Our Mission: Connecting children with their incarcerated moms through the joy of literature.

A Simple Idea with a Big Impact: We record moms in prison reading books aloud to their kids. We mail the books and recordings to the kids. We foster connection between mother and child. Through turning pages, we are turning lives.
A note from Judith

2015 was another exciting year for Women’s Storybook Project of Texas. I’m especially pleased that we’ve updated our recording process! Many caregivers were reporting that they had a hard time finding cassette tape players, and although it made sense to shift to CDs, we first needed to find equipment that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) would accept, since laptop computers with CD burners were considered “contraband.” After waiting nearly a year for TDCJ’s approval, we purchased almost two dozen laptops and hundreds of flash drive recorders with earmarked grant monies. All units are now mailing CDs instead of cassettes with books. A warden told me, “Storybook Project has brought TDCJ into the 21st Century!”

Also, check out our redesigned website, and browse the great news articles about WSP in 2015. The CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley filmed our program in action in the Mountain View facility; Scott himself was personally touched by what we do. And, from the positive publicity we received, I’ve had the opportunity to help others start programs for incarcerated moms in California, Ohio, Minnesota, Maryland, Mississippi, and Virginia. What a wonderful way to expand our program.

Back home in Texas, we are now recording at a TDCJ facility in San Saba, and we are poised to launch at two privately run prisons, Lockhart and Haliburt, in the coming year. We continue to turn pages and lives because of our volunteers and supporters. Thank you!

As a pleased father wrote, “Our daughter was so excited when we received the brown package with her name on it. ... She cherishes this special gift and even wants to sleep with it. Thanks so much and I hope that the Project touches everyone as it has touched our lives.”

We’re proud of our progress and look forward to continuing to make a difference in the future.

Most gratefully,

Judith Dullnig
President & Founder
In 2015, Women’s Storybook Project received excellent press coverage and publicity from major local, state, and national news outlets.

The CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley filmed a segment about WSP for broadcast in 2016.

The New York Times “Motherlode” blog published two entries written by former offenders about the impact of WSP.

The Huffington Post featured WSP on a live-streaming broadcast with Judith and a volunteer.

The Houston Chronicle published a front-page article about WSP.

The Austin American Statesman published an in-depth profile of Judith and her work with WSP.

The Austinot blog posted a piece on WSP.

Visit www.storybook.org for links to all these stories!

In Social Media

In 2015, WSP intentionally expanded our presence on social media as a way to reach a wider audience.

Our website underwent a major overhaul to update the content, refresh the look to align with our other communications materials, and improve the user experience for volunteers, donors, and other visitors.

On Facebook, our page now has over 600 followers who see fresh posts at least once a week. Follow us at www.facebook.com/WomensStorybookProject.

On Twitter, we now tweet to over 100 followers at @WSPTexas.

Photo credit: CBS News

An Ex-Offender’s Blog


I spent a little over five years of my children’s lives away from them in a maximum-security prison. When I left them, my daughter was 22 months old and my son was 15. They were devastated and their lives were completely changed. ...

I remember the first book that I read to my daughter, “And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street,” a Dr. Seuss book. ...

What I remember most was an unshakable joy of knowing as long as I was reading that book, I was Mom. ...

Many women told me that while reading to their children, they briefly felt normal. Helping them, I felt normal. Normal as in, someone who mattered again.

I came home to a 6-year-old little girl and a 20-year-old man. It’s not easy to become Mom again.

... Thank you Storybook Project for the hope you gave me in a hopeless place. I personally know several women changed on the inside while on the “inside” because of your amazing work.

Lauri Arrington now works as a Braille translator.

“... You connect children with their mothers. My daughter needed to hear her mother’s voice. It’s helped her and it’s helped me.” – Incarcerated Mom
Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and treasures with WSP.

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Our hundreds of dedicated volunteers!

* Support from these entities earned through competitive application process

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In 2015, we completed our technology migration from obsolete cassette recording to the exclusive use of flash-drive recorders and laptops to create CDs. We also hired a part-time assistant to provide support for all aspects of our program.

To cover additional expenses, we increased our visibility and our donor base through participation in the “Amplify Austin” annual fundraising campaign, the Texas Book Festival, and other presentations and events throughout the state. We successfully competed for over $22,000 in grant monies, and recruited two new corporate sponsors. These efforts, together with our annual appeal, resulted in an increase in contributions to WSP by over $20,000 from 2014 to 2015.

Through generous in-kind donations, we grew our book collection by 3,000 titles, adding $30,000 to the value of our inventory, and more importantly giving our offenders a wide and wonderful variety of choices.

We have finished the task of loading all our financial information into Quickbooks™ to help us track and manage revenues and expenses, as well as to better communicate our finances in grant applications, IRS reports, and other requests for financial information.

Late in the year, we began the process of developing a strategic plan to help us use our resources more effectively in serving families across Texas and the nation. This plan will be finalized, approved by our board, and implemented in 2016.
The Reach of WSP

Sadly, the need for our program is growing. More than 2.5 million children now have a parent in prison on any given day—one in every 28 U.S. children, or a disturbing 3.6%. The number of women in U.S. prison sentenced to more than one year is now over 106,000; and as of year-end 2014, Texas held more female offenders than any other state, with 14,362 women imprisoned.

Every incarcerated mother has one child or more suffering the trauma, stigma, and shame associated with having a parent behind bars. This unique type of “adverse childhood event (ACE)” puts children at risk for poor overall mental and physical health throughout their lives. Through the safe, special mother-child connection it creates, Women’s Storybook Project can help heal the trauma and change the statistics.

Although WSP operates only in Texas, we touch lives across the nation. In 2015, we mailed books and recordings to children living all over the U.S.


“This program lets me connect with my son since he is in another state and I can’t see him or talk to him.” — Incarcerated Mom
I would like to say thank you for all that WSP does. I did not know of this program until I came to the Woodman Unit as a Major, and I was truly blown away. This program has allowed some of the women to do something they probably would never had done if for not being here and your group. I wish I could see the faces of the children who receive this gift. Thank you.”  

– Warden, Woodman State Jail

Proud Participants: Mothers find joy, community and connection with their children in this program.