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Publication: Shin Min Daily

Date: Wednesday, 27 July 2022

Page: 4

Headline: 24年5次进出监狱 为了女儿 “毒男” 改过

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24年5次进出监狱 为了女儿 “毒男” 改过

马泰尔与女儿的合照。(受访者提供)

郑书逸 报道
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来自单亲家庭的52岁中年汉，13岁时加入黑社会，接触毒品后从22岁至46年间24年内5次进出监狱，直到3岁女儿生日探监索拥抱他却无法照办，终醒悟改过，不想让女儿也“没有爸爸”。

父亲是法国人，母亲是本地华人的马泰尔（Bruce Mathieu，52岁，媒体业）从小跟着母亲在单亲家庭长大。因为母亲总是忙于工作，没有父亲和兄弟姐妹的他在青春期时感到很孤单，而加入黑社会。不久后他接触了毒品，22岁时首次尝到铁窗滋味。

让他彻底改过自新的是他的女儿。2002年出狱期间，马泰尔认识了妻子，两人在2008年结婚并在2009年生下女儿。马泰尔愧疚的是，他在女儿三岁时再次入狱，那是他最后一次入狱，被判五年监禁。

入狱期间，女儿在生日时探视他，他却不能拥抱女儿，让女儿啼哭不止。“当时不仅是她在哭，我内心也在流泪，我后悔错过她的成长，不能在她身边保护她。我下决心不能让女儿过和我一样没有爸爸的生活。”

那次后，他决心改过，女儿八岁时他出狱找工作，目前他从事媒体行业，家庭收入约2000元。

“我出狱时恰逢女儿刚刚开始就读小学一年级，我内心其实很恐惧，不知道如何支持我女儿的补习费、课外学习费用。我很感谢ISCOS再生基金对我女儿的帮助，他们为我女儿提供了助学金、补习费和学钢琴的费用。”

他表示，通过帮助，女儿有与其他孩子一样平等的机会学习，还在小学离校考试时获取优异成绩，考入中学的快捷课程，不会重走他的老路。

研究显示 犯罪父母的孩子 犯罪可能性高3倍

与一般人相比，犯罪父母的孩子犯罪的可能性大约高出三倍。ISCOS再生基金（ISCOS ReGen Fund）更名为新生代基金，并推出新的赋权模式框架，全面帮助囚犯或释囚的孩子。



李智陞

示，与普通人群相比，父母被监禁的孩子犯罪可能性约是普通人的三倍。

新生代基金管理委员会主席郑惠升指出，近朱者赤，近墨者黑，当孩子出生在一个有毒品滥用史的家庭时，他们很容易成为环境的一部分。孩子或认为这是生活的正常部分，而社会上的歧视和积极榜样的缺乏可能进一步加剧这种情况。

“我们的使命是阻止这种恶性循环。在过去的十年里，我们为这些孩子支付了近100万元的助学金。机构目前每年为大约400名儿童提供帮助。作为一个小国，我们不能失去任何青年。”

新的赋权模式框架包含教育、个人声音、成长和培育环境四方面协助罪犯的孩子。配合此次宣布，该慈善机构将于今天起至8月2日在怡丰城举办为期一周的展览。

主管社会服务整合事务的国家发展部长李智陞出席展览活动时指出，根据社会及家庭发展部与国家福利理事会的一项研究显

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Translation:

In and out of prison for 5 times, former drug offender changed for the sake of his daughter

Growing up in a single parent family, the now 52-year-old man joined the gang at the age of 13 and landed himself in jail for 5 times in a span of 24 years. The moment of change came during a prison visit, when he was unable to accede to his 3-year-old daughter's request for a hug. He realised he would not want his child to grow up without a father.

A French Chinese descendant, Bruce Mathieu (52, media industry) lived with his mother and grew up in a single parent family. With his mother constantly occupied with work, Bruce joined the gang out of the feeling of loneliness in his teenage years and started using drugs, which eventually led to his first imprisonment at the age of 22.

His daughter was his main reason for change. In 2002, Bruce met his wife, got married in 2008 before they had their daughter in 2009. Regretfully, Bruce was sentenced to prison when the daughter was three years old. It was his last imprisonment which lasted for five years.

During that time, one of the prison visits happened to be his daughter's birthday. When she realised Bruce could not hold her in his arms, she was devastated and cried non-stop.

"My heart broke when I saw her tears. I was filled with regret for missing her years of growing up and not able to protect her. There and then, I made the decision not to allow my daughter to go through a fatherless childhood, like what I have experienced myself."

Since then, he turned over a new leaf and was released from prison when his daughter was eight years old. At present, he works in the media industry with a household income of about \$2,000.

"When I came out (from prison), my daughter was in Primary 1 and I was actually worried for not being able to support my child's education. I am very thankful to ISCOS ReGen Fund for the support given to her. The charity provided bursary awards and sponsored my daughter's tuition and piano lessons."

Through such support, his daughter was able to have equal learning opportunities. Unlike him, she scored good grades in her PSLE which propelled her to the Express stream.



Children of incarcerated parents are three times more likely to offend

Compared to general population, children of parents with history of crime are found to be three times more likely to offend. The charity NeuGen Fund (formerly known as ISCOS ReGen Fund) introduced a new empowerment model to provide holistic support to children of inmates and ex-offenders.

The empowerment model covers four aspects on education, personal voice, growth and a nurturing environment to support these children. In line with this latest update, the charity is hosting a week-long exhibition from today until 2 August 2022 at VivoCity.

According to Minister Desmond Lee (Minister for National Development and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration), a study by MSF and NCSS has shown that children of incarcerated parents are three times more likely to fall into crime.

Joshua Tay, Chairman of NeuGen also pointed out the impact of family and environment on a child – when one grows up in a family with history of drug abuse, the child can easily become a part of that environment. They may feel that it is a normal part of life and this situation could be further exacerbated by social stigma and the lack of positive role model.

“At NeuGen, our mission is to stop this vicious cycle. Over the past decade, we have provided close to \$1 million of bursary awards to the children. The charity currently supports about 400 children every year. As a small nation, we could not afford to lose any youth.”

