

# LET'S START NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009



## A SUPPORT PROCESS FOR WOMEN

**W**elcome to our new monthly newsletter! This issue highlights upcoming events, legislative updates and classes offered by Let's Start.

### **Our Mission:**

Let's Start, Inc., an organization led by and for formerly incarcerated women, aims 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.

## LET'S START DINNER THEATRE

Let's Start, in cooperation with The Ladies of Charity, is hosting a "Stories of Hope" dinner theatre fundraiser on **Saturday, February 28, 2009** from **6:30pm-9:00pm** at St. Catherine Labouré Parish Hall located at 9740 Sappington Rd., St. Louis, MO 63128. Tickets for this event are \$25 dollars in advance and \$35 dollars at the door. For more information, or to reserve tickets, visit [www.letsstart.org](http://www.letsstart.org) or call **314-241-2324**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ADVOCACY

**MARGARET DONNELLEY** IS SCHEDULED TO COME SPEAK TO THE WOMEN OF LET'S START ON **FEBRUARY 10TH** DURING OUR GROUP MEETING TIME. SHE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS GROUP

New Building Relationship sessions will be offered at Let's Start beginning **Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30pm**. These sessions are designed to help women mend relationships impaired by addiction and incarceration. These classes will be offered every other week for a total of six sessions. If interested please see Courtney McDermott.

### FINANCIAL LITERACY GROUP

Let's Start, in partnership with Redevelopment Opportunities for Women (ROW), will be offering new Financial Literacy Sessions beginning **Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30pm**. This four week course will focus on budgeting and building good credit. If interested, please see Courtney McDermott.

# GET INVOLVED: LET'S START ADVOCACY DAY

**L**et's Start is sponsoring several trips to Jefferson City during the spring legislative session. The first trip will take place on **Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2009**. The purpose of this trip is to meet with legislators and tour the capital building. Lunch and transportation will be provided. We will meet and depart from St. Vincent's Church at 8am and return around 4pm. If you are interested in attending, please see the **sign up sheet**.

**Below is a list of a few of the bills we are supporting and opposing this legislative session:**

## **SUPPORTING:**

**HB-137- Elimination of the intervention fee.**

**HB-146-Expungement of records for nonviolent offenders.**

## **OPPOSING:**

**HB-30-Requires drug testing for TANF recipients**

**HB-42-Reduces lifetime eligibility for TANF benefits from five to two years**



What: Advocacy Day

When: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Where: We will meet and depart from St. Vincent's Church at 8am

## **SUPPORT LET'S START!**

**Let's Start bracelets are available for \$30.00 each. Each bracelet is designed and crafted by the women of Let's Start and 100% of the proceeds go towards supporting the programs offered at Let's Start. For more information, or to make a purchase, please call 314-241-2324 or go online at [www.letsstart.org](http://www.letsstart.org)**

## **LET'S START STORIES OF HOPE**

### **SCHEDULE**

"Stories of Hope" is a play performed by the women of Let's Start that reflects the experiences of women and their journeys through incarceration, addiction and recovery. The women of Let's Start also participate in talks to educate and engage the community on issues related to addiction, recovery and incarceration. These events are free and open to the public.

#### **Talks:**

Saturday, February 28th  
St. Vincent's Church, 9am.

Friday, April 3rd  
St. Vincent's Church, 12:30pm

Tuesday, April 7th  
UMSL South Campus, 12:45pm