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herland VOICE

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BEYOND BARS—Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma

Yes, we know the statistics. Oklahoma does incarcerate more women per capita than any other state and at twice the national rate. About 80 percent of female offenders are mothers and are serving time for non-violent, drug related crimes. The War on Drugs has taken its toll on Oklahoma women and the collateral damage are the children.

Across the country, more than 1.5 million children—half of them under age 10—have a parent behind bars. Children with at least one incarcerated parent are five times more likely to go to prison at some point in their life.

When a mother is taken from a family the ripple effects are felt by everyone and there is an added burden to her extended family, friends and community members. The lack of stability shifts itself outward.

To a large extent, the women in prison are head of household and are responsible for supporting, nurturing, and educating their



children. What happens to these mothers affects future generations and society at large.

One group working to mend the damage done to families and stop the cycle of incarceration is the **Beyond Bars** Program of

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma. First begun in Baltimore in 1992, at least 30 councils nationwide now offer the program designed to foster healthy, lasting relationships between daughters and their incarcerated mothers.

(Continued page 3)

Herland Sister Resources 2312 NW 39th St Oklahoma City 73112
405.521.9696 www.herlandsisters.org herland@herlandsisters.org
Regular hours 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 1-5 pm

Save the Date: Nov 6-8 Fall Retreat

With the weather starting to change, it's feeling more and more like it's time for another Herland Retreat! Be sure to Save The Date - Herland's Fall Retreat will be November 6th – 8th, at Lake Eufaula State Park, in Eufaula, OK. A registration form and many more details will be in the next Voice newsletter. We're planning some Really Great Workshops and Food, and Oklahoma City's own "3 Shades of GRAY" will keep us movin' & groovin' during the Saturday night concert. You'll hear great vocals, guitar, bass, mandolin, and fiddle! You will love their sound!



& groovin' during the Saturday night concert. You'll hear great vocals, guitar, bass, mandolin, and fiddle! You will love their sound!

If there is something specific you'd like to see or do at this retreat, just call (405) 550-2312 and we'll work on it. Herland needs your support, and now is a GREAT time to start gathering items to donate for the Silent Auction, which helps keep Herland going. We hope to see you all in November!



2312 NW 39th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 521-9696, herland@herlandsisters.org,
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Herland Sister Resources
Serving the women's community since 1985!

We hope you are enjoying this issue of the *Herland Voice*. To continue on our hardcopy mailing list, or to be switched to the email version of the *Voice*, all you need to do is return the form below. There are various donation options and all donations are tax-deductible.

To make sure you receive the next copy of the *Voice*, simply return the coupon below. Hope to hear from you soon!



-
- Please keep me on the hardcopy mailing list.
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- Here's my donation of \$ _____ to help keep Herland alive and well.
 (The suggested donation is \$25 a year – more if you can, less if you can't.)
- Enclosed is my check payable to Herland in the amount of \$ _____.
 Send to Herland, 2312 NW 39th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

You can also donate securely online with a credit card or PayPal account by simply going to our website (www.herlandsisters.org) and clicking on "Donate" in the menu bar.



The *Herland Voice* is a publication of Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112. Our center is open the second and fourth Saturdays from 1-5 pm. Call us at (405) 521-9696 or email us at herland@herlandsisters.org. Visit us on the web at www.herlandsisters.org.

What's Happening

SUPPER CLUB

5:30 pm, Saturday, Sept 12
Belle Isle Brewery, 50 Penn Place
(NW Expy & Penn)

AIDS WALK BOWLING

3 pm, Sunday, Sept 13
Red Pin in Bricktown

AIDS WALK OKC

Sunday, Sept 20
Myriad Botanical Gardens



HEALTH INITIATIVE

3 pm, Saturday, Oct 10
South River Trail Walk
Park at Agnew lot on south side
of river. Gentle walk suitable for
all levels.

SUPPER CLUB

5:30 pm, Saturday, Oct 10
Bleu Garten, 301 NW 10th St

HERLAND RETREAT

Nov. 6-8 Lake Eufaula State Park

HEALTH INITIATIVE

3 pm, Saturday, Nov 14
Topic: Eating Disorders



SAVE THE DATE—October 23, 2015

Freedom Oklahoma's Platinum Gala is just around the corner. It will be an amazing evening of celebration and revelry at the historic Skirvin Hotel, in downtown Oklahoma City. Sponsorships are open now, and tickets will go on sale soon, so mark your calendars! Follow them on Facebook to get updates.

Beyond Bars

(Continued from page 1)

Mothers and daughters meet once a month and interact through planned Girl Scout meetings that provide opportunities to strengthen their relationships. Beyond Bars works with the mothers to help them learn life skills and how to be a more nurturing parent.

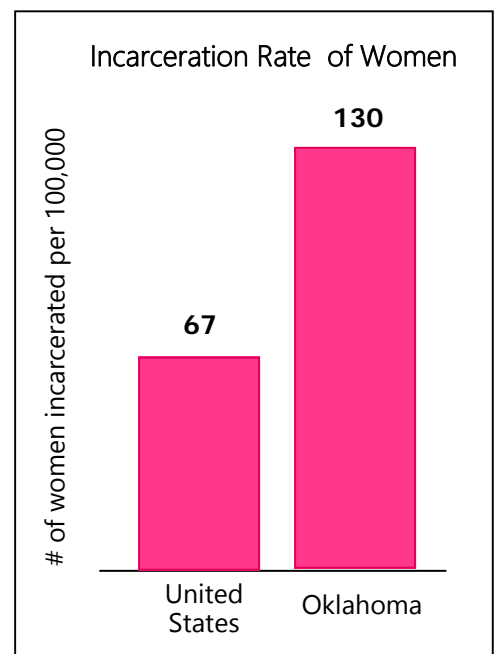
Daughters in the program are given support to believe in themselves and take charge of their own lives, regardless of circumstances. The girls learn leadership skills and get help developing healthy behaviors. For more information, see www.gseok.org.

ReMerge

One program that works to divert women from incarceration is ReMerge of Oklahoma County. This program is an alternative to prison for pregnant women and mothers facing incarceration for nonviolent offenses.

Women in the program receive treatment for trauma and addiction, housing, transportation, parenting support, and job training. The program serves 50 women at any given time and candidates are recommended by OK County D.A.'s office, public defender's office, or county judges.

For more information on the ReMerge program, see remergeok.org.



Research Studies

A team of LGBTQ researchers from **Smith College** are studying families who used **known donors** to conceive. They are looking for lesbian, bisexual, and queer mothers, single or partnered, who have conceived children using a known donor to participate in this study.

They are interested in your choices, negotiations, struggles, relationships, and joys. Popular narratives surrounding known donor families aren't always accurate, and they are interested in hearing your story and painting a real picture of known donor families.

The research team wants to interview any and all moms, mamas, babas, partners, donors, co-parents, abuelas, dads, grandpas, and extended family members of children conceived through the use of a known donor (not all at the same time!). Only one participant is needed, but they're eager to hear multiple perspectives whenever possible. They are especially interested in talking with families of color and families with older children.

Interviews will last approximately two hours and can take place either in person or via phone or Skype/FaceTime. Your participation and the content of your interview will remain confidential and they will never release any identifying information about you or any of your family members.

Participants will be entered into a random drawing to win a \$100 Amazon gift card. To sign up, please enter your contact information here: <http://www.knowndonorproject.com/want-to-get-involved-.html>. If you have any questions or concerns, please email knowndonorproject@smith.edu.

A research team from **Oklahoma State University** is working to advocate for and learn more about things that contribute to the **health and well-being of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and/or Queer (LGBTQ) adults aged 50 or over**. This study has two specific purposes: 1) to learn more about whether the measures in this study, which have been used with younger adults who identify as LGBTQ, are also valid for individuals aged 50 or older; and 2) to look at the relationship between these measures and a measure of health and well-being.

If you identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and/or Queer and are age 50 or over, you are invited to participate in a study about factors related to the health and well-being of LGBTQ adults aged 50 and older in Oklahoma. .

If you are interested in learning more about this study, please go to the following link, <http://tinyurl.com/qdt4s8l>. On the web link, you are provided more information about the study, and directed to where you can give your consent and complete the survey measures. Alternately, you may email or call Dr. Sue C. Jacobs (sue.c.jacobs@okstate.edu; 405-744-9895) for more information about the study and/or to have one of the researchers assist you in answering the research questions by entering them into a computer.

Any answers or personal information you provide will be anonymous as you will not provide your name. If you have questions about your rights as a research volunteer, you may contact the IRB Office at 223 Scott Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078, 405-744-3377 or irb@okstate.edu

Job Training for Indian Elders

If you are at least 55 years old (there is no upper age limit), unemployed, and a member of a low-income family, the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) offers federally assisted job training through a Dept of Labor program called the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

Participants work part-time for non-profits but are paid by the NICOA SCSEP program. The type of work varies depending on the skill level of the individual and the needs of the organization. Some examples include teacher aides, literacy aides, clerical assistants, library aides, day care assistants, maintenance assistants. The goal is to develop skills of the elders so that they can transition into non-subsidized paid employment after completion of the program.

Although NICOA has a special purpose in working with American Indian elders, it is not required that applicants be Native American to participate in SCSEP. For more information visit nicoa.org.



Yes All Daughters

By Cindy L.

On November 5, 2014, Stacey Wright's niece came to her and confided that a girl she knew at Norman High School (NHS) had been sexually assaulted by a football player that September. She said that the girl and two other alleged victims had also been continually bullied by the assailant's friend since the incident and the school officials did not respond appropriately.

With only two weeks of planning and execution, Wright's knitting circle joined together with some NHS students, calling the group YES ALL DAUGHTERS, and organized a peaceful demonstration on November 24th in front of the school. The campaign went viral, overtaking social media platforms. Over 1,000 students, teachers, parents, and supporters gathered on the sidewalk outside the school to protest the mistreatment of the victims and lack of action by the school administration.

Out of this campaign, YES ALL DAUGHTERS was born as an advocacy group standing with, and for, victims of sexual assault, rape, and bullying. As a result of the protest, Norman High School established a Sexual Assault Task Force and the position of student advocacy coordinator to help prevent sexual assault and respond appropriately when a sexual assault occurs. The student rapist was arrested in December and pled no contest to one rape charge. He will serve about 15 months in prison of the 10-year sentence.

Claudia Griffith, Democratic Representative for District 45, contacted Wright and the group about legislation to address prevention of sexual assault and the response to victims of sexual assault in schools. Although the legislation was proposed in February 2015 it was not put on the agenda to be heard in committee.

Wright's group then used the website change.org to create a petition which resulted in this legislation being passed by the House overwhelmingly 95 to 1. The legislation was then added to HB 1684, also known as Erin's Law, which was passed and requires schools to establish a sexual abuse prevention program. However, because of the wording of this part of the law the Safe School Committees designed to address the

bullying issue did not adequately address sexual assault and the response to victims. Instead of requiring that it be mandatory for the committees to make recommendations to the principals, it states that the committees "may" make these recommendations. This is only a partial victory.

Yes All Daughters is currently working on federal legislation called the "Teach Safe Relationships Act" which promotes education on safe relationships and addresses how incidences of sexual assault are reported and tracked.

Yes All Daughters has now become internationally known and is exploring how to proceed in the future, possibly as a non-profit advocacy group. They were honored by the Oklahoma Universal Human Rights Alliance with its 2014 Human Right Award.

#YESALL DAUGHTERS



Poetry Submissions for Voice

We want your words/poems/stories for our next edition of the Herland Voice! Any style, including contemporary or experimental are welcome. Please send submissions and any questions to: herland@herlandsisters.org. **Deadline is October 26, 2015.**

Herland Sister Resources

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