

# 85,000 NEW YORK CHILDREN HAVE A PARENT IN PRISON.

### Why MentorCHIP?

Between 1991 and 1999, the number of children with a parent in a federal or state prison more than doubled, from 900,000 to 2 million nationwide. According to one survey, children with incarcerated parents are two to six times more likely than their peers to end up in prison.

MentorCHIP was created to offer site-based mentoring with an academic and asset-building focus to build the academic confidence and social skills of children ages 6–16 whose parents are incarcerated. By pairing passionate, committed volunteers with at-risk young people, the MentorCHIP program hopes to break the cycle of recidivism and intergenerational poverty.

### The Volunteer Experience

All CSS/RSVP Mentoring Initiatives are conducted in collaboration with partner organizations that already have mentoring programs in existence.

#### CSS/RSVP will:

- ❑ Provide mentorship training that equips volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to become mentors specializing in mentoring children whose parents are incarcerated
- ❑ Train volunteers/mentors to provide one-on-one academic support
- ❑ Work in collaboration with partners to match a mentor with mentees
- ❑ Integrate the development of a mentee portfolio as an activity in the mentoring relationship

Volunteers in the MentorCHIP program will meet with mentees on-site at one of our designated locations for a minimum of two hours weekly. The minimum monthly commitment is six hours per month, and the length of the mentoring commitment will be for one year.

### Mentoring can make a difference in a child's life and yours.

#### Specific Requirements:

- ❑ Must go through and pass a criminal background check
- ❑ Enjoy working with children
- ❑ Be non-judgmental
- ❑ Have a sense of humor
- ❑ Have a high school diploma/GED or higher

#### Training:

- ❑ Volunteers must attend and complete an 18 hour CSS/RSVP mentoring training that addresses the role of a mentor, with a component that's specific to working with children whose parents are incarcerated. Volunteers will also receive training on asset building and portfolio design.

#### Key Contacts

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##### Karen Brown, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist (Team Leader)

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## Our Partners:

Osborne Association  
Family Resource Center  
175 Remsen Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Osborne Association Family Resource Center provides support and information for families of people in New York State prisons. The Center helps families stay connected to their loved ones behind bars and prepares for and adjusts to their return home.

**Services:** Services include a toll-free hotline, informational workshops for prison families, and information on employment opportunities for the formerly incarcerated, as well as referrals for education, treatment, and family services for family members & children of people in prison and former prisoners.

Hour Children  
36-11A 12 Street  
Long Island City, New York 11106

Hour Children is committed to the compassionate and loving care of incarcerated women. It was founded to serve the needs of children and families involved in the criminal justice system.

**Services:** Programs provide housing, advocacy, counseling, and community outreach and food pantry services. Hour Children also provides an infant and toddler program that includes a pre-school and day care service for working mothers. Their prison program provides transportation, visitation, and volunteer lawyers.

Women's Advocate Ministry, Inc.  
211 West 129<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10029

Women's Advocate Ministry (WAM) is committed to provide outreach, crisis intervention, referral and supportive services to incarcerated women and their children. WAM supports women inmates by working to improve their quality of life while in prison and improving their possibilities to integrate them back into society.

**Services:** Women's Advocate Ministry provides assistance in the courthouse, advocacy, educational workshops at Riker's Island, parenting skills, family support, and a mentoring program.

**The Community Service Society of New York (CSS)** draws on a 160-year history of excellence in addressing the root causes of economic disparity. We respond to urgent, contemporary challenges by pioneering programs for a more prosperous city.

**The CSS/RSVP Mentoring Program** is part of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the Community Service Society. RSVP is a nationally-acclaimed program that enlists adults ages 55 and older to strengthen their communities by serving as volunteers.

FreeArts NYC  
1431 Broadway  
New York, NY 10018

FreeArts NYC provides underserved children and families with a unique combination of educational arts and mentoring programs that help them foster the self confidence and resiliency needed to realize their fullest potential.

**Services:** Professionals on site to guide teams of mentors as well as training to prepare for year long projects delivered at sites in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and Bronx locations.

Children of Promise, NYC  
600 Lafayette Ave  
Brooklyn, NY 11216

Children of Promise, NYC mentorship program is an academic and social needs focused program to children in the Brooklyn community.

**Services:** Mentors encourage mentees participating in CPNYC's Project DREAM, by providing tools and support that allow a youth to succeed, and by giving guidance on the career path of the mentees interest.