



# Living Stones International

A Children and Family Outreach Ministry

March 2014



## "A Mind: Terrible Thing To Waste"



While preparing for college in 1969, I learned about The United Negro College Fund through their motto "a mind is a terrible thing to waste." Their motto still resonates today for our children of inmates. Often children with incarcerated parents demonstrate difficulties in paying attention, learning disabilities, diminished academic performance, behavioral problems and truancy.

What we have found is that children in a caring teaching environment are excited about learning and staying in school. Last year because of JC's compassion, she started an after school tutoring program. When we decided to take on the task, it wasn't about whether we had funds or the time, but what the children needed—extra help in reading and math. The testimonies from the children, "I passed my FCAT", "My teacher presented me with the Gold Star Award" or "I'm going to my next grade" has given us renewed excitement about the program.

Currently, Living Stones' Children of Importance: After School Tutoring and Mentoring Program has 12 kindergarteners to sixth graders. The children decided on this name--because they desire to be important.

Thank God for volunteers such as Pascale Reseau, Mitchell McGee and FSU interns who give their time and talents sowing into young lives. Recently, we were introduced to Bobby Bean, a retiree, who fixes and donates computers. He gave us three computers so some of the children could have one in their homes.

Just as Bobby Bean invested in our children, we are inviting you to invest in them, too. There are three upcoming bonding visits so



1) We ask for your prayers.

Prayers do work and keeping Living Stones in your daily prayer help us to continue our work with passion and not a chore.

[Learn More](#)



2) We ask you to invest in children and families.

As an investment, your gifts are rebuilding, reconnecting, and restoring relationships.

[Learn More](#)



3) We ask for Y-O-U.

You are the difference in a child's life. Be a mentor or tutor today. You may be the only BIBLE someone reads by how you act towards them.

[Learn More](#)



60 children can visit and bond with their incarcerated moms and dads. The program's schedule is Liberty CI March 19, 2014; Wakulla CI March 21, 2014; and Gadsden Womens Facility March 24, 2014.

An investment of \$82.50 per child will help children maintain contact with their parents and benefit them emotionally and behaviorally. For less than \$5,000.00, sixty children will have fun reconnecting to their mom or dad, play games/toys, and munch on snacks and lunch. We should invest in our children's futures **now** and prevent the statistic that 70% of inmate's children will be incarcerated during their lifetime.

For instance, the long term cost factor **not investing** in our children will **cost of \$20,000.00 or \$840,000.00** for 42 children. Invest now in these children while their young and the gift you make today will save Y-O-U \$835,000.00 in future dollars. Our children are **priceless** and **worth the investment**.

**DONATE BELOW!**



Living Stones works with 114 children, at three different prisons with future institutions coming on board this year. Thus far, Living Stones has completed ten visits and on average escorts 74 children with 30 caregivers and parents.

Occasionally, we have parents give us anecdotal stories like this one— during a parenting class, a emotional father "shared how he speaks to his son on the phone and last seen him when he was 18 months old. His son, now 10 years old, is asking, "Dad what do you look like. He told him you'll see me on March 19, 2014 God willing."

**AWESOME EVENTS** forthcoming ~

**Living Stones and Representative Allen Williams' Farmshare Food Giveaway is April 26, 2014 at Walker Ford Community Center, 2302 Pasco Street, Tallahassee. To date, our program supplied over 50,000 pounds of food last year.**





**Second Annual Living Stones Family Fun Day is Saturday June 21, 2014 at Walker Ford Community Center, 2302 Pasco Street, Tallahassee. Face painting, clowns, free hot dogs, live music, games and fun fun fun! Be a sponsor of any part of the Fun Day.**

- **Platinum sponsors \$1,000.00 (large banner)**
- **Gold-\$500.00 (small banner)**
- **Silver-\$250.00 (Yard Sign)B**
- **Bronze-\$150.00 listing on yard sign.**

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**Mark Your Calendar for Living Stones'  
2nd Annual Family Fun Day  
Saturday - June 21, 2014  
Walker Ford Community Center**

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Your Servant,

Gary and Josephine Montgomery  
Founders, Living Stones International



\* Living Stones is a voting member of the Service Network based in South Florida and as a member, we are responsible for establishing bonding visits between children and their incarcerated parents in North Florida State Prisons. The program called The Children of Inmates has provided quarterly bonding visits for the last six years at state prisons throughout mainly South Florida and North Florida. Living Stones celebrated our 1st Anniversary for our Children of Inmates' Program on August 16, 2013, the exact date one year ago.