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Reading Legacies

Nurturing Family Relationships Through Bedtime Stories

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13th. We all remember bedtime stories with our mom or dad, but when a parent is behind bars, the separation makes it challenging to foster that bond.

The Sheriff's Detention Services Bureau and its Reentry Services Division aim to nurture and strengthen family connections during this difficult time through a partnership with [Reading Legacies](#), a nonprofit organization.



To meet the needs of children during this trying time, parents and grandparents in five county jails can choose a free book and record themselves reading it. The book and DVD recording with a special message from the loved one is then mailed to the child who can watch it anytime they miss mommy or daddy.

Sheriff Bill Gore says, "Just because you're incarcerated doesn't mean you're no longer a father or mother and through this program the inmate reads a book, it's videotaped, writes a personal inscription in the back of the book and then we deliver it to the child in the community and it maintains those positive connections and hopefully gives the inmate incentive to continue working on themselves, improving their lives so they can look forward to going back and being a father or mother again and being a part of the community."



Since the partnership started in 2001, [Reading Legacies](#) has reached nearly 8,000 parents in five county jails and more than 15,000 children with the recorded book program.

Click on the photo above to watch a touching story about second chances and how this collaboration aims to lessen the shame and stigma experienced by children of incarcerated parents. You can also watch the video on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/269255407>.

To download b-roll and soundbites of parents and children in the Reading Legacies Program for broadcast, visit: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/tgetTRYbh8>.

