



## Mentor Center of Western Nevada

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*A program of*



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF WESTERN NEVADA

### **For Immediate Release:**

September 26, 2007

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada are pleased to announce that their Mentor Center of Western Nevada received a grant through the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program from the Department of Health and Human Services. For the past three years, the Center has served close to 80 children who have experienced parental incarceration in the Carson City area. These funds will allow the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada to reach further into Lyon and Storey counties. A parent in prison presents many emotional and developmental consequences for children, as well as added risk factors. A mentor can greatly impact some of these factors by providing a safe and consistent presence in the youth's life.

### **Children of Prisoners: The Facts**

- When a parent is in prison, so is a child.
- These children face a 70% probability of following their parents to prison at some point.
- Carson City has three prisons within its boundaries and two more close by in Lyon County.
- These children live in our neighborhoods, go to our schools, and attend our churches.
- Having a significant adult in a child's life can help to break the cycle.

“Senator Harry Reid and Senator John Ensign have shown great interest in protecting and improving the lives of our young people, especially those in most need,” said Ruth Aberasturi-Gordon, Director of the Mentor Center of Western Nevada. “We are very grateful for their support in assuring this funding is made available in the state of Nevada and throughout the country to this critical group of young people.”

“These resources will have a positive influence in the lives of children who need a role model they can trust,” said Senator John Ensign. “Young children need the chance to recognize their potential, and this program affords them this opportunity.”

“The Boys and Girls Club of Western Nevada should be commended for their mentoring program for children of incarcerated parents,” said Senator Harry Reid. “This program helps young people reach their full potential and make positive differences in their communities.”

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