

A PROGRAM WITH PROVEN SUCCESS



**Girl Scouts
Beyond Bars**

"Genuinely one of the most amazing programs for parents and children at CCCF ... it offers an abundance of growth and education that is so essential to incarcerated families."



HOW YOU CAN HELP



Volunteer to drive for Saturday Girl Scouting sessions and other activities



Become a program partner



Donate supplies (please inquire before donating)



Volunteer to chaperone activities outside of CCCF



Assist in coordinating The Girl Scout Cookie Program



Support GSBB programming

FAMILIAL INCARCERATION

Over the past 20 years, the incarceration rate for women in Oregon has tripled while the arrest rate for women has decreased 36-40% during that same time. This means more women are being incarcerated for longer periods. More than 60% of women in state prisons have a child under the age of 18. Having a parent incarcerated is a stressful, traumatic experience. Children whose parents are incarcerated suffer higher rates of depression, aggression, poor academic performance and increased absences from school when compared to their peers.

Regular visits with incarcerated parents improve the emotional well-being of children, and reduce the likelihood of recidivism for incarcerated individuals. However, there are few resources available to assist with family visits.

OFFSETTING THE IMPACT OF FAMILIAL INCARCERATION ON GIRLS.



Girl Scouts Beyond Bars (GSBB) provides opportunities for girls and their adult female participants to learn new skills and build confidence together, while working to strengthen the familial bond. GSBB fosters positive personal and social development of girls, participants and their families through three components:

Participant/girl troop meetings at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

Girl-only troop meetings and council-sponsored activities.

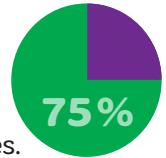
On-site enrichment activities for incarcerated participants.

LOCAL IMPACT

Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington has partnered with the Department of Corrections since 1997 and has served the GSBB program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville since 2001. Each year, GSBB serves 30-70 girls throughout Oregon and SW Washington in kindergarten through grade 12 and an estimated 30-50 of their mothers and grandmothers, most of whom plan to re-enter their home communities.

OUTCOMES

The Girl Scout Research Institute found that more than 75% of Girl Scouts participating in GSBB reported an improved relationship with their mother. When compared to similar girls outside of the program, Girl Scouts in GSBB get into less trouble, display improved performance in school, make healthier choices, and have increased leadership roles in their communities.



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