Giving Circle
Helen J. Serini Foundation
Ausherman Family Foundation
Community Foundation of Frederick County
Frederick County Government
Rotary Club of Frederick
The Loats Foundation
Deck Foundation
United Way of Frederick County
City of Frederick
State of Maryland



COIPP in the News...

CNN Video: <http://cnn.it/3rzWf5p>

American Jails Magazine: <adobe.ly/3rDOkEe>

Frederick News Post Article: <https://bit.ly/3aM14lk>

Washington Post Article: <http://wapo.st/3cM71S9>



Awards & Recognitions

Woman of the Year, Frederick's Commission for Women- This award, given out each year, was given to Shari, celebrating her founding of COIPP and the work the organization does. This is a huge honor for Shari and for all of the hard working volunteers.

Wertheimer Award, Community Foundation of Frederick-This award was given to Shari for the founding of COIPP and the work she does within the organization. It includes a \$25,000 award to establish a fund of the winner's choosing. As a result, the Scher Family Fund was created and is dedicated to the work of COIPP. Each year a portion of the monies will be sent to COIPP for its general budget.

Volunteer of the Year, Maryland State Department of Volunteerism-The Governor's Award is given yearly to an individual for his or her service as a volunteer in the community. In this case, the award recognizes the exceptional work Shari provided through COIPP, the importance of that work in the community, and the creative way in which COIPP has tried to better the lives of an often overlooked population.

2020 COIPP Board

Executive Officers:

Sally Smith - President
Pat Rosensteel - Vice President
Theresa Posthuma - Treasurer
Gretta Benson - Recording Secretary
Shirley White- Corresponding Secretary

Additional Board Members:

Pat Einhorn
Sue Guissinger
Vanessa Thomas Morris
Larissa Metzger
Cathy Anderson
Ally Elspas



Volunteers gave
over 3,200
hours!

Partner with COIPP!

Volunteer - Visit the COIPP website to learn more
www.coipp.org

- Seek donations/grants
- Help supervise at children's activities
- Co-lead a workshop
- Help at Sharing Fairs

Receive our E-Newsletter - Send an email to
coippfrederick@yahoo.org and ask to be added to
the list.

Support us on Social Media - Follow us and share
liberally!

- Facebook: Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership
- Instagram: COIPPFrederickMD
- Twitter: COIPP

Donate to the Cause! Send your check made out
to COIPP or donate via the website.

- Gift Cards: for gas, groceries, household items (Walmart, Sheetz, etc.)
- Children's Books: New books or welcome of funds for us to purchase them
- Children's Activities: Funds to help offer meaningful educational and recreational activities
- Scholarships: Funds to help a parent or caregiver further their education



Video Link: <http://bit.ly/3s85zy1>

Donations can be
made online at
www.coipp.org/donate or
send your check to:

Children of Incarcerated
Parents Partnership
22 S. Market St., #101 A
Frederick, MD 21701

***Thank you for your
support of this
important work!***





Dear Friends,

I personally want to thank you for supporting Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (COIPP) over the past year. Because of your volunteering, your donating of money and/or resources, and your words of encouragement, we were able to accomplish amazing things.

We served over 700 children in one capacity or another, we grew in both breadth of activities and number of families reached, and we were able to spread the word about COIPP throughout the community.

This work is important, for when a parent goes to jail, the child often suffers a trauma that may haunt them all of their lives. We know, however, that concrete support in times of need, social connections, understanding of child development, and ending isolation for the child and caregiver, can take the effects of this negative event and turn it around. This is what COIPP is all about.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the information we have put together. Remember, none of this would be happening if Frederick was not the caring community that it is.

Most Sincerely,

Shari Ostrow Scher
Executive Director



C.O.I.P.P.

Children Of Incarcerated Parents Partnership

Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership
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COIPP

We're
here
for
the
children