# VISITATION & PARENTING BEYOND BARS

Lillian Hewko, Incarcerated Parents Project, Washington Defender Association

### Why Support Increased Visitation?

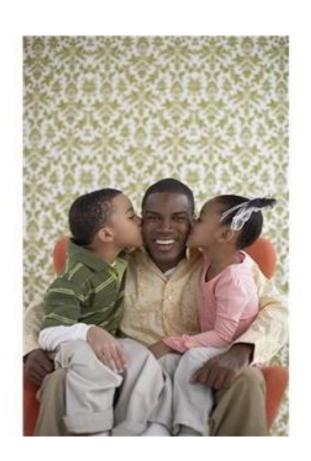
- Help Prevent unnecessarily separating families as it is devastating to children in foster care
- Support family reunification which is linked to reduced recidivism for parents, greater family stability, and improved emotional response for children.[1]



M.L. and her 3 year old son at WCCW Holiday Event 2014, she gave birth to her sons In jail and she has been successfully parenting from prison. Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

## Benefits of Prison Visits on Children's Well-Being

- □ Provides assurance
- Reduces separation anxiety
- Can reduce the child's incidence of problematic behavior and improve outcomes
- Provides stabilization
- Maintains parent-child attachment [2]



#### Better Outcomes for Kids



- Maintaining contact helps children:
  - Allows them to express emotional reactions to separation
  - Promotes a more realistic understanding
  - Reduces child anxiety by knowing their parent is safe[3]

## VISITATION AT DOC PRISONS IN WA

Contact Visits and Family Friendly Environment

#### Visitation and Events at WCCW

Prison Staff Make Family Friendly Events and Environments-Food, Art, Fun!



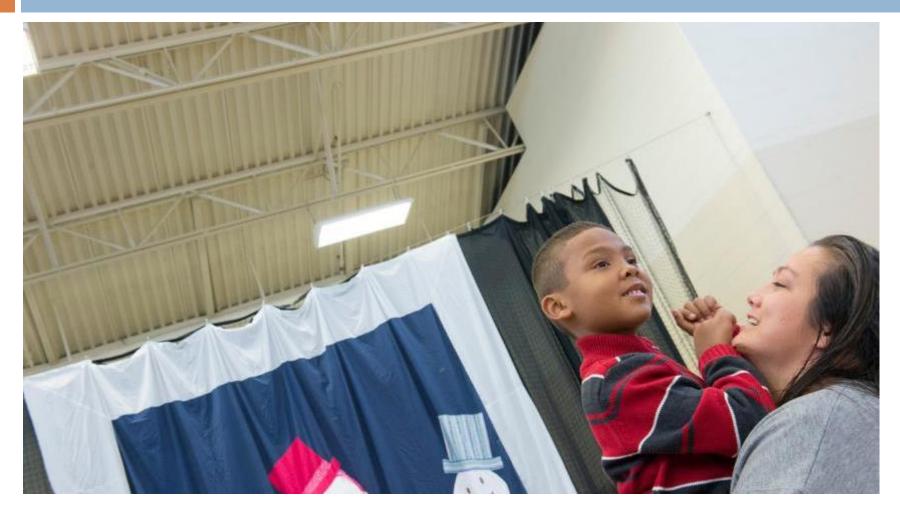
Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

#### Visitation and Events at WCCW

\* pictures from 2015 Christmas Event

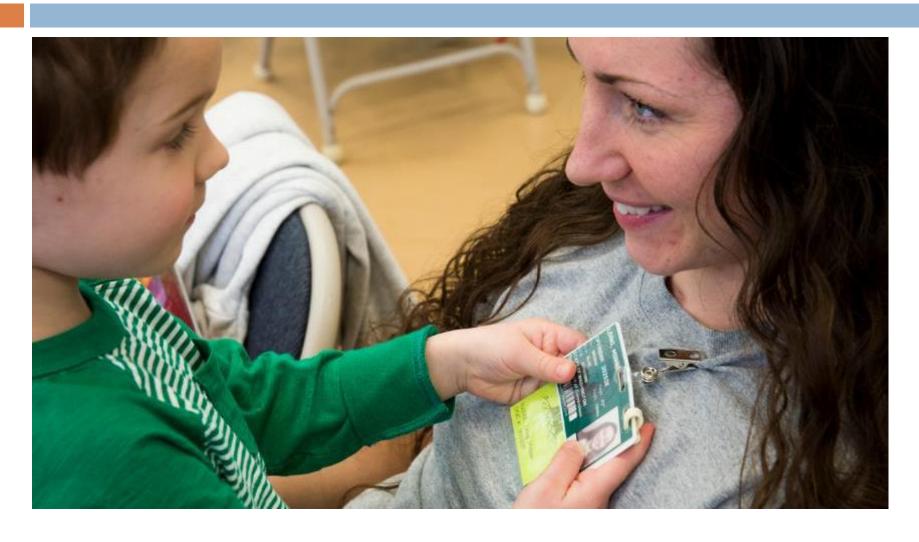


### **Contact Visits**

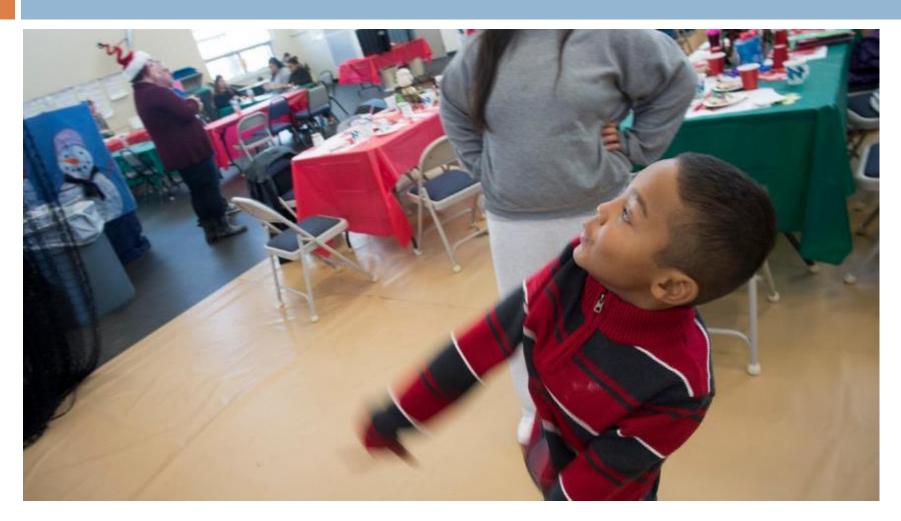


T.Q. and her 6 year old son, she is successfully parenting from prison since he was a baby and will release in 2019. Photo Credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

### **Contact Visits**



## Room to Play Freely!



## Ability for Child to Connect with Caregiver and Parent!



Photo credit: Maria Bryk Photography, 2015

# Arts and Crafts w/Parent and Caregiver



### Prison Staff Make it Fun!



## Meet other caregivers and kids in Same Circumstances!



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