



# 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.

Mother's Day Totals
Father's Day Totals
TOTALS

Children	Parents	Caregivers	Families	# of Buses
706	295	253	298	29
651	300	304	299	27
1,357	595	557	597	56



## **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.

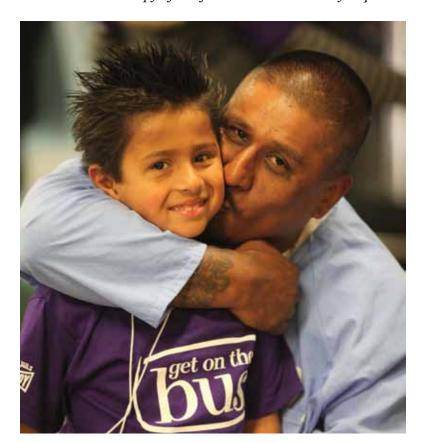
# Financial Report

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.

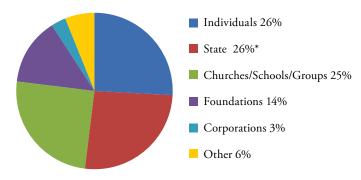
Get On The Bus is a program of the Center for Restorative Justice Works (CRJW), an organization dedicated to uniting children, families and communities separated by crime and the criminal justice system. During its 2010-2011 fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, CRJW raised \$982,568 to support all of its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

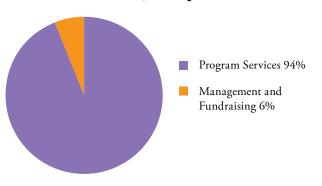
The CRJW financial figures referenced are unaudited. You can receive a copy of the financial statements by request.



## 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

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.getonthebus.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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Deborah Szekely Arturo Tabuenca Joseph Talaugon Bunty Taylor Jo Ann Taylor Phyllis Taylor Barbara & Robert Terry The Center for the Working Poor The First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside The Gaffney Foundation The Gourmet Pizza Shoppe The McGaughan Family Trust The Roman Catholic Bishop Of San Bernardino The Sisters of Charity Bonnie Thiele Donald Thompson John & Nancy Thompson Margaret Thompson Terilyn & James Thompson Irene Thordsen Thousand Oaks Rotary Club Time in a Bottle Wine Merchants, LLC Robert Todd Pauline Tomasini Nancy Towell Burkely & Kathleen Towle Michele & Charles Towne Bert & Elaine Townsend Jennifer Trafford Loc Tran Transfiguration Catholic Church Ingrid Troesch Steven Tulsky Fides Tupaz Helen Tuppan Ann & Jack Tweedy John and Peggy Ulbrich Mary Theresa & Robert J. Ullman United Methodist Church San Luis Obispo Claire Vaeth Margaret & Daniel Van Dorpe Amanda Van Dusen Mary Ann Van Etten Thomas & Therese Van Hoof Mary & Frank Vaz Alfred & Amelia Velasquez Robert & Janice Verity Donald Vermeer Becky Vesnaver Cathy Vick Villa Maria House of Prayer Vishions Smoke Shop Margaret Voge Wendy Volkmann Andrew & Theresa Von Dollen

Phyllis Walters Mitchell Ward Sandra Ward Joan Warner Irene Weaver Willard & Mary Weddell Jannien Weiner Michael Weiskonf Max & Peggy Weismain Dee Weller Wellspring Physical Therapy & Pilates Studio R. & C. Wengler West Coast Companero Katherine Westheimer Mark & Carol White Robert Blair White William and Theresa White Cynthia Whitham Dean Wiener David Wignall Willard Intermediate School F. Williams John Williams Vivian Wills Jim Wilson Wings of Faith Nick Winkler Ernest & Laura Winslow Leslie & Margaret Winters Kathryn & Michael Wise Dale & Kathleen Wolff Jane & Brian Wong Rahel & Greg Wrenn Bohby & Gay Wright Lucia Yandell Jeanne Yao Toni & Adalin Ybarra Sheila Yeaney Donald Yellon Yes! Ventures Inc Patricia York Margaret & Reaf Young Young Ladies Institute #116 Young Ladies Institute-Stell Coeli No 180 St. Sebastians Institute Young Ladies Istitute Mario 7arate Fric & Helen Zeeb

Joyce Walters



Blanche Zelko

Marie Zenorini

Joan Zidow

Jenny Zidown

Joseph & Mary Zenk

Raymond Zeuschner

Richard & Patricia Zigrang

Vicki & Glenn Zumwalt

Ralph & Judith Zwetow

Nan Walker

Adele Walsh

Jenis & Sonia Wagner

Daniel & Peggy Waligora

C. John & Nancy Wallo

Dale Swain

Vivian Sweeney

Jerry & Jill Sweet

Patricia Symkowick

Gary & Laura Smith

Thomas and Elaine Smith

Denis & Bonnie Snow

Larry V. Smith

Patricia Smith

James Soares

Paul Smith

## 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**

Tet On The Bus has a decentralized grassroots model that places leadership and responsibility in the hands of  $oldsymbol{
m J}$  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

Sr. Marie Ellen Kuhel Kate LaFerrier Deacon Gary Poole Blessed Juniperro Serra St. Mary's Catholic Church

#### Bakersfield

Kristin Faure Victor Lostaunau Marty Steinman Debbie Wood

First Congregational Church of Bakersfield – UCC Kern County Prosecutor's Office St. John's Lutheran Church

Katy Boylston Jennifer Campopiano Sara Chavez Nikki Williamson Diocese of Fresno Redeemer Lutheran Church

#### Long Beach

Rebecca Caudillo-Jones Mike Golini Dave Johnson Bob Lavallee Georgiana Lotfy Tony Lubong Judy McBride Linda McNeely Debbie Parmenter Helen Sebring Bellflower First United Methodist Church, Bellflower Los Altos United Methodist Church Saint Dominic Savio Church , Bellflower

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Catholic Church, Lomita

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church St. Lukes Episcopal Church

#### Los Angeles

Georgette Breland Gregory Burks La Mikia Castillo Tony & Lynn Fadale Lucas Flanagan Nelson Galloway Kelly Garrison Debbie Gauer Angelo Ibanez Delbert Jones Sumby Kuti Lynn Slotsve Érica Tazel Karinna Torres Gloria Hulse-Walker All Saints Episcopal Church American Martyrs Church Blessed Sacrament Parish

Good Shepherd Church Issacher Initiative L.A. Youth Opportunity Movement - Watts Mt St Mary's College St. Agatha's Church USC Association of Black Students

#### Monterey

Dave Farrell Anjuleeh Herrin Allison Nicholas Lisa Pray Margaret Smith Mary Ann Spadoni Cal State Monterey Bay Social Work Program 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 San Carlos Cathedral Shoreline Community Church

## St. Joseph's Church Orange County

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

Josie Dumdum Margie Hillard Dennis Hillard Bobbie Kobus Sylvia Munion Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Parish 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

## Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto

Dan Macneilage Melissa Macneilage Cathy Martinez

Larry Niekamp Elizabeth White

Diocese of Sacramento - Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton - Catholic Charities

Sacred Heart Parish St. John the Evangelist

#### San Bernardino

Blake Boggust Jan Hudson Heather King Tracy Marquez Kathy Page Phil Page
Annette Williams
Diocese of San Bernardino Loma Linda University Church Redlands United Church of Christ St. Catherine of Siena School St Frances X. Cabrini Catholic Church St. John's Episcopal Step by Step Redlands The Neuman Club - CSUSB

#### San Diego

Pat Allen Drew Louis Missy Peterson Patty Petterson

Beverly Thornburg Diocese of San Diego – Catholic Charities Pilgrim United Church of Christ St. Patrick's

The Rock Church

#### San Fernando Vallev

Terry Hassman-Paulin Michael Ladisa Linda Pillsbury Margaret Sardo Mary Lou Vanderlip Bob Vanderlip Jane Wilson

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church Glendale Temple Sinai

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church St. Michaels Episcopal Church

#### San Francisco/Oakland

Dennis Flannery Kelli Flannery-Cid Alayna Johnson Veronica Martinez Cal Alumni Association UC Berkeley

Catholic Charities - Oakland Project WHAT! St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

#### San Gabriel Valley

Madeline DeShazo Gloria Killian

Chelsea Bidlow

Robert Martinez Ariel Roddy Sacred Heart Church St. Philip the Apostle Church

San Jose Frankie Caroza Elaine Coutu Guillermo de Lira Barbara Harper Sylvia Hogan Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church St. Francis of Assisi Church St. Victor Church

## San Luis Obispo

Andrea Andersor Tess Barket Gail Greshan Devon Livingston Iim Nielsen Paz Padilla Nancy Priddy Nancy Sue Reddy Mary Kay Stratton Margaret Yun Jenny Zidow Cal Poly

Congregation Ohr Tzaron First Presbyterian Church Old Mission Church Mt. Carmel Lutherar Nativity of Our Lady Church Seventh Day Adventist St. Louis de Montfort St. Patrick's Church United Methodist Church

Anne Marie Clifford Molly Rattigan Daniel Vroomar Joan Warner

Diocese of Santa Rosa - Office of Restorative Justice

Michelle Paschen St. Mary Magdalen Church

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 wellcared 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 lifelong 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.



www.GetOnTheBus.us