

Pharaoh's Daughter
Chatham County, NC
2012

We are a faith-based non-profit organization with the joint purpose of raising the children born to incarcerated women until those mothers are released; and secondly, supervising and equipping those mothers with the life skills they need to eventually take over the rearing of their own child(ren), and to thrive independently and successfully outside of prison.

Our full program for the children includes 24-hour, live-in, nurturing care in a group-home or "family" environment. There will be full-time staff, as well as a team of volunteers who will care for, play with and instruct the children. The children will be beloved and valued; and cultivated in a respectful culture will learn such virtues as love, compassion, friendship, loyalty, and mutual respect as they interact with their caregivers and with the "brothers" and "sisters" they live with. Early on, they will be taught good behavior like old-fashioned manners, obedience and honesty. As they grow and mature, they will be taught responsibility, self-discipline, and a good work ethic, as they are held responsible to contribute to the workings of the family unit (i.e. age-appropriate chores). During their mother's incarceration, every attempt will be made to establish and maintain a relationship between mother and child(ren), through pictures, letters, phone calls, and visits.

Our transitional housing program for newly released mothers of the children already in the care of Pharaoh's Daughter is a 2-year, step-down program which begins with their coming to live in the same highly-structured group home with their child(ren). During their first year, the women will not be encouraged to work offsite of the campus, but will focus their attention on their recovery from incarceration and hone the life skills they will need to live independently while raising their children safely and healthily. As their part of their commitment to the program, they are expected to participate in the entire Pharaoh's Daughter curriculum appropriate to their situation. The program will include substance abuse counseling and accountability (AA/NA), parenting classes, career building through courses at the local community college, financial counseling, and discovering God's purpose for their life after prison through spiritual restoration and encouragement of a relationship with their Creator. Other classes may include, but not be exclusive to: DivorceCare, Wounded Heart, Financial Peace University, and The Captivity Series. Also during their initial year, they will learn about cooking, shopping, nutrition, gardening, and safe and healthy relationships as they interact together and contribute to the Pharaoh's Daughter working community.

At the commencement of their second year at Pharaoh's Daughter, the women will move out of the main house to a partially-independent living situation with their child(ren), but still housed on the premises of the Pharaoh's Daughter's campus. During this second year, they will be expected to find employment offsite, allowing the mothers to begin taking on more autonomous responsibility of their children, but without the concerns usually associated with being totally on their own.

This vision was born out of a love for children and a heart for inmates. Abigail Attix shared with her mom, Susan Henson an idea she had after seeing a television special on programs that keep babies of incarcerated mothers until they are released. What started as a small acorn has grown into a sapling, well on its way to becoming a majestic oak tree!