



The Ladies Of Hope Ministries

@TheLOHM



Topeka K. Sam
Executive Director

The Ladies of Hope Ministries (The LOHM) was envisioned by Topeka K. Sam when she was incarcerated in Danbury Federal Prison in 2013. In Danbury, Topeka witnessed firsthand the growing epidemic of the incarceration of women and specifically women of color. She felt the urgency to bring the faces and voices of women in prison to the public to create awareness about what drives women's criminalization, the conditions of confinement women face while incarcerated and to demonstrate that formerly incarcerated women can lead the way in shaping the policies, laws, and programs necessary for women to thrive after coming home from prison. Since her release in May 2015, she hit the ground blazing.

The mission of The LOHM is to help disenfranchised and marginalized formerly incarcerated women transition back into society through education, spiritual empowerment, entrepreneurship, and advocacy. Our goal is to end the incarceration of women and girls.

Initiatives of The Ladies of Hope Ministries

HOPE HOUSE NYC IS A SAFE HOUSING SPACE FOR FORMERLY INCARCERATED WOMEN, CO-FOUNDED BY VANEY SYKES, LOCATED IN THE BRONX, NY. HOPE HOUSE NYC IS FOR SINGLE WOMEN RETURNING TO NEW YORK CITY FROM STATE OR FEDERAL INCARCERATION. HOUSING IS AVAILABLE TO WOMEN FOR UP TO ONE YEAR AS THEY READJUST TO SEEING THEIR FAMILIES, BEING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, HEALING THEMSELVES AND SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATIONAL, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES.

FACES OF WOMEN IN PRISON IS A POWERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO HEAR AND LEARN FROM INCARCERATED WOMEN THROUGH PUBLIC SYMPOSIUMS. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, IT PROVIDES A TRAINING GROUND FOR INCARCERATED AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED WOMEN WHO NEVER HAD THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICALLY SPEAK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES AND HOW WHAT THEY LEARNED CAN INFORM AND TRANSFORM PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATION. FACES OF WOMEN IN PRISON WILL ALSO DEVELOP A **SPEAKERS BUREAU**, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND CREATED AND RUN BY FORMERLY INCARCERATED WOMEN. THE SPEAKERS BUREAU WILL DEEPEN AND BROADEN THE PUBLIC CONVERSATION, EMPOWER FORMERLY INCARCERATED WOMEN AND PROVIDE INCOME FOR WOMEN AS THEY SPEAK AROUND THE COUNTRY.

ANGEL FOOD DELIVERY PROJECT DELIVERS FREE HEALTHY FOOD TO FORMERLY INCARCERATED WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN ADDITION TO THE FAMILIES OF INCARCERATED WOMEN. SINCE ITS LAUNCH ON THANKSGIVING 2015, WE HAVE BROUGHT FOOD TO MORE THAN 3,000 FAMILIES IN NEW YORK CITY.

THE PAROLE AND PROBATION

ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT BEGAN WITH TOPEKA K. SAM'S 2017 SOROS JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP. DESIGNED AND INFORMED BY THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE ON PROBATION AND PAROLE, THIS GROUNDBREAKING WORK FOCUSES ON CHALLENGING AND CHANGING PAROLE AND PROBATION WHICH DENIES THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND MEN DUE TO MISINFORMATION, LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC SCRUTINY AND OVERSIGHT. PAPP ALSO SHINES A LIGHT ON HOW PROBATION AND PAROLE SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND INTRUSION, POLICING AND CONTROL OF ALREADY HEAVILY SURVEILLED BLACK AND LATINO NEIGHBORHOODS. IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL ADVOCACY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PAPP INCLUDES FOCUS GROUPS AND A NATIONAL SURVEY WHICH WILL RESULT IN POLICY PROPOSALS TO SIGNIFICANTLY REFORM PROBATION AND PAROLE. SPECIAL ATTENTION IS PAID TO HOW THE CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE OF PROBATION/PAROLE DIFFERENTLY IMPACTS THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IS VITAL TO THE MISSION OF THE LOHM. IN THE LAST YEAR, TOPEKA K. SAM HAS DEVELOPED A HIGH PROFILE MEDIA PRESENCE. TOPEKA, THE LOHM AND HOPE HOUSE NYC HAVE BEEN FEATURED IN ARTICLES IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, VOGUE, SALON, VICE/IMPACT AND OTHERS. SHE HOSTS HER OWN WEEKLY RADIO SHOW ON SIRIUSXM URBANVIEW AND IS A TED TALK PRESENTER.

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