

prison
entrepreneurship
program

The Power of Family

At the heart of PEP lies a profound belief in second chances and the transformational power of faith-inspired character and community. PEP starts with the most critical piece in a participant's community – his family. We understand that his journey will extend far beyond the prison walls. It must encompass the bonds of love, support and connection that only being reunited with his family can provide.

For a participant who has been separated from those he holds most dear, the emotional support of reunification is immeasurable. Reuniting with his loved ones provides a vital anchor in the often-turbulent sea of reentry. That anchor is a source of encouragement, understanding, and hope. Reconnecting with his family creates a sturdy foundation upon which he can rebuild his life.

We nurture this healing process from the beginning of each class. PEP's family liaison team consists of experienced, empathetic mothers who make the initial contact with a participant's family. These women begin an ongoing dialog to share what the family's loved one is accomplishing through his participation in PEP and begin to gently open the door for reunification.

For some participants, graduating PEP's Business Plan Competition may be the first positive accomplishment in their lives. This is a moment for loved ones to see their husband, father, son or brother be recognized and celebrated for his success, not be judged for his past missteps. But we are also aware that geographical distance can be a significant barrier for some families wanting to share in this special moment. To overcome this hurdle, we offer reimbursement (gas cards, partial airfare and/or hotel) to needy families, ensuring that a graduate has loved ones present at a key milestone.

One of the most touching aspects of PEP's family reunification is the opportunity for a man to reconnect with his child. This precious moment of bonding is often filled with laughter, tears and the promise of a brighter future. As a symbol of this reunion, PEP provides teddy bears to the children, a small gesture with profound meaning. A participant hand decorates a t-shirt for his bear with personalized messages of love and hope. His bear comes to life serving as a tangible reminder of the father's love and support for his child that will always be there, no matter the circumstances.

One very special moment was Jonathan having his first father-daughter dance at a PEP graduation. [Click here to see the joy you made possible through your commitment to family.](#) In that moment, Jonathan wasn't in prison; he was in heaven as he created a lifetime memory of sharing his love with his daughter.

As PEP strives to reunite more families in 2024, we seek \$100,000 in support of this mission of love, hope and reconnection. Family reunification is not just a noble goal; it's a fundamental part of PEP's mission. We believe that every man deserves the opportunity to rebuild his life with the support and love of his family by his side. By investing in family reunification, you invest in a father's redemption, stable family, stronger community and brighter future for all.

