

3rd Annual Day of Empathy Events

Raising Awareness of the Impacts of Prison on Oregon Families

Families are raising awareness of the impacts of incarceration in Oregon at the 3rd Annual Day of Empathy on March 8 and 9. The events benefit the YWCA Family Preservation Project which serves mothers in prison, their children, and caregivers to reduce trauma for children whose parents are incarcerated.

The vast majority of incarcerated women are mothers, most of whom have two or more children. In Oregon, close to 68,000 children have a parent who is incarcerated. The YWCA Family Preservation Project (FPP) helps mothers at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville maintain family connectivity, which is the single best predictor of post-incarceration

success for women. FPP also provides essential support for children and their caregivers.

Ashley Dorety, an alumni of the group, said participating in FPP was life changing for both her and her daughter. "It was so important for my little girl to know that I had not abandoned her, that I loved her, and that I was still there for her. I had to work on myself so that I can be the best me possible. She deserves the best me, and so do I."

Moms who have been through FPP continue to offer support to other moms as they are released from prison providing peer support, clothes, toiletries, food and more. Their families also organize for change together, including at Day of Empathy events.

"The impacts of incarceration extend far beyond the walls of our prisons," said Vanessa Sherrod, an alumni and outreach specialist with FPP. "We support each other and work together to ensure that the voices of our families are heard."



The Day of Empathy is meant to raise awareness and benefit children of prisoners. Photo courtesy of the Family Preservation Project website.

Goals for the City of Portland



City officials on the building site.

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my, so I was happy to welcome the U.S. Small Business Administration's 27th Administrator, Isabella Casillas Guzman, on her visit to Portland hosted by Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon. Self-employment, entrepreneurship, and business ownership are fundamental economic engines representing not only a source of income, but an opportunity to build wealth, and a critical path to economic self-sufficiency.

Launching Portland's next great neighborhood: It was a thrill to join Prosper Portland for the start of work to demolish the former U.S. Postal Service Processing and Distribution Center — a big step toward creating a diverse, vibrant, and sustainable mixed-use development in Northwest Portland. Future development of the Broadway Corridor will prioritize climate resilience; create connections among this site, adjacent neighborhoods

and across the city; and deliver on affordable housing goals.

Expanding electric vehicle charging stations: As we continue to shape a future that transitions us away from traditional fossil fuels, this project will ensure that our new residential development projects will have adequate electric vehicle infrastructure, allowing more Portlanders access to charging stations.

Increasing solar panel installation: This three-month effort seeks to streamline evaluations of residential solar panel installations requiring engineering reviews. Sustainability and climate action have long been deeply held values in our community, and shifting from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources is vital to our region and our planet. We all hope to see measurable improvements in the time, energy, and experience of solar permit approvals. This pilot is part of a larger effort to improve permitting services across the city.

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