

LET'S START
A support process for women



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Dear Friends,

As Mother's Day approaches Let's Start invites you to be one of

100 donors to give \$100 in 100 days.

Let's Start is a non-profit community based organization supporting families impacted by the criminal justice system. Led by and for formerly incarcerated women, Let's Start strives to break the cycle of incarceration in families by using the personal experiences of its participants to support recovery, educate the community and inform policy.

As families reunite during and after incarceration, Let's Start offers the following:

- Weekly group sessions where over 30 women gather to share experiences, develop their leadership skills, and foster self-confidence and personal accountability;
- Parenting sessions for moms to discuss ways of developing healthy relationship with their children;
- A micro-lending program so women can ease their financial challenges;
- Six bus trips each year for children to visit their mothers at the Vandalia Women's Prison;
- Personal counseling and in-depth case management for some of the families with an incarcerated mom;
- Group sessions in a local school district for children with a parent in prison.

In a writing workshop run by San Francisco's Pacific News Service, a juvenile detainee offered this account of parental incarceration: "You don't know what it feel like to come up in the world with parents that can't stay out of jail. You don't know what it's like to have no family to be by your side when you need them...It feels like a forever going rollercoaster ride through fire and water..."

This Mother's Day, Let Start is asking that you join us in remembering these mothers and children. Your generous contributions will be used to support the many ways Let's Start eases their "rollercoaster ride".

At Let's Start we love stories. The words of a child speak volumes: "People think just because my mom got locked up she's a bad person. But when she came home, she came and got us. She loved us." And a woman participant said: "If it wasn't for my story, many people would think that you and your family can't make it...but you can. I'm just grateful"

Whether you have been a long-time supporter or have just recently heard of Let's Start, we **thank you** for considering our challenge to be one the

100 donors to give \$100 in 100 days!

SAVE THE DATE	June 18	Let's Start Day at City Coffee House
	July 18	Let's Start Luncheon
	Sep. 26	Let's Start the Music: An evening with Denise Thimes