

Uniting children with their mothers and fathers in prison.

2010 Annual Report

www.GetOnTheBus.us

"There are two things we look forward to in here: 1. Getting out and 2. Get On The Bus." – CMC dad

Letter from the Executive Director

Get On The Bus is like the mustard seed of the parables. From the seed of an idea to take children to visit their mothers in prison—an eyebrow raising thought at the time—**Get On The Bus** is yielding abundant fruit in the transformation of families, faith communities, and the correctional justice system. We always believed that the potential for systemic change lay quietly in the DNA of our elegantly simple program, and we are now seeing those changes take place in big and small ways.

We are changing the system. **Get On The Bus** now serves over 1,000 children who visit seven women's and men's prisons. In 2011, we will be adding San Quentin and Folsom Prisons to our list of destinations—two facilities that are the symbols of California's prison system—the largest system in the nation. Both prisons requested to be expansion sites—a far cry from the resistance of early days.

As evidence of small, yet powerful signs of change, I share the following story. A Bus Coordinator from Sacred Heart Parish in Covina called to tell us that one of the fathers from the California Men's Colony had just attended Sunday services accompanied by his family. The father told the Bus Coordinator that he had been released and wanted to join the church that brought his children to visit him in prison. He added, "You helped me when I needed it. How can I be of service at the church?" A remarkable story at many levels and as perfect an example of restorative justice as there ever was.

We joyfully share this good news and annual report with you. Your investment in our mission works miracles and we hope that you will again partner with us to bring even more families together in 2011.

Yours in service,

Sr. Suzanne Jabro, CSJ

What We Know . . . About The Families We Serve

ach year Get On The Bus surveys parents, caregivers, and children about their family circumstances and how Get On The Bus helps them to strengthen their family bonds. Here's what we learned about this year's families:

- 72.6% of the children served are African-American or Hispanic
- 74.8% of mothers are minorities and 89.6% of fathers are minorities
- 42.2% of people bringing children to see fathers were the men's wives
- 43.2% of people bringing children to see mothers were maternal grandmothers
- 50% of mothers and 38.2% of fathers report that they would NEVER see their children without Get On The Bus.
- The number one barrier families list as preventing children from visiting their parents is distance,
- followed by finances and transportation.
- 56% of mothers and 43% of fathers will be getting out of prison in 3 years or fewer—thus, the critical need to restore relationships in order to increase successful family reunification upon release.
- For the first time ever, a child participated in two Get On The Bus trips to visit both his mother AND father in prison.

Get On The Bus is a cost-effective intervention that eliminates the barriers to contact, normalizes childparent interaction, ameliorates the negative impacts of parental incarceration on children, and helps to restore and maintain family relationships for post-release success.

	Children	Parents	Caregivers	Volunteers	# of Buses
Mother's Day Totals	586	268	250	841	29 + 1 plane
Father's Day Totals	701	327	298	289	31
TOTALS	1,287	595	548	1,130	60 + 1 plane





"The best part of **Get On The Bus**? The love and tears, the all day hugs, catching up, seeing their smiling faces and their eyes sparkle." – CIW mom

Count Down to Get On The Bus

ost children count down the days until Christmas or their birthday. **Get On The Bus** children have a very different wish. Last January, Eddie learned that his grandmother had signed him up to visit his father at the Salinas Valley State Prison. Just two years old when his father went to prison, Eddie (now 10) had only been able to visit once in all that time and that visit took place behind glass.

As Get On The Bus approached, Eddie's

grandmother helped him draw a calendar and showed him how to "x" out each day that passed. All he could think about was hugging his dad—something he hadn't done in eight years.

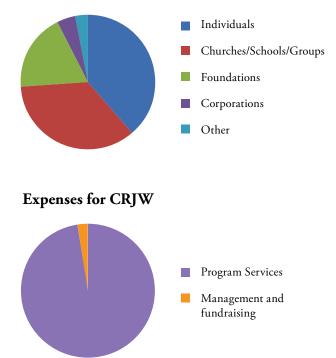
As the big day arrived, Eddie walked into the visiting room and recognized his father immediately. He threw himself into his arms to get the first of many, many hugs. As he got back on the bus he told his grandmother, "This was the best day of my life. I got to see my dad and talk man stuff."

Financial Report

HANK YOU for investing in Get On The Bus and joining the movement to unite children with their parents in prison. Thousands of supporters and volunteers gave generously of their time, talent, and/or treasure to give the children we collectively serve a positive memory of a special day with their mother or father . . . a day that restores relationships, offers hope, and helps children to better cope with their loss, fear, and sadness. Your donation is priceless in the eyes of a child eager to see his or her parent.

In its 2009-2010 fiscal year, **Get On The Bus** raised \$670,372 (unaudited figures) in cash and in-kind donations which enabled us to put more children on more buses than ever before.

Sources of Revenue



"For someone like me who hasn't seen my child in almost 3 years, it was a wonderful feeling to hold her and play and talk to her." – CMC dad

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Space constraints limit us to listing donors at sponsor levels only. We are very grateful for every donation that we receive and all donors are listed on our website. www.getonthebus.us. Please forgive any errors or omissions.

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"Being with my son during Get On The Bus I felt that in my mind I had left prison. It felt like we were in the park." – CCWF mom

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mothers and fathers in prison.





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Get **On The Bus** can only happen through the phenomenal efforts of more than 1,000 volunteers who gave of their time, hard work, talents and LOVE for the children, and families of **Get On the Bus.** Volunteers raised funds, met with families, coordinated logistics, took photos, counseled children and shared the **Get On The Bus** story in their circles of faith, family, and friendship. We are inspired by their dedication and blessed to call them partners in mission. With deepest sincerity, we thank you.

If you would like to volunteer for the 2011 *Get On The Bus*, click on the "Get Involved" tab at the top of our webpage, www.getonthebus.us.

Bus Coordinators

n **Get On The Bus'** decentralized grassroots model, local Bus Teams accept the mantle of responsibility and leadership for every aspect of "their" bus in an extraordinary expression of service. With tremendous gratitude, we recognize Bus Team Leaders from throughout the state.

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Lani Badilla, Juanita Carrillo, Joseph Crescente, Sharon Crescente, Kristin Dow, Chelsey Furrer, Andres Larraza, Jessica Nicholas, Ron Panziera, Lynne Reichers-Knott, Chris Stone, Tanya Williams, Catherine Wolf, Carmel Misson Basillica, Friends Outside National Organization, Liberty Chapel Community Church, Madonna del Sasso Church, Our Lady of Solitude Church, Sacred Heart Church, San Carlos Cathedral, St. Joseph's Church, St. Theodores Church

Oakland

Jeannie Cummings, Dennis Flannery, Maura Kelley, Veronica Martinez, Carondelet High School, Catholic Charities-Diocese of Oakland, Project WHAT! Community Works

Orange County

Peggy Huber, Brad Snow, Catholic Detention Ministry, Diocese of Orange, St. Cecilia's

Sacramento

Richard Maddox, Nicole Waugh, Elizabeth White, Diocese of Sacramento - Catholic Charities, Newman Parish - Just Faith

San Bernardino

Blake Boggust, Cindy Brauer, Elizabeth Degori, Joel Del Rio, Heather King, Bobbie Kobus, Cesar Morales, Deacon Dan O'Camb, Jason Romero, Nadine Scharnott, Maureen Schultz, Tricia Thrasher, Diocese of San Bernardino, Redlands United Church of Christ, Sandals Church, St. Thomas The Apostle

San Diego

Pat Allen, Glory Hartdegen, Missy Peterson, Patty Petterson, Beverly Thornburg, Latisha Zamora, Catholic Charities-Diocese of San Diego, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, St. Patrick's, St. Thomas More Catholic Church. The Rock Church Prison Ministry

San Fernando Valley

Katya Acuna, Lupe & Peter Ruivenkamp, Beverly Turner, St. Joseph the Worker

San Francisco

Lauren Bell, Kelli Flannery-Cid, John Kalin, Catharine Kalin, St. Catherine Elementary School, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, St. Ignatius Church

San Gabriel Valley

Veronica Boone, Nelson Galloway, Kelly Serat Garrison, Robert Martinez, Margaret Sardo, Bob Vanderlip, Mary Lou Vanderlip, Holy Family Church, Sacred Heart Church, San Fernando Pastoral Region, St. Phillip the Apostle Church

San Jose

Reverend Michael Carson, Sylvia Hogan, Claribell Torres, Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Queen of the Apostles Church

San Luis Obispo

Travis Adelman, Linda Antles, Rich Antles, Ami Ayala, Tess Barket, Carol Bych, Patty Clark, Lesley Dierks, Carol Fitzgerald, Michelle Frazier, Karyn Montgomery, Jim Nielsen, Nancy Priddy, Stephen Provencio, N. Sue Reddy, Joseph Schrader, Mary Kay Stratton, Art Tabuenca, Community Church of Atascadero/UCC, First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, Grace Bible Church, Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, Nativity of Our Lady Church, New Life Community Church, Old Mission Church, Seventh Day Adventist, St. Louis De Montfort Catholic Church, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, St. Rose of Lima Church, St. Timothy's Catholic Church, United Methodist Church, United Methodist Church of Atascadero

Santa Barbara/Ventura

Katya Acuna, Susan Bronn, Kenneth Knipe, Michelle Paschen, Felicia Rowe, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Santa Clara Church, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Community, St. Mary Magdalen Church, Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura

Santa Rosa

Lily Anderson, Anne Marie Clifford, Joan Warner, Diocese of Santa Rosa, Office of Restorative Justice and Detention Ministry, Windsor Presbyterian Church

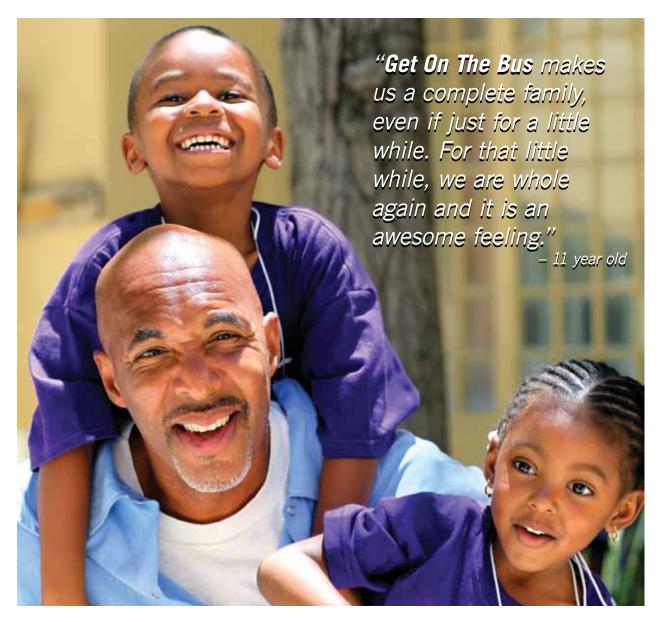
Stockton

Maria Rocero, Tanya Williams, Friends Outside National Organization

Visalia

Pat Lorenzo, Nancy Turk, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Visalia Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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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.

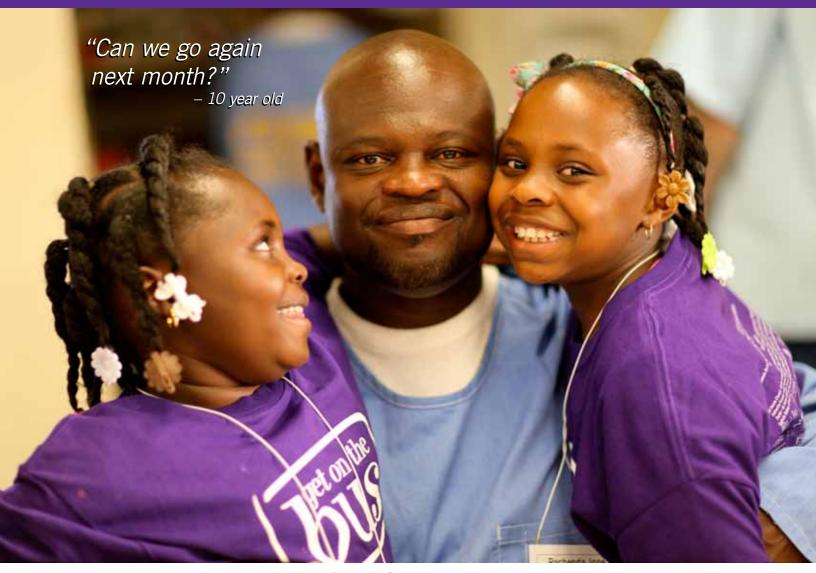




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