

Thursday's Child



CHAPIN HALL
CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



Urban Institute

**Broken Bonds:
Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Children with Incarcerated Mothers**
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Sandra Kay Barnhill is executive director and CEO of Atlanta's Foreverfamily, Inc., which she founded in 1987 to reduce the impact of a mother's imprisonment on her children. The nonprofit provides programs and services to inspire children to become successful adults—and reduce the chance they will turn to crime. In 2001, Barnhill created Children and Family Networks, a national coalition of families, faith-based and community groups, and service providers. She is on the faculty of the National Institute of Corrections and was on the advisory board of the Child Welfare League of America's Federal Resource Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents.

Amy Dworsky is a senior researcher at Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago. Her research interests include foster care placement among children of incarcerated mothers, youth aging out of foster care, the educational trajectories of homeless children, pregnant and parenting foster youth, and the service needs of low-income families in Chicago. Her current projects include a study of school enrollment and performance of homeless children in the Chicago Public Schools and a longitudinal study of young adults transitioning out of foster care in three Midwestern states.

Thomasina (Tomi) Hiers is director of programs and services at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. She leads the development of policy and programs in reentry, victim services, quality assurance, and gender responsiveness. Previously, Hiers directed the Maryland Re-Entry Partnership (REP) Initiative at the Enterprise Foundation. The REP collaborative assists offenders in their transition from prison to community. Earlier, she was assistant director of the Baltimore City HotSpots Initiative/Comprehensive Communities Program, a community-based crime prevention effort.

Nancy La Vigne is a senior research associate at the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center, where she directs several projects related to prisoner reentry, policing, and crime prevention. She is project director of *Returning Home*, a multistate, longitudinal study of prisoner reentry, and principal investigator for the *Reentry Mapping Network*, a consortium of 13 jurisdictions that are mapping and analyzing reentry and corrections data to help inform local reentry initiatives. La Vigne was founding director of the National Institute of Justice's Crime Mapping Research Center and served as research director for the Texas Punishment Standards Commission.

Laura Sullivan has been a correspondent at National Public Radio since December 2004. She's covered crime and punishment issues for *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Day to Day*, and other NPR programs. Before coming to NPR, Sullivan was the Washington correspondent for the *Baltimore Sun*, where she covered the Justice Department, the FBI, and terrorism. In 1996, Sullivan and two other Northwestern University students completed a project that freed four men, including two death-row inmates, who had been wrongfully convicted of an 18-year-old murder in Chicago. The case led to a moratorium on capitol punishment in the state.