

# Building a Legacy of Strong Families

STUDY FINDS RIDGE PROJECT PROGRAMS HAVE SIGNIFICANT RESULTS

## Problem:

- 2.3 million adults in prison, 800,000 on parole
- 7.5 million children with a parent in corrections
- These children are now at-risk of becoming the next generation of offenders
- 21,950 Fathers incarcerated in Ohio with an average of 3 children each
- High recidivism rates



## Goal:

Goal: Strengthen incarcerated father's marriages and families to reduce recidivism and lower risks of children becoming offenders.



## Keeping FAITH

Families and Inmates Together In Harmony

## Method:

- Teach healthy communication and collaborative problem-solving skills to stabilize the family
- Intensive character development training for the incarcerated fathers – teaching them to become men of honor and integrity
- Marriage and Fatherhood strengthening focused interventions



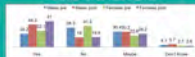
## Results:

- A 5% 12- to 18-month recidivism rate, saving the state of Ohio nearly \$1 million from 2009 – 2010 alone
- Statistically significant increases in relationship skills, commitment and quality including the following:

When discussing issues, how often the man listens to his wife's side when I need:



When our kids want to get out of our hair, we agree to stop and talk later:



## Conclusions:

Fatherhood Strengthening and Marriage Training, when combined, brings families together and reduces recidivism.

- It is clear from both the quantitative and qualitative evidence that the goal of the RIDGE Project's Keeping Families and Inmates Together In Harmony Program is being met, yielding a positive impact on participants.
- Evaluation of the 40 interviews questions posed to the couples before and after the program classes show significant change over time.
- It is clear from a content analysis review of the program data that the RIDGE FAITH program has real, and measurable, positive impact on participants.
- These impacts appear to be both in terms of skills learned and behavioral changes that are strengthening their relationships and families that are a part of the program.