just us...
I WENT TO MY FIRST JAIL AT 16. The year was 1970—the start of the “war on drugs” and selective “hyperincarceration” of lower income blacks and hispanics.
BEFORE THE 1970’S, drug abuse had been seen by policy makers primarily as a disease that could be addressed by treatment. During the 1970’s, drug abuse—even in the absence of any violent or other criminal behavior—came to be seen as a law enforcement problem to be solved through aggressive arrest.
IMAGINE

2.2 million people are in jail or prison.

800,000 people leave prison every year.

80% of people who are incarcerated have serious substance abuse problems.

48,000 people in prison have AIDS.

More than half of those in prison or jail have a mental health problem.

2.4 million children have at least 1 incarcerated parent.

5 million people are on probation or parole.

THESE NUMBERS
JOB SEEKERS with a criminal record are only half as likely to be hired as others; if they are African American, they get two-thirds fewer job offers. Even when they find work, incarceration decreases men’s earnings by up to 40 percent for years after release.
ABOUT 3 MILLION MINOR CHILDREN have a parent behind bars—that is one in 28. About 1 million juveniles are themselves under some sort of correctional supervisor, creating complex relationships between parents, kin and foster care, schools and probation officers.
The blur between “VICTIMS & OFFENDERS” is real; family violence is insidious and can take many forms. Many victims know their perpetrators, and many victims feel intimidated, frightened, and silenced. If poor and minority, they are given cursory voice within our litigious justice system.
WE TAP THE STRENGTHS OF FAMILIES entwined within the juvenile and adult systems, integrate and enhance the practices of the work force, and imagine a new means to keep people out of jail and prison. By leveraging existing resources, we can create safe and healthy communities, save money, and end our reliance on disproportionate justice system involvement.
choice
CREATIVITY ABOUNDS WITHIN US ALL
Families struggling with addiction or mental illness, correctional staff battling fatigue and frustration, and parole and probation officers are experts in their own life.
WORDS ARE IMPORTANT. All of us are more than one mistake or one good deed. Avoiding damaging labels is key to imagining a different justice system.
DID YOU EVER WONDER why so many people are in our jails and prisons? Did you ever wonder why our prison system is now a multi-billion dollar business . . . like Wonderbread®?

ALWAYS WONDER.
THIS PROJECT EMBODIES the weaving together of two passions—artistic expression and criminal justice reform. The greatest change comes when risk and imagination become partners.

CAROL SHAPIRO
cshapirony@gmail.com
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