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Living Stones International
*Children and Family Outreach & Social
Service Organization*
PO Box 6747
Tallahassee, FL 32314-6747



**LIVING STONES
INTERNATIONAL**

*“A Faith-Based Children & Family
Outreach and Social Service
Organization”*



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HISTORY OF LIVING STONES

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, Living Stones International (LSI) was established in 2007.



LSI began as a Marriage Education Program and evolved into a children and family outreach and social service organization.

For 3 years, children have been reconnected to moms, dads, and grandparents within the state prison system of Region 1 to include Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, and Wakulla counties.

Currently, we also provide an afterschool **“Children of Importance: Tutoring & Mentoring Program”** providing homework assistance, computer technology, and drills for FSA testing (formerly FCAT).

As an agency with The Service Network: Children of Inmates’ Program in Miami, Florida, Living Stones is tasked to provide in-care coordination and special bonding visits between children and their incarcerated parents.



THE ISSUES



Children With Incarcerated Parents

- There are almost 1.6 million inmates held in US prisons who were parents of minor children under 18 years of age.
- Parents in this category comprise 52% of men and women in state prisons and 63% in federal prisons. Due to parental absence, children are left to fend for self.
- The National Fatherhood Initiative states *“24.7 million lived in father-absent homes in 2010.”*

Incarceration

- 70% of children of inmates will become incarcerated themselves within their lifetime.
- In Region I, there are more than 14,000 children with at least one parent incarcerated across the state.
- Nationwide, more than 2 million children have at least one parent incarcerated. *

Teen Pregnancies

- Birth rates for mothers ages 15 - 19 have been decreasing in Leon County.
- Rates are on the rise in the counties of Gadsden, Jefferson, and Wakulla.
- This results in higher rates of violence and abuse due to primarily father absences.

**(Statistics are derived from U.S. Department of Justice and Florida Department of Corrections’ data.)*



SOLUTIONS

LSI offers the following services:

- Quarterly bonding visits
- Group mentoring and tutors for children
- In-care coordination services
- Parenting education classes
- Referral services for housing, mental health, and substance abuse



Results of the Program

- Participants in COI Program have single digit recidivism that reduces parents reoffending or returning to prison; and allowing them to materially support their families through gainful employment.
- Children in the program experience:
 - ⇒ Less antisocial behavior
 - ⇒ Better grades and test scores
 - ⇒ Less involvement with abusing drugs & alcohol

