



The Write Connection

**Sponsored by Philoptochos of the Metropolis of New Jersey
St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Randolph, NJ**

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Mission Statement:

The goal of this initiative is to improve the familial relationship between incarcerated parents and their children through sustained written communication. The program shall encourage a closer connection between the incarcerated parent and their child through a writing program developed, implemented and supervised by the Philoptochos chapter of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church of Randolph, New Jersey. The program shall take place in center city Philadelphia and will focus on children from the city who have a parent in prison. The correspondence program shall provide the vehicle by which the parties can build upon, or in some cases, establish consistent communication and ultimately, strengthen their bond. That relationship shall encourage a smoother transition as the parent reintegrates into family and community life upon their release from the system. This program is free of charge to all participants.

Necessity for the Program:

Incarcerated parents often experience a significant loss of communication with their own children which may deepen their feelings of alienation. This program offers an opportunity for the parent to continue being an integral part of their children's lives and exercise his parental responsibilities. An added result will be the increased self-esteem of the incarcerated parent as he realizes he can still play a pivotal role in his child's life despite the separation.

Children of incarcerated parents often endure feelings of isolation and abandonment. This program offers an opportunity for the child to share his life with the parent who is absent from his daily life. The communication with the parent shall provide a connection with the absent parent and minimize feelings of disconnection and separation.