

Families Fathers & Children • 116 Sixth Ave Brooklyn, NY 11217
<http://staugustineparkslope.org/outreach/ffc>
Familiesfathersandchildren47@gmail.com

Trips to See Dad

Many thanks to the generosity of volunteers and also a grant from NY State Office of Children's & Families Services, we have been able to plan three prison visits. Twice we took Moms and children to see Dad in Eastern Correctional Facility in Napanoch. The third trip we sponsored helped Grandma Tammy and big brother Damion drive to pick up Damion's new baby sister whose mother was incarcerated. If they had not made



this trip, baby sister would have been placed in foster care, but because they did, Tammy and her grandchildren are united as a family.

In September, Martha was able to take her three daughters to visit their Dad, and in February, Dayvion and his grandmother, Lissette and her daughter Kyla Skye and Shaquana and her son and her two sisters – all were taken to visit their Dads in Eastern C.F.

Fragmentation of families is a collateral damage of incarceration. Relationships are broken and young people are denied a relationship with a parent, who can be the stable guidance he/she needs growing up. For example, Quana's Dad went to prison when she was 13; now in her early 20s and raising a 6-year old, she has not seen her Dad since she was in high school. She never graduated from high school because during her senior year, she had six different residences and as she explains, "You can't go to school unless you have an address."

As part of the grant, we are having our children draw pictures about their experiences on these visits. The pictures will be shown at our next Art Exhibit.

Solitary Confinement Reform: Can It Work?

**Sunday, June 5
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Panel Discussion**

St. Monica Hall
47 Sterling Place, Brooklyn
Call 917-287-9044
for information

Parenting Classes

For the past seven years, we have been providing parenting classes at Edgecombe C.F. for men who will be going home shortly. In 2015, we expanded these classes into the community. In the Bronx, classes are held weekly in the Murphy Houses Community Center. In Brooklyn our classes are in collaboration with the Kings County Re-entry Task Force. At the completion of class attendance, members receive a certificate.



Marybeth Melendez (left center), Case Manager with Kings County Re-entry Task Force awards certificates to class members

Christmas Party 2015

Over seventy parents, children and volunteers helped make this a festive event for our families. Children could choose from a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, and making Christmas decorations.



Musicians from LaGuardia High School's Key Club added to the festivity. Children created a percussion accompaniment on African and Afro-Caribbean instruments, such as a Djembe drum and maracas.