



WE STAND FOR KIDS



Silent Victims Of Crime

The Children of Incarcerated Parents

Silent Victims of Crime's Quarterly Newsletter



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Raising a Family, Alone.	2
Roller Skating in South Carolina	3
Frost Science Museum	3
Egg Hunt at Fairchild Gardens	4
Fundraiser: International Beauty Queens	5
Cirque Kalabanté Afrique en Cirque	6
Connecting with our Inner Chef	6
Father's Day: Kayaking on Biscayne Bay	7
Convict Kitchen	8
South Carolina Family Day	9

UPCOMING EVENTS IN JULY & AUGUST



July 31st 2022
Scott Rakow Center
An afternoon of ice-skating, bowling, and basketball at one of the children's favorite places to go with SVC



August 20th 2022
Sunset Soiree
Fabulous fashion fundraiser with cocktails to support the children of SVC.



August 28th 2022
Flamingo Pool Party
Cool off from the hot summer sun and join us for a day of swimming and fun at the Miami Beach Flamingo Pool



RAISING A FAMILY, ALONE.

By: Dr. Rafael Alalu, Psy.D., Prison Reform Advocate

They say it takes a village to raise a child. What happens when the main protector & provider is removed from that village? What happens to the caretaker that is now burdened with every facet of raising a family alone? Naturally, the vulnerability of the family increases exponentially as resources often become scarce and most likely tend to diminish with every passing day. Incarceration in the U.S. today is no longer a unique phenomenon, but instead a cruel and harsh reality for millions of families.

Although statistics reveal the truth, it does not put a face on the challenges faced by the hardships that are endured by the caretaker. The financial pressure of feeding and clothing a family for a single parent or caretaker is astounding. The emotional toll is equally devastating. Shame, guilt, and embarrassment are among the issues that caretakers are burdened with the association of incarceration. Whether it's Father's Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas, the joy of the holiday is far from the norm when a parent is not around.

There are no words to properly illustrate the toll it takes on families when they are raised alone. Concerns about paying for rent, groceries and basics become a daily unknown. Feelings of helplessness and hopelessness tend to creep in silently. Children going to school tend to have poorer concentration with an increase in the drop-out rate. Caretakers are simply not equipped to handle all the burdens and stressors associated with raising a family without the main caretaker. While the criminal justice system implements its laws and guidelines on punishment, it must also consider the implications for families being raised alone.

At Silent Victims of Crime, our life's work is the dedication to the children and families of incarcerated parents.

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MARCH 30TH 2022

ROLLER SKATING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

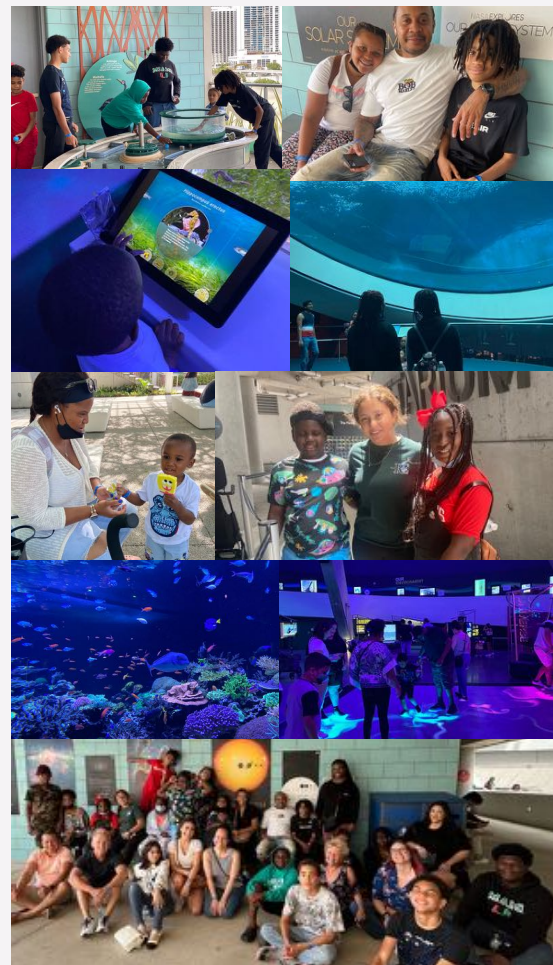
On Wednesday, March 30th, the children and their caregivers from our South Carolina programs came out to enjoy an evening at Skateland Fun Center. Everyone had a great time skating around the rink, the littlest ones had fun too using supports to help them with their balance. We served pizza for dinner and celebrated all the children with balloons and birthday cupcakes for dessert. After the event, the families were given groceries that were organized by Kayla to take home. The children were given books to bring home as well.



APRIL 9TH 2022

FROST SCIENCE MUSEUM

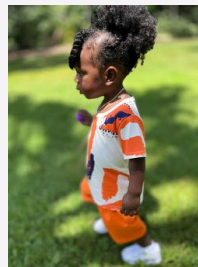
We had a lovely visit to the Frost Science Museum! Everyone met by the tables to enjoy lunch, we had a burger station with fruit, veggie chips, and water for all the children, staff, and volunteers. We divided into groups to explore the museum, walking through the different levels of the aquarium and the science floor. The Frost Science Museum offered us tickets to their show in the Planetarium. We sat in a huge room where the entire dome ceiling made up the screen. The film taught us about planets in our solar system as well as life at the bottom of the ocean. The children enjoyed the interactive features around the museum, they loved touching the starfish, stingrays and experimenting at the water station. Towards the end of the day, we arranged for an ice-cream truck and let the children get an ice-cream of their choice. It was a fantastic way to wrap up the day!



APRIL 16TH 2022

EGG HUNT AT FAIRCHILD BOTANICAL GARDENS

It was an absolutely beautiful day to be at the Fairchild Botanical Gardens. Everyone enjoyed lunch and cupcakes outside on the picnic tables. The volunteers set up an Easter egg hunt, scattering eggs all around the garden. The children were excited to get started and grabbed easter egg baskets before they started collecting eggs. Noah, our leadership coordinator said, "some of the older kids were having fun grabbing the eggs and rehidng them in different places for the younger kids to find". Afterwards the staff and volunteers set up a three-legged race and a potato sack race which was the source of many laughs and smiles. We gave out prizes to all our winners, the children took home games, as well as all their goodies from their easter eggs. We finished up the day with a guided tour with Fairchild staff. The children were taken through their innovation lab where they learned about growing plants in space and they walked around the rainforest to learn about vanilla beans and orchids. Last, but certainly not least, they explored the butterfly garden.



APRIL 26TH 2022

SVC FUNDRAISER: INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY QUEENS

SVC held its first fundraiser for 2022! It was an incredibly successful night enjoyed by all. Guests were given mojitos as welcome drinks, made with rum that was donated to us by Ron Brugal. Everyone sat down for dinner, the guests absolutely raved about the food at R House. One of our spectacular Drag Queens, Athena Dion, introduced the crowd to Miss Universe Colombia 2021 and two other Miss Universe Colombia queens. The guests watched a fashion show and enjoyed performances from three incredible drag queens. Our director, Tinkerbell, took the time to honor Scott Raspa; this event would not have been possible without him and we are endlessly grateful for his support. We also have to thank all our partners Miami Global Colombian Lion's Club, and all our sponsors, R house, Ron Brugal, Kelly Bello Design, and Twyla's Couture. Everyone had an amazing night and got up to dance after dinner. We appreciate all our friends and family for supporting Silent Victims of Crime and their donations to make a difference in the lives of many children with incarcerated parents.





MAY 7TH 2022

CIRQUE KALABANTE AFRIQUE EN CIRQUE

Music, lights, and culture- no better way to spend time with family. In this touching and creative show, families experienced a show like never before. Some families had never been to the circus, let alone an African circus! This experience allowed a lot of our families to connect to these incredible performers through their culture. The acrobats and gymnasts demonstrated amazing talent, pulling off feats that had the audience in awe. Afrique en Cirque was an experience our children will never forget and taught them to keep their head up when they are losing balance and to always believe in the magic they each carry inside.



MAY 28TH 2022

CONNECTING WITH OUR INNER CHEF

This month, we were invited back to the Mariano Moreno Culinary Institute for a Mexican culinary experience. The children and their family members had a fantastic time learning and practicing new skills in the kitchen right alongside the chefs, volunteers and staff. The children broke up into groups to cook different components of the meal. Some cooked the meat, while others prepared the different taco filling, cut up fruit or made dessert. The children also made agua fresca, a refreshing drink using strawberries and watermelon with a "green mix". The children were so proud to share the food they made with everyone. The dessert they made was delicious - a Mexican churro cake. Towards the end, every child was given a backpack with notebooks and stationary, they were also given shakers so that they can make their own drinks at home.

Cooking is not to only create a delicious dish, but it has the power to create independence, creativity, and pass culture down through generations. We hope that enriching experiences like these encourage our kids to feel confident and exercise their creativity in the kitchen.

JUNE 19TH 2022

FATHER'S DAY: KAYAKING ON BISCAYNE BAY

Everyone celebrated Father's Day at Morningside Park, Watersports donated 26 kayak trips, a new experience for our children and their families. For lunch, we had chicken, mac and cheese, veggies, followed by fruits and homemade donuts for dessert. The children and twelve volunteers were eager to get out onto the water! They paddled around biscayne bay, found coral, and even explored the surroundings of bird island. They did a sustainable art activity with Alejandra, using nature to create their artworks. Afterwards we went to the park with Wes to play basketball on the courts.

We ended the day with an incredible raffle donated by Angel Paula: a week long trip to DisneyWorld! We are always so grateful to offer our families these experiences, for many, it is a once in a lifetime. All the children left with goodies, caps and school supplies.





CONVICT KITCHEN

By: Christina Johnston

I wanted to shed some light on the team behind the food that feeds the children at all of our events. Convict Kitchen has been our main caterer for over a year now, providing food from every cuisine. It is run by a wife and husband duo who were both formerly incarcerated and released after serving seventeen years. They have been out of prison for almost two years now and were both released in July 2020. They have a son who joined SVC's programs in (INSERT YEAR) and is now in his early twenties. I had the opportunity to speak with Nicole and we discussed her time in prison, her family, and the origins of Convict Kitchen.

Nicole signed her family up with COI and SVC when they were running their prison visitation programs. Every three months, the organizations scheduled a trip for all the children and their families to travel together and spend a few hours with their parents in prison. Nicole spoke of how important these visits were for her and her son, they gave her time to connect with her son and spend time talking, hugging, and kissing him. It was through these visits that she also met Tinkerbell, who would later support her business once she was released from prison.

She spoke of how the pandemic had affected reintegrating back into society and the additional barriers that it put up in becoming an entrepreneur and getting her business up and running. Nevertheless, her heart was set on

establishing Convict Kitchen which has now been operating since September last year. She was determined to "walk the right walk" as she phrased it and earn an honest living doing something she enjoyed while making others happy. It was a decision that she came to during her time in prison. She told me how they would make food in the kitchens in the penitentiary and how she would make the prison food taste like "free world" food. It was one of the highest compliments you could get, having the skill to make food in prison taste as good as the food from the world outside. Cooking had always been her first love, and friends and other inmates would tell her, "this tastes just like free world food, oh my god, you need to do something with that talent".

I asked her how her son felt about her endeavors and she mentioned how proud he was of her and how proud she was in return. Her son has since graduated from high school, and is now working security while he takes college courses in Miami. Nicole said,

"My son tells me everyday, me and his father, I'm so proud of you all. And I know he is".

She spoke with such love in her voice, telling me about how her son asks her to cook for him and how even his friends request food too. It may seem ordinary to anyone else, but it was obvious how much she treasured the ability to have these moments with her son.

Nicole loves providing food for the children in our program. She loves children and knowing that they will be having a good meal and leaving with a full stomach. There is nothing she loves more than seeing children smile, be happy, and get excited about things, and it truly touches her heart to know that her food is reaching children who face difficult circumstances in their family. She said there was no hesitation when Tink called her about making the arrangement for Convict Kitchen to serve SVC's programs, and without hesitation, Nicole said "yes, let's do it".

JUNE 8TH 2022

SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY DAY

Our founder, Tinkerbell, flew up to South Carolina to spend the weekend with our families. Everyone came out for the occasion and met for a shared meal at the local skating rink. The children were so excited to get out onto the rink. Tinkerbell's husband, or "Grandpa Neal" as he is better known to everyone, went out roller skating too, much to their delight. There was tons of food for the families to enjoy, pizza, ice-cream, candy, as well as some healthy snacks too.





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DONATE OR VOLUNTEER

None of this work is possible without the donations of our supporters and the work of our volunteers. All contributions are deeply appreciated and help us to reach more children of incarcerated parents, one of the most underserved and overlooked populations in our communities.

Find information on how to donate to us through PayPal on our site.

📞 CONTACT

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