



WE STAND FOR KIDS



Silent Victims Of Crime
The Children of Incarcerated Parents

Silent Victims of Crime's Quarterly Newsletter



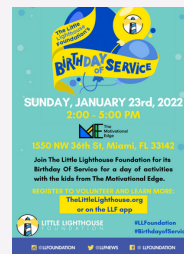
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Silent Victims of Crime wants to warmly welcome you into the new year! We are sending you and your loved ones lots of light, love, and joy for the upcoming year.

We are well and truly revitalized for the new year and have lots in store for all the children and their caregivers in the program. We are grateful and excited to see more of the children in person this year as it is so important for their growth and learning. The past two years have been difficult for all of us to navigate, but these children have suffered more than most during the pandemic. Our events have always stood out as a highlight in their lives, giving them exposure to new ideas and avenues, while having the time of their lives.

Keep an eye out for all the activities we have slated for this year. We're always open to taking on more volunteers at our events, and always want to expose our kids to kind and giving people that they can aspire to be.

UPCOMING EVENTS



January 23rd 2022
Family Fun Sunday
This month we will be at Motivation Edge with the children for fun filled day of crafts, dancing, fitness and wellness activities!



February 27th 2022
Van Gogh: Art Experience
The children will enjoy an immersive art experience and view the incredible artistry of Van Gogh.



April 23rd 2022
Miss Universe Colombia Brunch
Look out for more information and how to buy tickets.



THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF INCARCERATION ON CHILDREN

By: Dr. Rafael Alalu, Psy.D., Prison Reform Advocate

Arrest and incarceration tend to occur suddenly and without notice. Children of an incarcerated parent may be too young to understand why life has changed all of a sudden, nonetheless, they begin to mourn the separation from that parent immediately. If the arrest occurs while the child is present, the experience for all becomes even more traumatic. The uncertainty of what happens next begins to cause confusion to the child. Financially, if the parent arrested was the main wage-earner, then who will step in to take care of the family?

Psychologically, children experience fear because of the possibility of never seeing their incarcerated parent again. Additionally, the possibility of being taken away from their remaining parent or caregiver becomes a perceived threat. The stigma of an incarcerated parent often brings about intense feelings of embarrassment for children and is often coupled with isolation and feelings of guilt. Over time, anger becomes apparent as they experience loss after loss with lots of disappointments.

It is a known fact that these children are silent victims. However, advocates & programs must serve as the voice for those who do not have a platform. Although children are known for their resilience, they must be provided with supportive relationships, skill sets, hope, and faith that they will have what they need in order to avoid becoming a statistic. Prison reform can no longer wait, nor can these silent victims of crime.

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NOVEMBER 20TH 2021

HOLIDAY FUDDRUCKERS EVENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Silent Victims of Crime held an event at Fuddruckers in South Carolina to celebrate the holidays. Tinkerbell flew to South Carolina to be there for the event, finally getting the chance to reunite with the families after such a long time apart during the pandemic. Around fifteen families came to the event, with over sixty people present from our past and present operating programs in South Carolina.

There was a raffle and lots of prizes given out, some of the families won airfryers to take home. Book bags were also given to all the children and at the end of the event, everyone received turkeys and care packages to take home for Thanksgiving.



NOVEMBER 21ST 2021

THANKSGIVING TURKEY DELIVERIES



Every year, Jean Polo and his foundation, the ICE Foundation, partner with SVC to donate and deliver turkeys to all the families in Silent Victims of Crime. This year, turkeys were also offered to all the participants in Care Court. Over 30 families received turkeys that were delivered the 21st of November, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

The families are always so thankful for Jean Polo and SVC's contributions, and it makes a really big difference for them and their Thanksgivings preparations. It helps to ease the cost of their dinner for the holiday and put together a Thanksgiving meal that their children and family can truly enjoy.

NOVEMBER 27TH 2021

LEARNING TO COOK WITH THE MARIANO MORENO CULINARY INSTITUTE

On Saturday, the 20th of November, the children of Silent Victims of Crime went to the Mariano Moreno Culinary Institute in Coral Gables. They spent the day learning to cook with Chefs who volunteered from the Culinary School. Tinkerbell's grandson C.J Weir volunteered his time and was given the position as sous chef for the day while he worked with the children.

The chefs were very hands on, helping the children with each step of the recipes they were following, showing them how the experience of cooking can be fun and enjoyable. The children cooked spaghetti and meatballs, made salad, and baked delicious chocolate chip cookies for dessert. The children practiced measuring out ingredients, and mixed and shaped the meatballs. They cut up the ingredients for their salad, which was served for lunch along with garlic bread and their pasta. They made the dough for the cookies, and scooped out each cookie to put on oven trays. After lunch, the children got to enjoy the cookies they baked, fresh from the oven. All in all, it was a very successful, fun day!



NOVEMBER 27TH 2021

SMOKER RUN

Smokers Run – a group of cigar, motorcycle and car enthusiasts – held a fundraiser for Silent Victims of Crime. They took out motorbikes for a ride around Miami Dade, ending their journey at Empire in Dadeland, a Miami cigar and whiskey lounge. At Empire they gave out prizes and had an auction for some opulent cigars. Bobby Singer cooked an eighty pound pig for the event, while Hatemondays Tavern provided all the sides, all of which were incredible. This is the fourth year that Smoker's Run has held this fundraiser for Silent Victims, raising just over \$4900 from this event. We are always appreciative of Bobby Singer's commitment to organizing this event, and everyone who comes out to enjoy a day of riding.



INCARCERATED PARENTS REUNITED WITH CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS

By: Dr. Rafael Alalu, Psy.D., Prison Reform Advocate

The holiday season can be stressful. Shopping at busy malls, buying gifts, deciding whether to travel or not this holiday because of the pandemic. Preparing your home to welcome family and friends you may not have seen since 2019. So, you turn to your parents and ask, who's coming for Christmas? While all this is stressful, what about if you have a parent in prison? Unfortunately, this is a reality for countless amounts of children every year. What about a Christmas miracle? HOPE for Prisoners, a nonprofit organization based in Las Vegas, Nevada is that miracle that families have been waiting for. This organization facilitates the reentry and reintegration of individuals exiting segments of the judicial

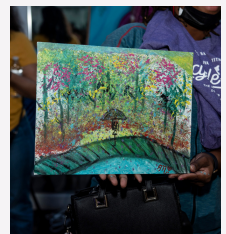
system to empower their transition back into mainstream society. On December 15th, The 7th annual 100 Christmases event took place to benefit the children of incarcerated parents. The uniqueness of this event provides children with incarcerated parents who would otherwise be unable to spend the holiday with their families, a chance to celebrate Christmas together. According to Jon D. Ponder, Founder & CEO of Hope for Prisoners, "family reunification is one of the most important components of the HOPE for prisoners program and this event is the start of this process for many of these families." The event took place at the Ahem Hotel, where 100 living rooms were created, each with a lit Christmas tree, presents, and a traditional Christmas dinner. Eligibility requirements to participate in this special holiday miracle included; inmates with good-standing behavior, and an expected release date within the next 18 months. Christmas is about family and hope. Thanks to this organization, they are bringing hope back to these families.

DECEMBER 5TH 2021

CREATIVE GENIUS KIDS AT ART BASEL

For Art Basel, the children were invited to unleash their creative genius! The children were taught by professional artist and florist, Madeline Archer, along with one of our long time volunteers Midia, how to paint on canvases using flowers and on flowers themselves. The event was sponsored by Fleur de Mia and held at Megalit Fitness in Wynwood which offered a lot of space for the children to spread out.

The children absolutely immersed themselves into the art, painting freely in t-shirts they were given to keep their clothes clean (much to the appreciation of the mothers at the event). Each child was given multiple easels and foliage to paint. Later on, everyone took a break to eat lunch and then enjoyed some time outside playing tag and football. At the end of the event, all the children received toys and games to take home that were donated on behalf of the Franklin Academy.



SOUTH CAROLINA

Silent Victims of Crime has been running a food distribution program in Anderson, South Carolina. Each week, we deliver packages of food to the homes of children with incarcerated family members. The food packages include meat, fresh vegetables, fruit, bread, eggs and dairy, among other typical grocery items they might need like oil. Our lead project coordinator, Kayla Baumann, helps to organize deliveries each week to the 23 families that we currently serve. The program is funded by a grant we received from the Duke Endowment, an organization that “strengthens

communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits” (Duke Endowment Org).

These families face a lot of financial hardships and often struggle with food insecurity. These weekly food deliveries help to put food on their tables more consistently and include healthier items that they may not be able to afford otherwise.



DECEMBER 17TH 2021

ASPA TOY DRIVE & HOLIDAY PARTY

The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) had their annual holiday and a toy drive for Silent Victims of Crime at the Center for Social Change. The holiday party was a hit, there was so much food, cheese and wine tastings, and a mouth watering dessert spread for everyone to enjoy. Everyone who came donated a gift for the children, all of which went towards the Silent Victims of Crime event that was set for the following day. Electronics such as tablets, phones and computers were donated by Angel Thony. Gifts were additionally collected from toy drives that were set up in private residential buildings around Miami. Toys were also contributed from a lovely woman who completed her community service hours with us and then continued to volunteer her time with us afterwards.

DEC 18TH 2021

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! TOYS, GAMES, FUN

This event unfortunately had to be modified due to the surge of cases of COVID-19 and a positive case of COVID among SVC staff. It was still really important to us that the children receive toys that had been collected, so to be cautious and mindful of the holidays ahead, SVC decided to drop off gifts and food to each family's home.

Gifts were collected from the ASPA Holiday Party and several toy drives that were set up in private residential buildings around Miami. Toys were also contributed by an amazing woman who completed her community service hours with us and then continued to volunteer her time with us afterwards.

That Saturday, volunteers and staff packaged up food to deliver to each family, along with all the games and toys that were going to be parceled out to the children. Each child also received a \$25 gift card as an extra bonus to help make their winter break special. Additionally, our families most in need received electronics. They received computers, phones or tablets that were donated to SVC by Angel Thony.

Once everything was ready to go, we had seven different drivers to help with making the deliveries, with our routes extending from Miami Gardens to all the way down south to Homestead. We really appreciate the help of all the volunteers who were able to help us modify the event smoothly and make these deliveries a possibility. We can't wait to have everyone together again in the new year.





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DONATE OR VOLUNTEER

None of this work is possible without the donations of our supporters and the work of our volunteers. All contributions are deeply appreciated and help us to reach more children of incarcerated parents, one of the most underserved and overlooked populations in our communities.

Find information on how to donate to us through PayPal on our site.

📞 CONTACT

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