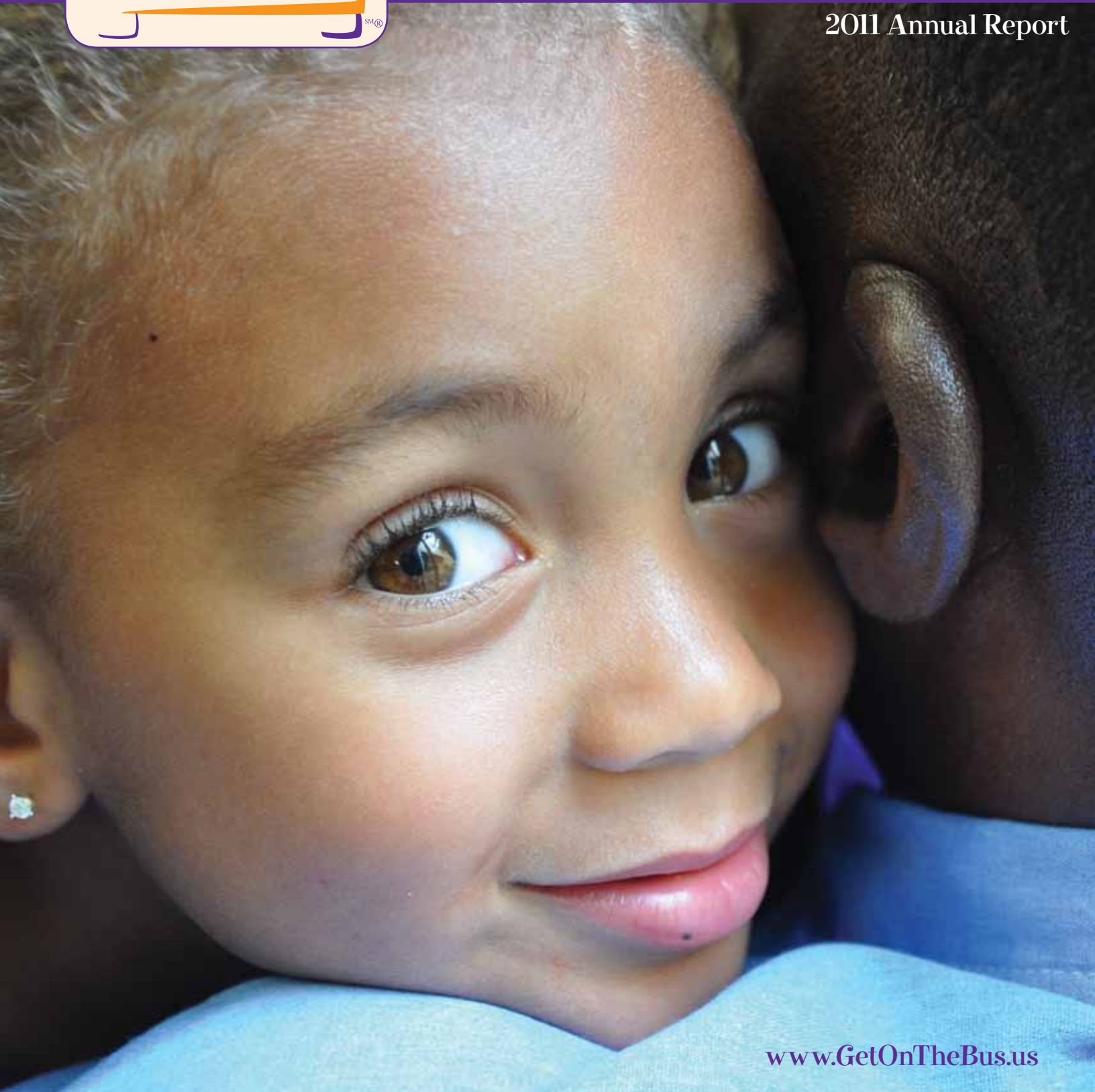




Uniting children with their mothers and fathers in prison.

2011 Annual Report





Letter from the Founder and Executive Director

At **Get On The Bus**, we always strive to think of our mission through the eyes of the children. Year after year children of all ages say the same thing over and over again:

“This is the best day of my whole life!”

Going to a prison on a long bus ride is the best day of their lives? Indeed it is. The children are telling us, with their words, drawings, tears, and hugs that the parent-child bond is core to their being and development. When the family bonds are broken due to incarceration, children endure a sentence every bit as long and isolating as their mother or father. As one grandmother phrased it, “She did the crime, but we all do the time.”

Through the eyes of the children, we learn that time spent in a prison visiting room can be sacred and healing. We see little girls dancing on their father’s feet. We see babies met and held for the first time. One mother learned just before **Get On The Bus** that she will be released in December. “For the first time in my nine year old daughter’s life, I will be on the outside for Mother’s Day.” We see hope for a new start, a second chance, an opportunity to be a family again.

But we also see heartbreak as last hugs are held for long moments and good byes are whispered through tears. After 12 years it never gets easier to bear witness to this pain, but we have learned to transform it into passion for our mission of uniting families.

Thank you for supporting, sharing, and embracing our vision. If you are considering year-end donations, and can give again to GOTB, a donation envelope is enclosed. Whatever you can give would be most appreciated. Thanks to you, 1,357 children had the best day ever. Thanks, to you, 1,357 children remembered what it feels like to rest in the arms of their mother or father.

Sister Suzanne Jabro, CSJ
Founder

Katherine Culpepper
Executive Director



“You changed my life completely! Because of Get On The Bus I now have a future. If I were to get out tomorrow, I now have a family to go to.”

– Father, CTF



Making History One Prison At A Time

For the first time ever, Get On The Bus brought children to the prisons at San Quentin and Folsom—the very symbols of California’s correctional justice system. Johnny Cash may have given Folsom the blues, but GOTB filled it with a sea of purple shirts and the sounds of love. At San Quentin, the sounds of love were trumpeted by the Hatt’s Motorcycle Club whose members escorted the bus from St. Sebastian’s Parish Hall in Larkspur to the gates of the prison on their Harley Davidsons.

Get On The Bus envisions a day when all 33 of the state’s prisons will recognize the importance of maintaining strong family bonds during incarceration and the benefits of visiting for both prisoners and their families. In 2011, the program took place at nine prisons, representing 100% coverage of the state’s women’s facilities and 23% of the state’s men’s facilities.

At Get On The Bus, we never lose sight of the fact that nearly **200,000 children in California have a parent in state prison** who want, more than anything, to visit their mother or father. We are moving ever toward systemic change one prison, one bus, one family at a time.

	Children	Parents	Caregivers	Families	# of Buses
Mother’s Day Totals	706	295	253	298	29
Father’s Day Totals	651	300	304	299	27
TOTALS	1,357	595	557	597	56



“Get On The Bus is the nicest thing that has ever happened to my family. It’s like winning the lottery—but better.”

– Grandmother

Mother Knows Best

We met Anna as she traveled to the California Men’s Colony in San Luis Obispo with her 13 year old son. She struggles raising him as a single mother, but is a thoughtful and very conscientious parent.

When Anna received a request to participate in **Get On The Bus** from her son’s father, she shared that she, “felt God’s hand in it.” In filling out the registration forms she put aside her own heartbreak and history to do what she believed to be best for her son who was adamant that he did not want to go.

As she chatted with volunteers on the four hour bus ride while accompanying her less than

enthusiastic teen, she stated firmly and with a mother’s conviction, “someday he will thank me for this.”

Despite his insistence that he had nothing to talk about, Anna’s son and his father talked through the entire three hour visit. Anna gave them their space. As the visit came to an end, the formerly nonchalant young man hugged his father and shed tears as they parted.

Get On The Bus never fails to reveal the beauty of the human soul. In this case, a mother’s selfless love and gentle push tore down walls and created the opportunity for new beginnings.

Financial Report

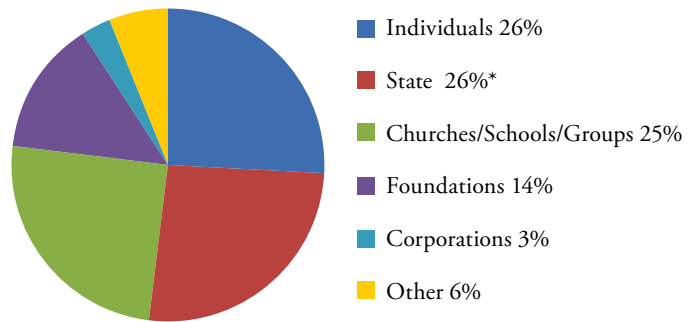
A big THANK YOU to every single person, church, school, business and foundation that generously invested in the mission of **Get On The Bus**. Because of you, 1,357 children of incarcerated parents were able to re-connect with their mother or father, create happy new memories, and nurture their family bonds.

Get On The Bus is a program of the Center for Restorative Justice Works (CRJW), an organization dedicated to uniting children, families and communities separated by crime and the criminal justice system. During its 2010-2011 fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, CRJW raised \$982,568 to support all of its programs, including **Get On The Bus**.

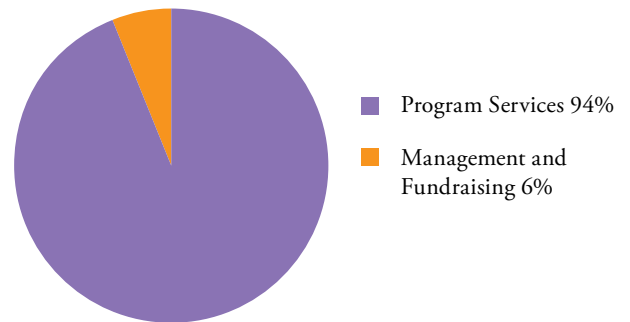
The other programs of CRJW include: the Chowchilla Family Express, a state contract to provide transportation to unite families with women serving sentences at women's prisons in Chowchilla; and Cross-Over, a program providing women serving sentences at the California Institution for Women in Corona with personal and spiritual development opportunities in collaboration with volunteers from "the outside".

The CRJW financial figures referenced are unaudited. You can receive a copy of the financial statements by request.

Sources of CRJW Revenue of \$982,568



Distribution of CRJW Expenses of \$927,608



*CRJW's Chowchilla Family Express receives program funding from the state of California.



"This brings tears to my eyes. I didn't deserve any favor from my children or my wife or especially from strangers. You are rebuilding hope and teaching men and women who are incarcerated how to love again."

– Father, Folsom

Our Donors

Space constraints limit us to listing donors for sponsor-level gifts received by June 30, 2011. We are very grateful for every donation that we receive and all donors are listed on our website. www.getontbebus.us. Please forgive any errors or omissions.

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"This trip means everything because it means everything to my mom. She has looked forward to this for 15 years."

– Daughter, age 20



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Hank & Cindy Hafliger	Italian Catholic Federation #209	Virginia Ladday	Jim McEntee	Mary Ann O'Brian
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Lora Hall	Frances and Michael James	Cece & Henry Lane	Charles & Katherine McGrath	Colm Ohara
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		Robert & Virginia Latta	Denny McKee	Laurel Ann Olson
		Jacques & Cathleen Laufer	Marianne McKeon-Wedell	Rosalinda O'Neill
		Michael & Pamela Lawler	Sheila and Dennis McKinnon	Keith Osajima
		Lois Ledger	Cecil and Malicia McLinn	M.A. Osborne
		Chan Lee	Nancy McNulty	Stanley Ostrom
		Ronald & Louise Lehman	Janine Meckler	John O'Sullivan
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		Gloria Lentz	Thomas & Barbara Merrick	Our Lady of Guadalupe School
		Fred Leone	Mexi-Casa Restaurant	Our Lady of Lourdes Church
		Leslie Mosson & James Healy	Michael and Judith Michalek	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
		Michael & Kathaleen Lewis	Anne Miller	Our Lady of the Assumption Church
		John & Mei Liau	Archie & Johanna Miller	Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
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		Lions Club of Arroyo Grande	Michael & Amanda Miller	Annabeth & Robert Palacios
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		David & Arline Lloyd	Kristen & Wayne Mills Henkels	Amelia Panes
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			Jill Miroglgio	Andrew Papac



Uniting children with their

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Dion Peronneau	Wayne & Gloria Schafer	St. Andres Lutheran Church	
Teresa Petach	David & Paula Schaffner	St. Andrew Church	
Marlene Peter	Carson Scheller	St. Anne's	
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Marian Pratt	John and Mary Ann Schweppe	St. Lawrence O'Toole School	
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Mara Pugh	A. Lois Scull	St. Marks Presbyterian Church	
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		The First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside	Michael Weiskopf
		The Gaffney Foundation	Max & Peggy Weismair
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		Mary Ann Van Etten	Margaret & Reaf Young
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		Nan Walker	Ralph & Judith Zwetow
		C. John & Nancy Wallo	
		Adele Walsh	



Volunteers ARE Get On The Bus

The high-quality experience enjoyed by the children and families participating in **Get On The Bus** is a direct result of the high-quality of the care, dedication and generosity of the GOTB Bus Teams that coordinate every aspect of the experience. Local Bus Teams are resourceful, enthusiastic, and committed to social justice. They understand that they are ambassadors helping their communities to recognize the plight of children with a parent in prison.

Does your faith community have a commitment to children in need?

Do you feel called to offer your skills, talents and time to a very worthy project?

We need YOU to help more children than ever to **Get On The Bus** in 2012. If you would like to volunteer, click on the "Get Involved" tab at the top of our webpage, www.getonthebus.us.

Bus Coordinators

Get On The Bus has a decentralized grassroots model that places leadership and responsibility in the hands of capable local Bus Teams. It is with gratitude and admiration that we recognize the leadership and dedication of the following Bus Team Leaders.

Antelope Valley

Diana Cardenas
Sr. Marie Ellen Kubel
Kate LaFerrier
Deacon Gary Poole
Blessed Junipero Serra
St. Mary's Catholic Church

Bakersfield

Patti Bulkeley
Kristin Faure
Victor Lostaunau
Marty Steinman
Debbie Wood
First Congregational Church of Bakersfield – UCC
Kern County Prosecutor's Office
St. John's Lutheran Church

Fresno

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Nikki Williamson
Diocese of Fresno
Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Carlos Porras
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Bellflower First United Methodist Church, Bellflower
Los Altos United Methodist Church
Saint Dominic Savio Church, Bellflower
St. Bartholomew Catholic Church
St. Lukes Episcopal Church
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Catholic Church, Lomita

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La Mikia Castillo
Tony & Lynn Fadale
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Lynn Slotsve
Erica Tazel
Karinna Torres
Gloria Hulse-Walker
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Blessed Sacrament Parish

Good Shepherd Church
Holy Family Church
Issacher Initiative
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Mt St Mary's College
St. Agatha's Church
USC Association of Black Students

Monterey

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Kristen Dow
Dave Farrell
Chelsey Furrer
Anjuleeh Herrin
Lynne Reichers-Knott
Allison Nicholas
Lori Panziera
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Carmel Mission
Catholic Community of St. Agustin
The Christian Church of Pacific Grove
Good Shepherd elementary school
Inter-Faith Outreach of Carmel
Liberty Chapel Community Church
Naples Rib Company
Our Lady of Solitude
San Carlos Cathedral
Shoreline Community Church
St. Joseph's Church
St. Theodores

Orange County

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Judith Freyer
Peggy Huber
Sandy Krogh
Loni Nguyen
Catholic Detention Ministry – Diocese of Orange
Common Ground Spiritual Center, Tustin
St. Anne's Catholic Church, Seal Beach
St. Marks Presbyterian Church

Riverside

Sheila deAnda
Josie Dumdum
Carlos Gonzalez
Margie Hillard
Dennis Hillard
Bobbie Kobus
Sylvia Munion
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Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Parish
St. Frances of Rome Catholic Parish
St. James Catholic Parish
St. Martha Catholic Parish
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Parish
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish
St. Patrick Catholic Parish

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Naresh Davit
Dan Macneilage
Melissa Macneilage
Cathy Martinez

Larry Niekamp
Norma Niekamp
Elizabeth White
Diocese of Sacramento – Catholic Charities
Diocese of Stockton – Catholic Charities
Live Improvements
Sacred Heart Parish
St. Anthony of Padua
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San Bernardino

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Heather King
Tracy Marquez
Kathy Page
Phil Page
Annette Williams
Diocese of San Bernardino
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Redlands United Church of Christ
St. Catherine of Siena School
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Linda Pillsbury
Margaret Sardo
Mary Lou Vanderlip
Bob Vanderlip
Jane Wilson
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Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
Glendale Temple Sinai
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
St. Michaels Episcopal Church

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Dennis Flannery
Kelli Flannery-Cid
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Cal Alumni Association UC Berkeley
Catholic Charities – Oakland
Project WHAT!
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

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Madeline DeShazo
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Sacred Heart Church
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New Life Community Church
Seventh Day Adventist
St. Louis de Montfort
St. Patrick's Church
St. Timothy's Church
United Methodist Church

Santa Rosa

Anne Marie Clifford
Molly Rattigan
Daniel Vrooman
Joan Warner
Diocese of Santa Rosa – Office of Restorative Justice

Ventura

Charla Mooney
Michelle Paschen
Padre Serra Parish
St. Mary Magdalen Church

Visalia

Beti Cisneros
Pat Lorenzo
Cynthia Salazar
Caritas Christi Catholic Church of Visalia





A Huge Heart; A Colossal Commitment

Sonia gave birth to her baby girl at the Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla. She is counting down the days until she is released in roughly 10 months when she will return home to be a mom. She held her baby for the first time during **Get On The Bus**.

Volunteer Kathy Page was horrified to realize that this young mother and her baby were losing the opportunity to develop an essential early parent-child bond. Family members caring for the baby were unable to visit regularly due to work schedules and lack of transportation. Kathy responded from her heart in a remarkably compassionate and generous way.

Each month until Sonia's release, Kathy will bring the baby to visit on the Chowchilla Family Express, a sister program of **Get On The Bus** that provides year-round transportation to loved ones of women at the geographically isolated Chowchilla prisons. These monthly visits will ensure that Sonia is not a stranger to her own child and will keep her focused and hopeful for the future.

A chance encounter. A powerful promise. A mother's presence in a child's formative years. To **Get On The Bus** . . . priceless!

The Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights

I have the right to be kept safe and informed at the time of my parent's arrest

I have the right to be heard when decisions are being made about me

I have the right to be considered when decisions are being made about my parent

I have the right to be well-cared for in my parent's absence

I have the right to speak with, see, and touch my parent

I have the right to support as I face my parent's incarceration

I have the right not to be judged, blamed or labeled because my parent is incarcerated

I have the right to a life-long relationship with my parent.

Developed by the San Francisco Partnership for Incarcerated Parents.



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Uniting children with their mothers and fathers in prison.



"I haven't seen my mom in three years. I miss her and I love her and I'm glad that the bus brought me to see her. I hope I can see her again. I love my mom."

—Son, age 11

www.GetOnTheBus.us