
Newsletter - Winter 2016

Children of Imprisoned Parents International

November 19, 2016



COIPI's board (Who live in Virginia) and team members

Workshop for teachers

On August 26, Hamed Farmand, COIPI's CEO, presented a workshop for Arlington Public School (APS) pre-school teachers to prepare them for starting a new year. The workshop was designed to address the needs of APS in helping their pre-school teachers understand the effects of parental incarceration on children so they can support these families as the children are preparing to attend school.

80% of the audience rated the workshop "very good," and 20% rated it "excellent." 60% of the audience rated the workshop as being strongly related to their job, and they mentioned they will use the materials in their job. COIPI continued connecting with APS to create a strong relationship and offer its workshop for all teachers. We started a conversation with APS main staff to discuss their needs.



GMU IT Project

The IT-capstone course in the department of Information Science and Technology at George Mason University (GMU) focuses on getting real-world experience and helping local businesses and companies. In September 2016, Arthur, senior IT student at GMU, met with Hamed Farmand, COIPI's president, and introduced their projects to him. In October, Arthur and two of his team members convinced five others to choose COIPI as an organization to work with it. During our weekly meeting, we talked about COIPI's current financial situation, our challenges, and core needs. At the end of November or early December, we'll decide on a solution to be developed for COIPI. This solution will focus on two major needs--developing our social media activities and fundraising.



Birthday Party for COIPI



COIPI officially became a non-profit organization in August of 2014 in Virginia. On Saturday, August 27th, we had a party to celebrate COIPI's 1-year birthday.

Friends and families gathered together to celebrate a year of spreading the word about our support of children of incarcerated parents.

At the birthday party, Chuck Appleby, COIPI's secretary board member, described his relationship with Hamed. He spoke of the time Hamed mentored his son, training him until he received an "Employee of the Month" award in his first part-time job experience.

Gail Arnall, COIPI's advisory board member and former executive director of Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR-Arlington), spoke about mass incarceration and pointed out that "when we lock people in prison, we also punished their families, especially their children."

Hamed spoke about his experience of having mother in prison and described his feelings while working with and for children of imprisoned parents. He explained that his life-long mission to help these children was the reason he established COIPI. He also read part of his book that has been translated to English from Farsi by his little sister, Elaheh Farmand.

The birthday party was held the home of Robin Brooks. Robin oversees COIPI's financial issues. She created a warm place for guests to enjoy getting to know each other and becoming more familiar with COIPI's actions and programs, and provided food and beverages for the party.

Sheri Appleby, COIPI's professional editor, supported the birthday party by providing printed materials as well as a birthday cake for attendees.

Program Design Committee

Dr. Shervin Assari, Dr. Alvin Thomas, and Dr. Masoumeh Dejman have been chosen as COIPI's program design committee. Dr. Assari, COIPI's chair board member, is a research faculty member at the University of Michigan, Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Assari has extensive research experience in healthcare utilization, mental health, and well being of minority and under-served populations. Dr. Thomas, COIPI's executive board member, has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Michigan, and has extensive knowledge in father-son relationships and behavioral problems in childhood and adolescence. Dr. Dejman is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Mental Health in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her recent research activities are focused on ethnicity, gender, and transcultural mental health issues. The Program Design Committee is responsible for designing and developing programs for COIPI's clients and improving our current programs based on evaluations.



Shervin Assari; Chair



Masoumeh Dejman; Advisory



Alvin Thomas; Member

Training and membership

COIPI is a member of the Center for Nonprofit Advancement. As a member of this professional center, we have access to all of their classes, webinars, and training programs that are designed to make leaders of nonprofits stronger in their fields.