Over two million children have a parent who is currently incarcerated in the United States. Rikers Island, New York City’s largest jail, houses over 14,000 people, the majority of whom are parents. SSB launched its Supportive Televisiting Services Program in 2012 to help heal these families by providing opportunities for children to maintain contact with their incarcerated parents whom they miss and love. Research studies underscore the benefits these visits can provide:

A healthy connection with a parent may:
- Prevent or reduce a child’s behavioral, emotional, or school problems
- Lessen separation trauma and preserve a child’s secure attachment
- Promote a healthier family transition after release

Televisiting provides opportunities to:
- Reassure and comfort children during separation
- Interact together: read, play games, & create art
- Celebrate special moments and milestones

As work on the program progressed, it became clear that the effort would be greatly enhanced by the addition of support activities for the incarcerated parents, as well as the children, and their caregivers. Work is currently underway to provide some of these support services. The program attracted the attention of faith-based and community organizations who share common concerns. Supportive Televisiting Services has responded by providing consultant services and training sessions for organizations, faith-based groups and mental health professionals.

The New York Society for Ethical Culture: NYSEC has put Ethics into Action for more than 130 years and through the Social Service Board, hosted an on onsite, in-person visiting program for children of mandated non-custodial parents for 24 years.

The Social Service Board: SSB operates programs that reach out to the most vulnerable members of our community. Its multigenerational empowerment initiatives include a range of services addressing pressing needs: Empowering Ethical Elders, La Liga Youth Soccer Program, the Creative Arts Success Academy, the Dr. Maria Fridman Women’s Shelter, and the Universal Races Congress Education Project. SSB is also affiliated with the All Healers Mental Health Alliance and the Black Psychiatrists of Greater New York & Associates

Be The Evidence Project, Fordham University: BTEP provides social justice related technical assistance, and program development, and evaluation.

The Jericho Taskforce: Faith-based leaders throughout the Brooklyn, New York Community who are committed to addressing social and criminal justice issues.

Cisco Systems: Provides secure video equipment and technology support for community-based correctional initiatives.

You Can Help
The Social Service Board welcomes your tax-deductible gift. To contribute to Supportive Televisiting Services, please call or visit us online today!

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Supportive Televisiting Services

Support Initiatives
A range of services have been developed to help incarcerated parents selected for televisits fulfill their roles as parents, family members, and contributors to their communities. Anger Management interventions are offered to individuals and groups as face-to-face sessions in correctional facilities and via televisiting sessions.

PeerConnections provides a safe environment where formerly incarcerated individuals discuss post-incarceration responsibilities and challenges. Opportunities for camaraderie and participation in educational programs at NYSEC are encouraged. Re-Entry Preparation services include options such as job interview and resume writing training.

Community-Based Televisiting Sites
Manhattan: New York Society for Ethical Culture
2 West 64th Street at Central Park West, 10023
Brooklyn: Brooklyn Public Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, 11238

Correctional Facilities with Televisiting Services
New York City Department of Correction
NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision: Albion Correctional Facility, Clinton Correctional Facility

Supportive Televisiting & Consultation Services
- Consultation to implement a community-or correctional-facility-based Televisiting Program
- Cultural Competence Training for professionals working with Children with Incarcerated Parents and individuals who are formerly incarcerated
- Specialty training for Telepsychology, Telepsychiatry, and TeleSocialWork
- Low-fee, private Televisiting Services
- TeleBirthdayParties for children and teens

Special Televisiting Resources
Televisits between children and their parents are enriched by special resources made possible by our collaborative friends and colleagues.
Carnegie Hall’s, Musical Connections Lullaby Project for children and moms

The New York and Brooklyn Public Libraries’ Daddy & Mommy & Me early literacy workshops

Putting Our Ethics into Action
Support the Supportive Televisiting Program
SocialServiceBoard.org/Televisiting