



Spring 2020 Newsletter

Family Services Advocate Update

Because of the Corona Virus pandemic, Lindsey Ober, the Family Services Advocate, has been unable to meet people incarcerated at the Lancaster County Prison to address the needs of their children. Despite the challenges this presents, Lindsey is working remotely full-time and is staying busy with case management of all open cases. She is in contact with all families by phone and has helped them resolve various challenges.

The reduction in admissions to the prison has meant that new referrals have declined significantly. Lindsey is in contact with the prison counselors and has encouraged them to reach out as needed.

The prison released around 200 inmates with no home plan or release address. This resulted in many difficult situations for these families. Lindsey has responded to calls from some of these families.

This winter, Lindsey began support groups in the Ephrata School District, which has a large number of children with parents in prison. She developed the curriculum from an evidence-based program, "Empowering Children of the Incarcerated" and also incorporated activities from the *Two of Every One Hundred* workbook. These groups are currently on hold while Lindsey explores the possibility of holding them via Zoom.



Teddy Bears Deliver Messages of Love from Incarcerated Parents to Their Children

Ambassadors for Hope has just received 100 more recordable teddy bears.

As soon as circumstances permit, parents in prison will record messages that the stuffed bears will deliver to their children.

Family Services Advocate Program Evaluation

The most recent Family Services Advocate Program Evaluation is available on the Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change website --

<https://www.millersville.edu/ccerp/files/reports/family-services-advocate-program-evaluation-2018-2019>

Ambassadors for Hope/Millersville University Scholarship

Ambassadors for Hope is partnering with Millersville University to establish a scholarship for a Millersville University student who has a history of parental incarceration. Applicants for the scholarship will submit an essay that describes how parental incarceration has affected their educational path. Financial need will also be considered.

Your contribution, no matter how small, can help us reach the minimum amount needed to begin to award the scholarship. You can assist making a contribution to the *Ambassadors for Hope* scholarship today, Make a check payable to the Millersville University Foundation, note that it is for the Ambassadors for Hope Scholarship and mail it to Millersville University Development Office, 207 North George Street, PO Box 1002, Millersville, PA 17551.

You can also go to the Millersville University website and make an online donation. Visit <https://www.millersville.edu/give/make-a-gift.php>, choose "other" on the drop down menu. At the bottom of the page, specify "Ambassadors for Hope Scholarship" in the "additional information block. Thank you!