



Richmond City Sheriff's Office
Sheriff C. T. Woody, Jr.



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
December 21, 2016

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SHERIFF C.T. WOODY, JR. HOSTS MOTHERHOOD HOLIDAY TEA FOR SECOND YEAR

Richmond, Virginia – Yesterday, Sheriff Woody hosted the second annual Motherhood tea for female residents of the Richmond City Justice Center (RCJC) who are in the Recovering from Everyday Addictive Lifestyles (REAL) Program. These residents, after meeting certain requirements in order to participate, were able to spend an afternoon with their children and family at an event sponsored by the Richmond Family & Fatherhood Initiative (RFFI). Four women and five children were able to have lunch, tea, and cake together, while also participating in structured relationship exercises designed to strengthen the bond. Two women had their biological children attend, one also had a grandchild, and two had brothers in attendance. Three other women from the REAL Program also participated, as they completed all requirements, but did not have family able to attend.

“The men in the REAL Program and in the jail often times have more chances to interact with and see their children. Events like Hoops for Hope and the Back to School Cookout are great for the fathers and sons, but often times, the women in the REAL Program don’t have that same opportunity,” explained Sheriff Woody. “Their lives and the relationships they have with their children are just as important, which is why we kicked this off event last year right before Christmas. The Holiday Season is one of the more challenging times of the year for children whose parents or family members are incarcerated, and allowing the women the opportunity will not only lift the spirits of both, but will re-enforce the natural bond these women have with their children and family by allowing them to utilize the relationship building and strengthening techniques they learned.”

This year, we also partnered with First Presbyterian Church, whose women’s group collected the tea cups that were used. Each child was able to bring home their tea cup and saucer, as well as their mother’s as a memory from the event. A 15-year old boy in attendance even asked for an extra cup for his grandma so he could have tea with her also.

About RFFI and the Motherhood Curriculum

At the heart of the Motherhood Support Group sessions is the National Partnership of Community Leadership’s (NPCL) *Young Mothers and Co-Parenting Curriculum*. This curriculum is an experiential design model which provides “support, information, and motivation in areas of parenthood and relationships.” The curriculum is unique in that that the curriculum also addresses the *real life experiences and challenges of mothers*. In other words, the curriculum is relative despite ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds. The curriculum focuses on building knowledge in five areas: personal development, life skills, parenting skills, relationships, and health and sexuality.

The Richmond City Sheriff's Office is responsible for maintaining a secure jail and a safe court system, along with seamless inmate transport and civil process to preserve public safety. We remain committed to performing these duties with unsurpassed integrity and professionalism, with progressive training that incorporates best practices and technology. While partnering with the community, we strive to lower recidivism by providing faith-based and community-based programming that empowers ex-offenders to become productive members of society.

