

# Hope. Family. Future.

## Staggering Statistics

**1 in 14** American children have a parent in prison.

In Missouri alone, there are more than **44,000** children with an incarcerated parent.

Children with incarcerated parents are **7 times more likely** than other children to enter the criminal justice system one day.

It is estimated that the cost to society of allowing just one youth to leave high school and enter a life of crime or drug abuse is **\$1.7 to \$2.3 mill.**

Today **68%** of the prison population has less than a high school degree or GED.

**20%** of children entering the welfare system have at least one incarcerated parent.

To answer this systemic problem Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation is focused on education. These children do not have to become a statistic – education is the key to breaking the cycle.



**Continuing in 2017!** We will offer two additional \$5,000 scholarships through a new opportunity – Summit's Peak, the Ava's Grace Scholarship for African American males. All other requirements and benefits apply!

## Our Mission

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation (AGSF) is an innovative, one of a kind non-profit entity whose mission is to one day break the cycle of incarceration through the gift of education.

## Our Scholarships

AGSF will award scholarships for higher education on an annual basis to children of incarcerated parents who reside in Missouri, Kansas, or Illinois. Beginning in 2012, AGSF has awarded \$3,000 to \$5,000 scholarships each year and has supported 24 scholars (22 current and 2 graduates) from across the state of Missouri attending schools across the country. Last year we expanded our services into Kansas and Illinois.

Currently, there are no combined scholarship and mentor programs or other incentives for higher education specifically for children impacted by incarceration. AGSF scholarships can be used at four-year colleges and universities as well as two-year degree programs, trade, and technical schools. The scholarships are **renewable** every year the student stays in school and performs satisfactorily in their program as defined by their institution (up to four total years of support).

**Solicitations for the 2017-2018 school year begin on January 15th, 2017. Please visit [www.avasgrace.org](http://www.avasgrace.org) and click on the "Scholarship" section for details, including the application. Sign up for our newsletter on our website to be the first to receive our new application! Applications MUST be postmarked by April 15th, 2017.**



## Our Scholars

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation and the resources it provides can be life changing for the scholarship recipients as well as their families and the communities in which they live. If children in similar situations can see a child from their neighborhood achieve an education, something that is possibly viewed as the impossible, they can see it for themselves.

The vision of AGSF is a 100% graduation rate of our scholars. While this may not always be attainable, it is our hope that with our partners we can provide the best chance at success for our scholars.

## Our Partners

Ava's Grace Scholarship Foundation has worked diligently to identify and solidify key partnerships. These partners help us identify applicants as well as provide assistance to our scholars in the form of mentoring, financial planning, and other wrap-around services we believe are critical to ensuring the success of our students.

### Our key partners and affiliations:

- ▶ The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis
- ▶ Missouri School Counselors Association
- ▶ Connections to Success
- ▶ Second Chance Coalition of Kansas City
- ▶ Center for Women in Transition
- ▶ U.S. Probation and Parole
- ▶ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri
- ▶ College Bound
- ▶ St. Louis Public Schools
- ▶ Let's Start

### MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

AGSF will provide our students with a mentor to help guide them in their journey. AGSF mentors will be chosen in coordination with the scholars and are expected to stay with the student throughout their experience in higher education.

### AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

We expect our students to give back to AGSF by becoming an ambassador of higher education in their communities and careers when opportunities exist.

### PPD: PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ava's Grace will provide the opportunity for each of their scholars to participate in the nationally recognized PPD course offered by Connections to Success. PPD, or Personal and Professional Development, training assists students in developing cognitive behavioral competencies or "soft" skills needed to successfully acquire and maintain employment (including communication and positive relationship skills).

