



June 8, 2019

Press Release

Media Contact: Dr. Mona Davies, 951-698-7650, info@communityoutreachministry.org

Photos: Courtesy of Community Outreach Ministry

**Arizona State University
Center for Child Well-Being Hosts Second Annual Conference**

The Children of Incarcerated Parents National Conference was hosted by ASU in Phoenix on April 14-17, 2019 at the Renaissance Downtown hotel. Hundreds of participants attended the event including attendees from other countries around the world. The conference focused on improving children's lives with an emphasis on connecting children of incarcerated parents through family supportive visits and communication according to childwellbeing.asu.edu.

Dr. Mona Davies, cofounder of the Wildomar, California-based nonprofit organization Community Outreach Ministry -- along with her husband and ministry cofounder Bob Davies -- were one of twenty exhibitors at the event. ASU invited Robert Listenbee, JD who is the First Assistant District Attorney at the Philadelphia Office of the District Attorney to present: "Why Should Prosecutors Care About Children of Incarcerated Parents?" Listenbee has served as Administrator of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention from 2013 to 2017. He was appointed to the position by former President Barack Obama.



Robert Listenbee First Assistant District Attorney at ASU Conference in April in Phoenix

Listenbee shared his expertise and experience working at the local, state and national levels on juvenile and criminal justice. In Philadelphia, his venue, discussions have begun on shortening probation and parole terms. The proposed revisions on existing policies also include placing a cap on revocation terms for direct

violations; eliminating incarceration for technical violations; applying conditions that promote re-entry and reconnection to the community and limiting drug testing. Other proposed changes include incentivizing good behavior to reduce the length of supervision and creating a capture savings and mandate for housing, employment, education, drug treatment and mental health services.

Davies also shared information on her Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration Model that she developed along with resources collected from her research project with children of incarcerated parents who participated in her ministry's programs for ten years. During the research project, the youth – who were between the ages of 19 and 22 -- transitioned into adulthood in Riverside County, the region Community Outreach Ministry serves.

At the conference, Davies also met Ann Adalist-Estrin, Director of the National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated, Rutgers University, Camden. Dr. Davies used research data from this organization in her book, *Children's Liberation From Incarceration Breaking Cycles New Beginnings*. Since publication of the book in 2017, the Davies have expanded their organization's youth programs and implemented "Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration" Mentor Protégé Workshops, "Gearing Up For STEM" Mentor Protégé Workshops and "Children's Creative Art" Mentor Protégé Workshops.

The Davies will be hosting "Gearing Up For STEM" Mentor Protégé Workshop at California State University, San Bernardino on July 9. Teens between 14 and 17, specifically, those youth facing adversity and economic hardships will participate in the workshop. Community Outreach Ministry is excited to be partnering with Give Something Back (Give Back), a public charity that provides pre-college mentoring and college scholarships to students who have faced adversity such as foster care, homelessness or the incarceration of a parent. Give Back was founded in 2003 by Robert O. Carr a prominent business leader and author who has just published his third book with Dirk Johnson a former bureau chief for the New York Times and Newsweek: *First Chance How Kids With Nothing Can Change Everything* (2019). Give Back has provided more than 1,500 scholarships in seven different states. Give Back has programs in California, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania and has partnered with over 26 colleges in those states.



Miss Sierra Nevada Shalei Heflin meets with Dr. Mona Davies at the ASU Conference in April in Phoenix



Also attending the ASU conference were Pete Monsanto (left) and Bob Davies. The men discussed Monsanto's glamorous life as a celebrity photographer and his experiences as the son of a man convicted of racketeering and sentenced to life without parole when Monsanto was only six. He stars in the new documentary by Trans-form Films entitled "Run for His Life." Monsanto regularly runs the 26-mile NYC marathon in honor of his father.

Community Outreach Ministry 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, mentor protégé workshops and the annual Angel Tree Christmas Party. To make a donation, visit www.communityoutreachministry.org or text DONATE CHAMPIONS to 609-212-0627. For more information, call 951-698-7650.