



PRESS RELEASE

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Photos: Courtesy of Community Outreach Ministry.

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“Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration” Mentor Protégé Workshop

Community Outreach Ministry wishes to thank the Heald Academy Parent Café – a Head Start program -- for its invitation to meet with parents and share valuable resources on improving the outcomes of children and families. The academy, located at 601 W. Heald Avenue in Lake Elsinore, California participates in the nationwide Head Start program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The program provides comprehensive [early childhood education](#), health, [nutrition](#) and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families.

The two-hour event took place on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 from 9 am to 11 am. Parents received copies of the “Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration Model” and Resources for Children of Incarcerated Parents, Caregivers and Incarcerated Parents (in English and Spanish). Additional reading, instructional and activity material distributed to those in attendance included copies of SAFE KIDS coloring books and crayons, Children’s Identification Kits and McGruff National Crime Prevention School Safety tips. These tools which are commonly distributed at many events held by the Community Outreach Ministry were provided to guide the parents of children affected by the incarceration of one or both parent on how to keep these children safe.

The parents of these children were also invited to help themselves to toys to take home to their children. Dr. Mona Davies, cofounder of the Community Outreach Ministry, a nonprofit organization also attended the event. Dr. Davies is the author of *Children’s Liberation from Incarceration Breaking Cycles New Beginnings*. Volunteers Marilyn Brown and Elvia Bucio of Lake Elsinore were also at the workshop.

Wells Fargo Jonay Cordeiro and Misty Elms of the Lake Elsinore Branch on Central Avenue partnered with Community Outreach Ministry to mentor the parents in financial literacy to empower them to unlock their potential and understanding of finances with the goal of making

more informed financial decisions. Cordeiro and Elms served as mentors and also donated a gift for the children to bring with them to their school.

Katrinka Solomon, Social Service Coordinator of the Head Start L.E.U.S.D. Heald Academy (Site Code 85) spoke to parents at the workshop. Solomon, the Parent Café & Incredible Years facilitator at the event commented on how she invited Community Outreach Ministry to speak at the Parent Café at Heald Academy.

“Dr. Mona Davies presented her program and along with that came her own personal testimony,” Solomon said. “Every parent there was touched by her being so open about her story and made the entire presence very warm and inviting. The two presenters from Wells Fargo also shared their own testimony, again making the group warm and inviting which gives parents the ability to feel comfortable sharing themselves. Everyone in attendance was able to connect emotionally and socially because the presenters and volunteers were so open and honest to those present at the group. One of our parents later said that ‘she learned about so many resources she did not know existed. She felt touched by everyone’s stories and she felt that she herself benefited emotionally.’”

These types of workshops are so key,” Solomon said. “Not only do they give great information and resources that are available within the community, but it is also a step up for many parents to guide them in the direction in dealing with their own social and emotional needs. I am hopeful that Community Outreach Ministry and Wells Fargo will be back next school year for another one of our Parent Cafés.”

Community Outreach Ministry is a 501 C3 non-profit in Wildomar serving Riverside County and is volunteer-operated. The mission strives to help break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, drugs, violence, delinquency, gangs and incarceration in at-risk youth impacted by parental incarceration. The ministry raises scholarships for youth to participate in summer camp activities and “Gearing Up For STEM” Mentor Protégé Workshops. To make a donation, visit www.communityoutreachministry.org or text DONATE CHAMPIONS to 609-212-0627. For more information, call 951-698-7650.





