

# INTERRUPTED LIFE:

A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE  
CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS



A one-day conference addressing issues of concern regarding the children of incarcerated men and women in Rhode Island

**Thursday**  
**APRIL 10, 2008**  
**8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

George E. Bello Center for Information & Technology  
Bryant University • Smithfield, RI

**8-8:30 a.m. Registration and Refreshments**

**8:30 a.m. Welcome to the Bryant University campus**

### Introduction of Keynote Speaker

**Roberta Richman**, Assistant Director, Rehabilitative Services, RIDOC

### Keynote Address: Mayor David Cicilline

*Breaking the Cycle: A Call to Action for Children of the Incarcerated*

**9:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Effective Services and Supports for Children of Incarcerated Parents**

### Moderator:

**Elizabeth Burke-Bryant**, Executive Director, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

### Panelists:

**Patricia Martinez**, Director, Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families

**Brother Michael Reis**, Executive Director, Tides Family Services

**Elizabeth Roberts**, Lieutenant Governor

**Ashbel T. Wall II**, Director, Rhode Island Department of Corrections

**BREAK**

**11:00 a.m. Presentation: Interrupted Childhoods: National Perspectives on the Needs of the Children of Incarcerated Parents**

**Sandra Enos**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Bryant University

**Carole Thompson**, Senior Associate, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

**NOON**

**LUNCH**

**1:00 p.m. Presentation: Levels of Response to Traumatic Events – Rhode Island: A Vital Aid in Serving Children of Incarcerated Parents**  
**Joyce Dixson-Haskett**, Principal, Resiliency Without Compromise, Inc., Bloomfield Hills, MI

**BREAK**

**2:15 p.m. Panel Discussions:**

Three simultaneous breakout sessions will offer the opportunity to discuss key questions regarding the responsibilities of the state and the community in the care of the children of incarcerated parents.

**Participants will choose one of three panels:**

### Institutional Services:

Moderator: **Carole Dwyer**, Warden, Women's Facilities, RIDOC

### Transitional Services:

Moderator: **Teresa Foley**, Transitional Services Coordinator, RIDOC

### Community Services:

Moderator: **Sol Rodriguez**, Executive Director, The Family Life Center

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Wrap-up and Next Steps**

### THE SPONSORS:

The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
and Making Connections, Providence  
Rhode Islanders Sponsoring Education (RISE)  
Bryant University  
The City of Providence  
The Family Life Center  
Rhode Island Kids Count  
The Rhode Island Department of Corrections

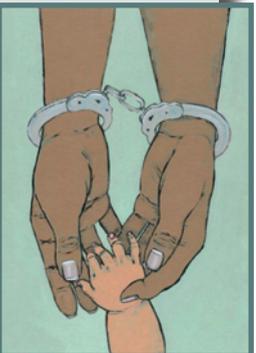
**There are 4,203 children  
who have a parent who was  
released from prison 2006.**

Source: RIDC, Planning & Research Unit

### THE EXHIBIT:

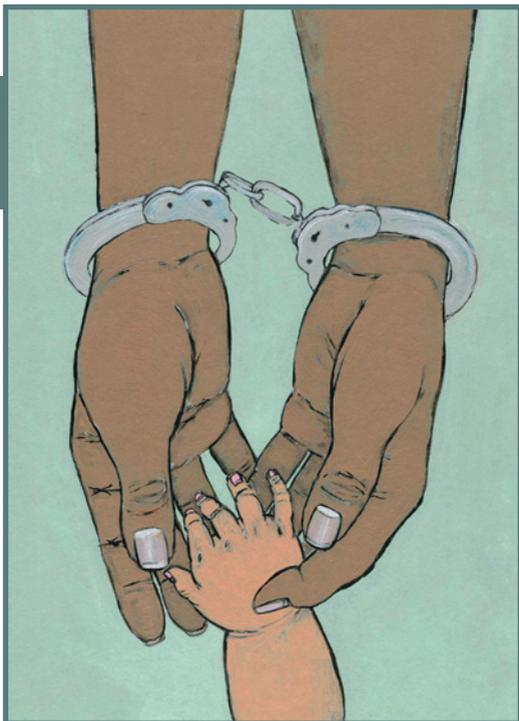
*Interrupted Life: Incarcerated Mothers in the United States*  
Opening Reception • Sunday, April 6, 2008 • 4 – 7 p.m.  
AS220 Project Space, 93 Matthewson Street, Providence  
[www.as220.org](http://www.as220.org)

*Interrupted Life: Incarcerated Mothers in the United States* is an exhibition of eight linked installation pieces examining the facts, experiences, policies and politics of incarceration in this country today. Curated by Rickie Solinger, the exhibition seeks to educate the community about the realities of incarceration, especially its impact on mothers and their children. *Interrupted Life* has been hosted by over 100 college and university galleries and premiered at the California Institute for Women in February 2006. Some of the artwork in the exhibition comes from Rhode Island inmates. Generous support for *Interrupted Life* has been provided by The Ford Foundation.



# INTERRUPTED LIFE:

A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS



Susan Willmarth • 2005

HOW DO WE BREAK THE INTER-GENERATIONAL CYCLE OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE?

**Thursday**  
**APRIL 10, 2008**  
**8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

George E. Bello Center for Information & Technology  
Bryant University • Smithfield, RI

## THE FACTS:

According to the recently issued *One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008* report issued by the Pew Charitable Trusts, more than one in every 100 adults is now confined in an American jail or prison.

During Calendar Year 2007, there was an average of 238 women incarcerated in Rhode Island at an annual cost of \$55,420 per offender per year.\*

The population of women incarcerated in Rhode Island increased over 1140% from 1976 to 2005. In 1976, there were 15 women in prison in Rhode Island.\*

The overall inmate population at the RIDOC has increased from 630 in Fiscal Year 1976 to approximately 3,800 today – a 540% increase.\*

Sixty-six percent of RIDOC inmates report having at least one child. In total over 4,500 Rhode Island children have a parent who is incarcerated.\*

When sentenced, fathers will spend an average of three years away from their children due to incarceration, and mothers will spend an average of one year incarcerated.\*

\* Source: RIDOC Planning & Research Unit

Please fill out this registration form and fax or mail it to:

Mary Louise Joseph  
Rhode Island Department of Corrections  
Bernadette Building  
15 Fleming Road  
Room 110  
Cranston, RI 02920

marylouise.joseph@doc.ri.gov

Fax: 401-462-0924

**No later than April 3rd.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select which of the following best describes you to help us in assessing our audience:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy maker                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional-based service provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional services provider       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ex-offender                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community-based service provider     | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Interested community member |

Please rank your choices for the afternoon breakout session (We can not guarantee placement in your first choice but will do our best.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Services     |  |

Packets will be given to all registered participants at registration indicating your breakout session and its location on campus.

Questions and special requirements (transportation, dietary or other special needs, or possible CEU credits) can be addressed to Mary Louise Joseph at the RIDOC at 401-462-0608 or via e-mail to marylouise.joseph@doc.ri.gov. The morning plenary session will take place at the George E. Bello Center for Information & Technology. Directions are available at [www.bryant.edu](http://www.bryant.edu).

Registration deadline: Thursday, April 3rd