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PRESS RELEASE

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Organizations Join Forces to Offer At-Risk Youth Career Skills

By Lynn K. Loyd

Community Outreach Ministry, a nonprofit organization offering a myriad of services to children whose mother and/or father is in prison will host the 2022 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Technology Day Camp on April 16 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Murrieta Public Library. In cooperation with Angel Tree A Program of Prison Fellowship -- another organization dedicated to helping the children and families of incarcerated parents -- children who have been registered by their incarcerated parent(s) will participate at the camping event.

Prison Fellowship has formed a decades long partnership with Community Outreach Ministry and regularly refers at-risk youth to the ministry; an organization formed by Dr. Mona Salomo-Davies and her husband Bob or “Coach Bob,” a retired Aerospace Engineer and Veteran who will oversee the event’s STEM projects and be among the adults who will assist students at the workshops that will take place throughout the day. Coach Dr. Mona and team will provide caregivers with comprehensive community support services, referrals, and resources helping youth to break the cycle of incarceration and reduce recidivism.

Prison Fellowship celebrates each April Second Chance Month and Karin Arango church mobilization manager will share about Prison Fellowship’s partnerships with corporations, churches, state governments, nonprofits, and department of corrections, that are working together to help rebuild families, empower kids, and prepare men and women to return to society. On behalf of the Angel Tree Program, Arango also “mobilizes local churches and organizations to minister to thousands of children by delivering Christmas gifts, the Gospel message, and a personal message of love on behalf of the children’s mom or dad behind bars,” according to its website <https://www.prisonfellowship.org>.

The Technology Day Camp will offer youth the opportunity to engage with adults such as Coach Bob who have extensive experience and knowledge in the academic disciplines that encompass STEM. At-risk youth, an underrepresented and underserved population will participate in “Gearing Up for STEM” Mentor Protégé Workshops to advance youth from low-income households to improve equities in the STEM field through observational and practical mentor-based learning and building robots from science kits designed for children aged eight to 18.

California Family Life Center (CFLC) – Planet Youth will also participate at the event. CFLC is a family counseling service for at-risk youth that also provides foster families, youth homes, job training and education according to its website <https://www.cflckids.org>. Planet Youth' Ruth Stanton program coordinator will explore with guests ages 16-24 opportunities for paid job training, resume building, and filling out a job application. Stanton will also speak to children under the age of 16 about the importance of staying in school and participating in community events. A career navigator from CFLC- will share about services that help identify career aptitudes for young job seekers ages 16-24 and arranges for paid internships and employment in the business community and connects youth to higher education. Career navigators also tracks participants progress, guiding, encouraging, coaching (and sometimes parenting) youth for a full two years.

Sewing Stories Coach Cynthia Duran, a craft and sewing expert, will be providing participants with art supplies, decoupage, and fabric scraps to create one-of-a-kind work of art. Duran, who has more than 20 years of experience is known for her ability to inspire children to make their own choices of color and placement as the best part of the workshop.

Also joining the technology event is Camp Agape California Tom Chitwood who will be on board to discuss their organization's free four-day summer camp for ages 7-17 where campers foster friendship, and team-building activities in a safe and entertaining environment learning biblical truths, spiritual growth, and character development.

Jacori and Jaelin Neal, the well-renown Neal Brothers from Lake Elsinore, will be entertaining guests at the event. The singing duo have been recipients of Community Outreach Ministry and have been promoted to STEM mentors. Jacori is a self-taught computer software technician who has learned how to program his robots using his iPhone and is currently a Crafton

Hills Community College student who enjoys demonstrating his robots during the workshops. Jaelin is a Junior at dual high schools Ortega and Temescal Canyon.

Doors open at noon for the technology day camp that will take place in the indoor and outdoor venue of the Murrieta Public Library located at 8 Town Square. We are grateful to In-N-Out Burger for complimentary boxed lunches that will be served at 12:30 p.m.

Community Outreach Ministry is a volunteer operated community-based organization (CBO) and welcomes sponsors and donations, “*giving at-risk kids a second chance to be winners and champions.*” To give visit <https://www.communityoutreachministry.org> and scan the QR code, or click on chip-in, or text DONATE CHAMPIONS to 609-212-0627. Checks may also be made payable to Community Outreach Ministry and mailed to 23905 Clinton Keith Road Suite 114 #116, Wildomar, CA. 92595. You can also contact us by phone at 951-698-7650 or via email at info@communityoutreachministry.org.