

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Martha Wallner ([510388-7150](tel:510388-7150))

Dec. 4, 2012

Children Receive Gifts from Loved Ones Behind Bars at *Community Giveback* this Holiday Season

SAN FRANCISCO --- The 13th Annual Community Giveback, hosted by All of Us or None, a project of [Legal Services for Prisoners with Children](#) based in San Francisco, CA, will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 8 from 1-4 pm at the Onetta Harris Community Center in Menlo Park, CA.** Children will travel from throughout the Bay Area and beyond with their families and caregivers to receive new bicycles and toys given to them on behalf of their parents who are incarcerated.

“As parents who were once on the inside, we understand the deep sadness that families separated by incarceration feel, especially around the holidays,” said Dorsey Nunn, Executive Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. Nunn, a Menlo Park resident, will MC the event on Saturday.

The goal of the event is “to remind children with incarcerated parents that they have a whole community of people who care about them,” said event co-organizer, Hamdiya Cooks.

Bicycles, sporting equipment and toys will be distributed to the children throughout the afternoon. There will also be face painting and refreshments.

“When people get out of jail or prison, we face a lot of barriers to participating in our communities,” said San Mateo County resident and All of Us or None organizer, Manuel La Fontaine. “We are not going to let those barriers stop us from contributing especially to the children and their families and that’s what this effort is all about.”

The Community Giveback requires a lot of preparation. With the assistance of chaplains from throughout the California prison system, including Michael Salaam at Avenal State Prison and Robert Bonds at California Correction Center, incarcerated parents sign up to request a gift for their child. All of Us or None spends months gathering donations from numerous individuals and bicycles and toys from organizations such as [Toys For Tots Foundation](#) and [Turning Wheels for Kids](#), the San Jose based non-profit that donated 110 of the 175 new bicycles that will be given out this year.

Volunteers from All of Us or None assemble the bikes prior to the event and adjust the bikes for each child as they receive them. They also make sure that their safety helmets fit correctly.

The event is open to the press and pre-registered families only. Participants, including family members and children will be available for interviews. Organizers and state prison chaplains are available for phone interviews prior to the event. Interviews in Spanish are available.

VISUALS: A festive holiday party with music, food, face-painting and children receiving gifts including bicycles throughout the afternoon. Children are invited to share “affirmations” for the community at the microphone when they receive their gifts. Photos available by request.

What: 13th Annual Community Give Back

When: Saturday - Dec. 8, 2012, 1 - 4pm
Where: Onetta Harris Community Center / 100 Terminal Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Contact: Hamdiya Cooks for event information [\(510\)410-1099](tel:5104101099) (cell)