

BRINGING Project WHAT! TO YOU

We look forward to sharing our expertise with you! Visit our website to order materials or contact us to develop a presentation, training or program that meets your needs.

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"Our members were not only impressed with your stories, but your resiliency, hopes and dreams for your futures, and willingness to make a difference. Your work will have a significant impact on policy makers and cause them to consider, before acting, what impact their decisions have on children and youth." – **Director, San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services**

"Project WHAT! gives me the opportunity to share my personal experience with an audience that needs and wants to hear from us. What I like most is achieving the very goal that our name suggests by sharing our personal experiences and spreading awareness." – **Project WHAT! team member**



Community Works is an award-winning non-profit organization founded in 1997 that interrupts and heals the far-reaching impact of incarceration and violence on individuals, families and communities.

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PROJECT WHAT!

a program of  **communityworks**

Youth-led advocacy and education on behalf of the 2.4 million children with an incarcerated parent in the U.S.

OVERVIEW

It can be difficult to know how to support a young person with a parent in jail or prison. What is helpful? What is invasive? What policies and services could help?

We—the youth of Project WHAT!—are experts on this topic, as each of us has experienced or is currently experiencing parental incarceration.

Through Project WHAT!, a groundbreaking leadership development, job-training and advocacy program for young people, we help service providers, teachers, policy makers and others understand the challenges children face when a parent is incarcerated.

WHAT! stands for **We're Here And Talking**, which is exactly what the team is doing. Project WHAT! allows us to speak out on behalf of ourselves and the millions of other children who share our experience.

Through our work, we aim to help you better meet the needs of this invisible and growing group of young people.

WHO WE SERVE

Project WHAT!'s educational services and materials are designed for those involved with children of incarcerated parents (CIP). These include service providers, child welfare workers, teachers, program administrators, public officials, criminal justice professionals and mental health providers, as well as incarcerated parents and youth.

BENEFITS

Our offerings will help your staff and constituents:

- Gain insight into the experience and needs of CIP
- Develop tips and techniques for talking with CIP
- Learn about policies and services that support CIP

OUR OFFERINGS

Our offerings are designed and delivered by our team of trained youth.

Youth-led Trainings: Tailored to meet your needs, our trainings enhance conferences, workshops and staff in-service trainings.

Co-Facilitation and Presentations: We are trained facilitators and speakers who can add a unique perspective to your programs and events.

Educational Resources: These resources are available from our website:

- *Resource Guide for Teens with a Parent in Prison or Jail:* an 80-page workbook covering topics from housing to legal issues to visiting one's parent (free)
- *A Sentence Apart:* a 12-minute CD following three individuals with incarcerated family members (fee)
- *The Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents,* a booklet outlining the central principles of the children of incarcerated parents (CIP) advocacy movement, is distributed at our presentations.

Technical Assistance: We provide technical assistance to organizations wanting to replicate Project WHAT!. We tailor our assistance to meet the needs of your resources and goals. We will help you plan and realize your very own Project WHAT! team in your community.

OUTCOMES

Launched in 2006 by Community Works, Project WHAT! is the only program of its kind in the nation. We have:

- Delivered nearly 100 trainings to 5,500 people in 14 counties throughout California and 7 states
- Distributed 4,500 copies of our *Resource Guide*
- Supported state advocacy efforts resulting in important protections for CIP

FUNDERS

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Project WHAT! team with Writer/Actor Daniel Beaty, Feb 2012