

# CRJW

CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORKS

Uniting Children, Families and Communities Separated by Crime and the Criminal Justice System



*Family of services:*





## Letter from the Founder

The Center for Restorative Justice Works began as one bus with seventeen children and a mission: to reunite children with their incarcerated mothers, and to reunite families and communities. Nineteen years and over ten thousand children later, we have seen firsthand the impact of family reunification on the lives of children and on the lives of their incarcerated parents.

We have seen children like Alison, thirteen, who traveled hundreds of miles to feel at home. As she put it, “When my mom hugged me, I felt that I belonged. I forgot for a moment where I was. All I knew, I was in my mother’s arms.”

In 2018, we have seen the horrors of family separation, of division and displacement. We have seen the damage that the loss of a loved one can have on the youngest and most vulnerable of our children. Yet, we have also seen the strength and determination of mothers and fathers who would do anything to get their children back. And, we have seen communities come together to support those in need.

In these trying times, I am reminded of the aphorism “It takes a village.” It takes a village to ensure that every child is given the opportunity for a family connection. Over the past two decades, CRJW has found a village of compassionate and committed supporters, whose generosity has made our programs possible for over 1,000 children each year. We could not do this work without you. And yet, the work is far from over. So, I implore you, dear friends, for continued support to ensure that every child can know their parent’s kiss, feel their parent’s loving touch and hear their parent’s loving words.

These mystic bonds crisscross our state, connecting San Diego to San Quentin and Fresno to Folsom. They represent a love that distance can dampen but cannot destroy, and it is our mission at the Center for Restorative Justice Works to bring that distance, both physical and emotional, to zero.

In gratitude and love,

***Sister Suzanne Jabro, CSJ***

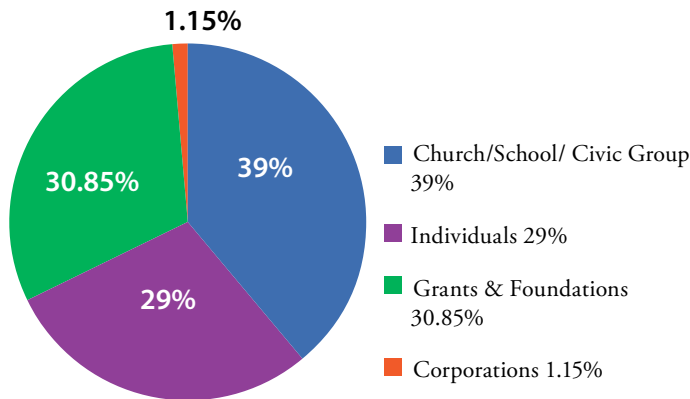
CRJW Founder

# Financial Stewardship

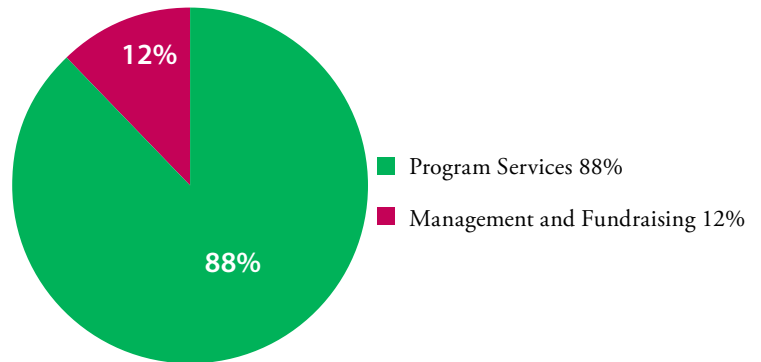
Each year, the Center for Restorative Justice Works raises funds through its generous grassroots network that reaches across California, and the United States. Each donation adds a compassionate voice to our movement to unite children with their parents in prison. We are grateful for each person and organization that joins us in this mission.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, CRJW raised \$799,950. The sources and use of funds are detailed below.

## Sources of CRJW Revenue



## Distribution of CRJW Expenditures



\*The figures above are unaudited as of the printing of this report. CRJW is independently reviewed by Hensick & Caron, Certified Public Accountants and available for review by January of each year.

## Service Statistics

### Get On the Bus

	Children	Incarcerated	Caregivers	Volunteers	# of Buses
Mother's Day Totals	333	155	142	87	19
Father's Day Totals	552	271	285	116	42
December Trip Totals	33	17	16	-	1
<b>GOTB TOTALS</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>62</b>

### Other Programs

	Children	Incarcerated	Caregivers	Volunteers	# of Buses
Family Express	96	177	256	12	25
Camp Suzanne	15	9	2	8	1
Cross Over	-	432	-	168	-
<b>PROGRAM TOTALS</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>88</b>

### Other Activities

	Children	Incarcerated	Caregivers	Volunteers	# of Buses
Christmas Party	59	-	33	15	-
Picnic	33	-	23	-	-
Adopt-a-Family	21	-	13	-	-
<b>CRJW TOTALS</b>	<b>1142</b>	<b>1061</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>88</b>

### Prisons Visited

Substance Abuse Training Facility-Corcoran  
 California Institute for Women  
 Federal Correctional Institution Dublin  
 Central California Women's Facility  
 Valley State Prison

California Men's Colony  
 San Quentin State Prison  
 Folsom State Prison  
 Folsom Women's Facility

California Correctional Center  
 Correctional Training Facility  
 Salinas Valley State Prison  
 High Desert State Prison



## Community



“I was struck by the observation that these kids, who come from different parts of the state, different cultural backgrounds, and different family situations, form for a brief moment a community where they can truly belong. Perhaps in their daily lives they have relationships that support them, and yet cannot take away the reality, of that integral figure missing in their life, that separates them from others. With Get On The Bus, that hole is filled by interacting with peers who experience the same loss. In a way, from their isolation, a new family is formed that brings healing and support in a way no other community can.”

- Fr. Jonathan Meyer, Queen of Angels Center

## Family Express Program

We at CRJW are thrilled to announce the return of our Family Express program, which provides a unique opportunity to further promote, restore and enhance the critical relationships between children, families and communities. This is done by offering safe, comfortable and free weekly transportation, as well as post-visit supportive services.

On June 9, 2018, Family Express operated its first trip to the Central California Women’s Facility in Chowchilla, California. In preparation, the CRJW team connected with Jessica, a recent participant in our Get On The Bus program in the San Diego area. She was in disbelief that Family Express would pick her up from San Diego to visit her mother in Chowchilla so soon after having just seen her in May with GOTB. After making the seven-hour journey from San Diego to Chowchilla, she sat in the visiting facility with tears in her eyes. *“Thank you for making this trip possible,”* she said, while

showing the room her mother’s photo. *“See my mama right there? Isn’t she beautiful?”* Her smile was felt by everyone present.

Meanwhile, the CRJW team witnessed a mother visibly upset and nervous about her upcoming visit. With panic in her voice, she stated, “I only get visits on Mother’s Day, from my daughters. Nobody else visits me. Who is it?” As tension and anxiety began rising in the room, the officers informed the mother that the person there to see her was her daughter Jessica. With a sigh of relief, she bent forward and began crying tears of joy. Their embrace filled the room, and our hearts, with hope, love and understanding.

Our mission for family and community reunification could not be possible without the partnership and support of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Hospitality Bus Leaders and volunteers.

The Family Express provides transportation



services to the following California institutions: Central California Women’s Facility in Chowchilla, Folsom Women’s Facility in Folsom, Female Community Re-Entry Facility in McFarland, California Institute for Women in Corona, and Pelican Bay State Prison in Crescent City. This program supporting family reunification is funded by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

(Names have been changed to maintain anonymity and privacy.)



# Camp Suzanne

## Hugs and Kisses!

CRJW's Camp Suzanne is a week-long program that takes a group of children to visit their mothers at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, California to reconnect, bond and heal through art therapy and summer camp activities.

In 2018, 15 children and 10 mothers participated in Camp Suzanne. During the week, the campers enjoyed a variety of activities including photography, filmmaking, T-shirt design, swimming and more!

**Connectivity:** As the campers anxiously waited to see their mothers, some shared their concerns. "What if I cry?" said Manny. "It is perfectly okay to cry. I know I will," said Cristiano. There was a strong and unspoken connection that existed among all the campers. They knew better than

anyone else how to comfort and support each other.

**Motherly Love:** When the mothers entered the visiting room, tears, laughter and gasps could be heard and felt throughout the room. Campers wiggled in their seats and mothers held their chests with tears running down their cheeks. Like magnets, mothers and children came together and were inseparable. The children's faces lit up with laughter, excitement and most of all hope.

In one instance, a mother cradled her 11 and 14-year old children on her lap while kissing and hugging them. Eventually, the chair gave out, dropping all three of them onto the floor. Giggles and laughter could be heard throughout the room, the family forgetting for a brief moment where they were.

**Until Next Time:** On the last day, the mothers and children watched Disney-Pixar's *Coco*. With mothers holding their children, they enjoyed a moment



of simply being. Once the movie was over, the campers gave their mothers a rose and a letter. Some of the children danced with their mothers and held them in a long embrace until it was time to say, "Until next time."

***"Camp Suzanne made us even closer than what we were, and I now feel we have an unbreakable bond."***

*- Adriana, 11 years-old*

## A Journey of Success

Transition4Success seeks to gain positive post-prison outcomes for returned citizens by giving them a sense of self-worth, while also helping them adjust back into normalcy. Through grassroots programming, participants receive six months of paid, hands-on experience working in a modern office setting, along with coaching and feedback in an environment that supports their successful transition.

After serving 40 years in prison, S.W. shares his journey. "First and foremost, the Transition4Success staff let me know that ***I mattered!*** For once, I mattered. The program has reinforced the strength and stability of my foundation, a foundation that is imperative for me to make a

meaningful difference and transition back into society productively and successfully. By providing me with effective and skillful training, hands-on working experience and reliable answers to responsibly achieve my goals, I successfully transitioned into full-time employment.

Every moment with Transition4Success has been fulfilling! I am grateful for the kindness and caring support I received from all the staff at CRJW. Their transformative acts of kindness and support have truly impacted my life. I will never forget them, and they will always have my utmost admiration, gratitude and love. Again, thank you for making this journey so meaningful and rewarding!"



*S.W. Former Transition4Success Participant*



# Healing Through Community

In partnership with the California Institution for Women (CIW), CRJW provides supportive services on a monthly basis through our CrossOver – Women of Wisdom program. Our volunteer-driven program invites community members to cross into the world of prisons, providing opportunities for relationship building, reflection and action. Events foster transformed understanding between the outside community and those experiencing incarceration, propelling both to work together to restore relationships and create awareness about the criminal justice system. We form a critical mass that helps to advocate for systemic change by mobilizing communities to move the current system toward a model of justice that promotes healing and restores relationships.

This year we had the honor to partner with the Street Symphony of Los Angeles. The Street Symphony places social justice at the heart of music-making. It creates opportunities for musical engagement and dialogue between world-class musicians and people disenfranchised by homelessness, incarceration and poverty in Los Angeles County. Street Symphony programs create a platform for all people to discover their transformative musical – and human – story.

***“We appreciate the faithfulness of the outside women. It nourishes our soul to be spoken to as a human being”***

*- WOW, Participant*

Thank you to Jan Urban for her incredible leadership and to our committed volunteers who make the WOW program possible through dedication and passion for social justice. To our partners – California Institution for Women (CIW), Street Symphony of Los Angeles under the direction of Vijay Gupta, Sr. Chris Machado, Executive Director of Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Encino, California, and Sisters of Social Service who have supported CRJW in creating platforms that are humble, inviting, non-judgemental and most of all healing for all those involved.



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Anysa Lizarraga  
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Destanie Newell  
*Family Express Coordinator*

Astrid Villagran  
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### Get On The Bus Regional Coordinators:

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# Our Donors

*Space constraints limit us to only listing donations received by September 30, 2018. We are very grateful for every donation that we receive; please forgive any omissions.*

## Grants and Foundations

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 Living Into the Future Foundation  
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*A big thank you to Sr. Teresa Lynch, for the wonderful photos that appear in this report.*

*Quotes are provided by real people: sons, daughters, caregivers and incarcerated people.*

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there were  
people who  
cared about  
what happened  
to us.”*



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