

A Sacred Place

Programs of Hope for Incarcerated Women



Annual Report 2019





WHILE THE 2019 **ANNUAL REPORT OF A SACRED PLACE** was completed and ready for printing a few weeks back, we have stepped back due to COVID-19. At this time, all volunteer access and volunteer programs at York CI have been suspended. This is crucial in keeping the women and staff safe and healthy until normal operations are allowed to resume.

During the coronavirus lockdown at York, we at **A SACRED PLACE** will not rest in our mission and we will not go unnoticed. In response to YCI staff requests, **A SACRED PLACE** has provided course books, journals, and creative activities such as inspirational art materials to keep the women uplifted and hopeful. Throughout the next weeks, and possibly months, our volunteers will continue providing resources and support to the staff and to the women at York.

We are **A SACRED PLACE**, and our mission continues to provide programs of hope for incarcerated women.

Barbara Lisien-Juliano
Executive Director



The Story Behind Our Storybook Program

IN THE EARLY 1990'S, Lutheran Social Services in Chicago founded a program called **STORYBOOK PROJECT**, which has been adopted nationwide to help children stay connected to their incarcerated moms (and dads in some states). Through Storybook Project, incarcerated parents choose a donated book; volunteers record parents reading books aloud to their children, then mail the books and CD recordings to the children.

STORYBOOK PROJECT was introduced to York Correctional Institution over 20 years ago by Ann Johnson and Dianne Warley, through a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. Dianne's brother, Robert C. Goodwin, upon his death, designated gifts in his memory to be given to Storybook Project, which he wholeheartedly supported.

Today at York CI, volunteers of **A Sacred Place** record mothers reading books to their children and encourage them to end with a special message of love and support. A package with the book and the CD recording is mailed to the children for them to keep, and for reading along and listening to their mother, again and again. **Studies have shown that hearing their mother's voice helps children maintain a bond with their incarcerated parent, and contributes to successful family integration upon release.**

In 2018, after working diligently with the staff at York CI, **A Sacred Place** ensured the continued success of this program by implementing updated technology to provide the end product: the voice of a mom reading a book to her child.



The use of cassette tapes and tape recorders transitioned to digital recorders, a small computer, and a CD burner. **Our goal to provide a program which seeks to bond incarcerated mothers and their children,** has been realized with results that are gratifying and affirming.

Since 2018, the volunteers of A Sacred Place have facilitated the recording and mailing of 545 books and CDs!

As a program under the umbrella of **A Sacred Place**, STORYBOOK PROJECT relies on donated books and monetary gifts to replenish the collection of treasured children's stories.

Thank you for keeping this worthy and much loved program running!



6 Ways Your Donations are Helping Change Women's Lives through **A Sacred Place** at York C.I.

Programs addressing emotional and educational literacy, modalities to foster healing, spiritual connection and a successful return to society!

- Houses of Healing
- Barbara Fund
- Storybook Project
- Mom and Me
- Childbirth Education/Labor Coaching
- Spiritual Direction

"I'm starting to forgive myself for hurting the people I love. I also realize that I can break the cycle for my children and teach them differently than I was taught."

York ASP Graduate





Several ASP 2019 Volunteers and Board Members

WE COUNT ON YOUR HELP to do the good work needed. Your generous donations help us buy the materials, books, supplies, and, yes, even the very clothes our incarcerated women need to leave prison with. Many do not have family support. Many are released with nothing but the basic sweatsuit that we can offer through your help. Your help allows us to buy in bulk the sizes most often requested.

A Sacred Place, Inc Financial Summary 2019

For the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2019 (Cash Basis)

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$15,612
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Administrative Expense	\$16,032
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Program Expense	\$11,574
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TOTAL EXPENSE	\$27,606
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NET INCOME (LOSS)	(\$11,994)
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FUND BALANCE	\$43,240
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A Sacred Place, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization dedicated to providing rehabilitative programs and educational opportunities for incarcerated women at York Correctional, Niantic CT

We would love to be able speak at your church, temple, fellowship or civic group.

Please feel free to contact us at:
info@asacredplace.org

Thank you from all of us at **A SACRED PLACE.**