



Sing Sing Correctional Facility Hosts First Ever ‘Celebrate Your Children Event’

Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci, along with Deputy Commissioner Jeff McKoy and Assistant Commissioners Darrow Cunningham and Mary Vann recently attended the “Celebrate Your Children” event at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Westchester County. The ground breaking event offered 22 eligible inmates an opportunity to share special time with their children, in a one-on-one setting, as their mothers and caregivers attended their own special event in a separate, nearby facility.

Inmates had to meet certain requirements to be eligible to attend the function.

The event, which hosted 37 children, took place in a completely transformed visiting room of the facility with the help of The Inmate Liaison Committee who purchased supplies that were used to decorate the room. Paintings and murals made by members of the committee, and other inmate artists, were displayed around the visiting room making for an inviting atmosphere for both the children and the fathers. The Vocational Carpentry Shop at the facility also volunteered and helped decorate the room. Fresh flower arrangements, which were designed by the inmates in the Horticulture Program at nearby Bedford Hills Correctional Facility were also displayed in the room.

Prior to the event, inmates were required to attend three workshops where they received parenting information from the Osborne Association, financial guidance from a volunteer from the Station of Hope Prison Ministry, and crafted flowers and hearts with personal messages for their children. Each inmate also filmed a special message for their child. This video was later shown during the event and was received as an amazing tribute to the children.

A professional photographer was on hand to capture the evening that included children having their photos taken with the character boards, a magician, food, and a DJ. Each inmate and each child received a professional photograph that was placed in a frame, decorated by the fathers and their children, to commemorate the event.

A separate caregiver event was held at the nearby Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church where keynote speakers, music and a chance for the caregivers to view the video that the inmates made were available.

The event could not have been possible without the generous contributions from Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, the Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, the Church of Heavenly Rest, the Elements Day Spa and Salon as well as many dedicated volunteers and department staff.