



WOMEN'S STORYBOOK PROJECT OF TEXAS

**CONNECTING CHILDREN
WITH
THEIR INCARCERATED
MOTHERS**

Literacy Texas
Conference 2026

Jill Gonzalez

Hadley Jauer

MISSION & ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS



Connect

Connect children with their incarcerated mothers through the joy of literature.

Strengthen

Strengthen family bonds during incarceration through storytelling and voice recordings.

Support

Support literacy, emotional connection, and family resilience.

Reduce

Reduce recidivism by reinforcing meaningful parent-child relationships.



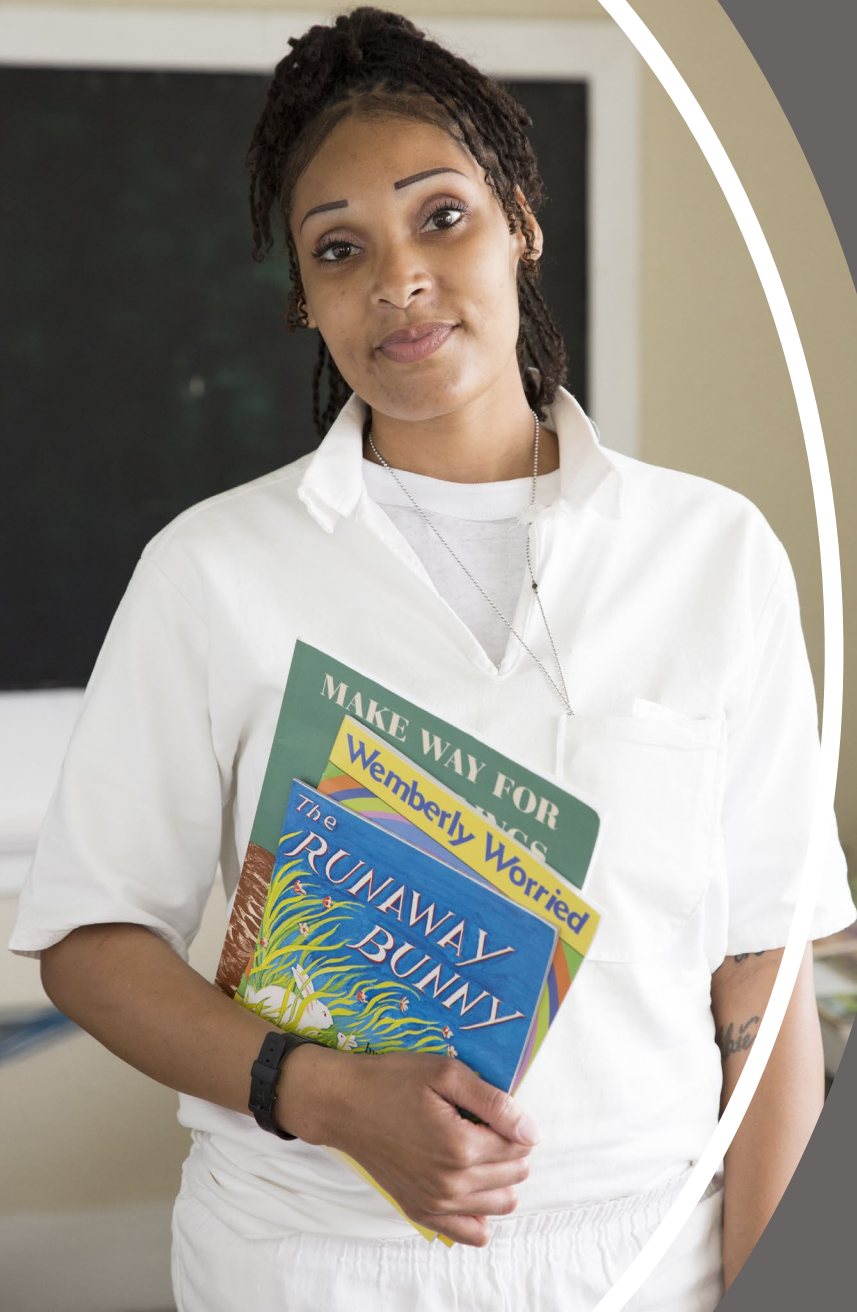
THE HISTORY OF WSP



Judith Dullnig, Founder of WSP

- WSP started with support from the Outreach Committee from St. Mark's Episcopal Church in 2003, became a 501c3 in 2013; adding a board and a paid employee.
- In 2026, we have 6 employees in our organization
- We have grown from 5 volunteers to over 300 active volunteers.
- The program has expanded from 1 Texas female prison to all 11 Texas female prisons.





- “Classic” Storybook
- Hilltop Unit in Gatesville, TX
- Mom reading for three children

CORE DELIVERY MODEL: IN-PRISON STORYBOOK RECORDING MODEL

Volunteers travel to Texas State women's correctional facilities monthly for 6 months.

Participation is incentive-based and tied to positive institutional behavior.

Mothers select age-appropriate books for children ages 0–14.

Volunteers record participants reading stories and giving personal messages.

Books and recordings are mailed directly to children and caregivers.



Storybook Moms at Graduation! (O'Daniel Unit)



CORE TDCJ PROGRAM SITES

Coleman Unit (2 sessions) - Lockhart

Crain Unit - Gatesville

Halbert Rehabilitation Unit - Burnet

Henley Unit - Dayton

Hilltop Unit - Gatesville

Hobby Unit - Marlin

Lane-Murray Unit - Gatesville

Marlin Transfer Facility - Marlin

O'Daniel Unit - Gatesville

Plane State Jail – Dayton

Woodman State Jail - Gatesville





- Photos from caregiver of her grandchildren enjoying listening to mom read their books





SECONDARY DELIVERY MODEL

Dual Generation Sessions

- Sessions are provided to women who are incarcerated with their children who are 0-24 months.
- Traditional activities are supplemented with literacy lessons for infants and toddlers and recordings for older siblings.

Current Sites:

Via TDCJ at Santa Maria Hostel - Houston

- BAMBI – Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative

Via Harris County Sheriff's Office at Santa Maria Hostel - Houston

- WHO – Women Helping Ourselves

WSP BY MAIL

(TERTIARY DELIVERY MODEL)



- Expanded delivery approach developed during and after COVID-era restrictions.
- Uses **mail-based and remote engagement strategies** to maintain family connection.
- Invites mom to complete a bonding activity and request a book for her child(ren) via post each month.
- Serves all graduated participants on an “**opt-in**” model
- Creates opportunities for **scalability and statewide** reach.





WSP BY Mail – May 2020



STORYBOOK@HOME

(POST-INCARCERATION)

- Monthly ZOOM gathering for participants to receive guidance from a Peer Support Specialist, parenting help, a book for their child(ren) and community connections.
- Focus on maintaining hope, emotional stability, and parenting confidence.
- Provides professional guest speakers to motivate and support women.
- Creates opportunities for statewide and nationwide service.



**WOMEN'S
STORYBOOK
PROJECT**
OF TEXAS



MOTHER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (POST INCARCERATION)



Lioness

Justice Impacted
Women's Alliance

- 2025-2026 Initial Trial
- In collaboration with Lioness (Justice Involved Women Alliance) a small group of women were invited to participate in training and feedback sessions.
- Most participants were Storybook Alumni.
- Mothers met quarterly and were compensated for their time.
- WSP and Lioness received feedback on
 - Depth of programming
 - Bonding activities
 - Pilot and alumni support ideas



PILOT PROGRAMS



Pilot programs were held in county jails from 2023-2025 to determine whether it was feasible to hold WSP sessions in that environment. We were welcomed at both facilities.



Final assessment: Each county jail is different. To succeed at a county level, we need a bare bones model that honors both WSP's mission and the facility's requirements.



Upcoming pilot programs will determine if a federal prison is a better candidate for WSP expansion.

2026 Federal Medical Center – Carswell Unit – Fort Worth, TX

2027 Federal Prison Camp – Bryan Unit – Bryan, TX





**WOMEN'S
STORYBOOK
PROJECT
OF TEXAS**

QUESTIONS?

SOURCES & ORGANIZATIONAL REFERENCES

- Women's Storybook Project of Texas official website
 - <https://storybookproject.org>
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice reports for 2017-2023
- Windham School District collaboration references (MOU)
- Organizational impact and annual reporting materials
 - (Annual Reports available on the WSP website)





**WOMEN'S
STORYBOOK
PROJECT
OF TEXAS**

THANK YOU!