



Matthew House



A Christian celebration of the Resurrection of Christ
 Jesus Christ died on a cross on a Friday almost two thousand years ago. Christians believe that on the following Sunday, Christ rose from the dead and, in doing so, proved that He is the Son of God. The day Jesus died and was buried is known as Good Friday. The following Sunday is Easter.



Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Son of God each year between March 22nd and April 25th (the first Sunday after the vernal equinox).

Happy Easter

Religious celebrations include family gatherings and special Easter church services.

Easter Traditions

Easter traditions differ around the world. Here are just a few of them.

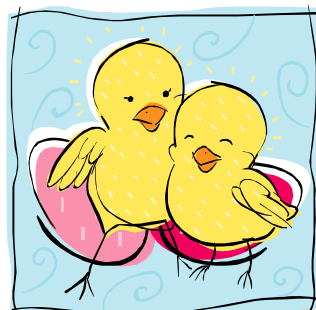
Children in the United States and Canada say the Easter bunny or rabbit brings eggs at Easter. In Germany and England, they say the hare brings them. The hare looks like a rabbit, but it's larger, with longer ears and legs.

In Australia, rabbits are quite a nuisance as they are not native to the land. For this reason, there is an attempt being made to dub the Bilby as the chief egg bringer of the land. For lack of a better description, the Bilby looks a bit like a cross between a mouse and a rabbit.

Easter celebration in Mexico is a fusion of Christian rituals and native Indian traditions. The Easter celebration is honored at church and you won't find bunnies and jelly beans on Easter morning, because the holiday is a holy time.

In Italy, Belgium and France, children say Easter eggs are brought by the church bells. There, church bells do not ring from Good Friday until Easter Sunday. Because of this, people say that the bells have flown off to Rome. As the bells fly back home for Easter, they drop colored eggs for boys and girls to find.

But there are more foods than eggs to enjoy on Easter! People in Russia eat an [Easter bread](#) that is full of plump white raisins and tastes like cake. In some countries of Eastern Europe, people enjoy an Easter Cake called *babka*. It's shaped like a skirt -- *babka* means "little old woman". Easter cakes in Italy are shaped like a rabbit, which is a symbol of birth and new life and many other countries make cookies and cakes shaped like a lamb, a symbol of Jesus. [Hot cross buns](#) are another traditional Easter bread with icing in the shape of a cross.



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Children experience a broad range of emotion when their parents go to prison. Initially, they feel tremendous fear and anxiety. They worry that they have been abandoned or that they will never see the parent again. They may worry that the remaining parent or caregiver will also disappear, or that the parent or caregiver cannot protect them or prevent other bad things from happening. The separation anxiety may cause nightmares, fear of strangers, fear of being alone, or "clinginess" to a person or object. Children worry that something terrible has happened to the parent in prison. Children also feel sad or alone. They believe they did something wrong that caused the parent to leave or that they could have prevented the crisis by behaving better or trying harder. These sad feelings contribute to a sense of isolation. People may not know or understand what children are experiencing, and the sadness and isolation may go unrecognized as children withdraw. Other common reactions include anger and guilt.



Spring Blessings

On the other hand, children may feel ashamed of and angry at the parent. They may feel intense loyalty and may fight to defend the parent. The stigma of incarceration makes it hard for children to seek help because they feel embarrassed and fear rejection of themselves and of their parents. Children always know something is going on-and the deception only compounds the emotional trauma experience."

Parents in Prison: Children in Crisis. Child Welfare League of America

~ From the Executive Directors Heart— "Children of Prisoners' ~

"Two-point-four million American children have a mother or father in jail or prison right now. More than seven million, or one in ten of the nations' children, have a parent under criminal justice supervision-incarcerated, on probation, or on parole."

Matthew House exists to provide love, hope, faith, acceptance and support for these children.

To those of you that love and faithfully support this ministry may I thank you from the bottom of my heart! For every women and child who comes through our doors for help, we know it is because of your love and support that keep our doors open. We depend on your faithful monthly support as **we have no professional fund raisers** at Matthew House. There are not enough words to tell you how much you mean to this ministry. Every service that is provided is because you cared enough to support the families that turn to us for help. I am sure that God has a special place in His heart for all of you, as I know I do!

God bless you. Rev. Linda M. Paz/Executive Director



Most research studies available show that inmates with strong family support, who have a regular and on going visits with family members during the incarceration, have a lower recidivism rate than those who do not.

Matthew House Family Van Service ...

The following is so typical of calls we receive about our van service: A young Mom and her young son had to be put on our waiting list, as our vans were full. She called 5 or 6 times to check if we had cancellations so she could get a ride on the van. The Thursday



before the trip I received a cancellation and called this young mother to let her know. When I told the young Mom we had she began to cry, saying ***"I can't tell you how much this means to me! I have not seen my husband in 4 years as I am on welfare and can't afford the drive. Someone told me about your van service and I can now see my husband, and he will get to see his son. Thank You so much!! J. P."***

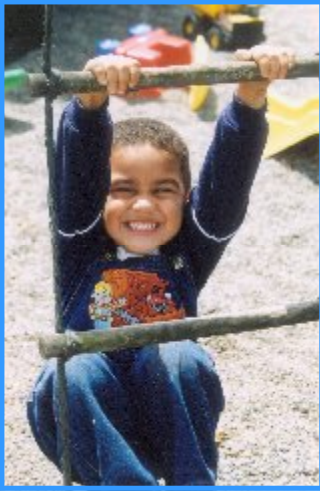
Volunteers make it happen ...!

Volunteers
Are The
Life Of
Matthew
House

Thank you to the Kalahaya District!
50 cans of soup were collected at the annual
Klondike derby for the Kalahaya District,
Mount Baker Council BSA.

Some
of our
wonderful
kids!

Family is the center point of most of our lives.
The most powerful force in a person's life is
their family. The most compelling reason
for a person to change, is their family.



Matthew House On Going Needs List ...



- Bottled Water
- Coffee / Tea
- White Twin Sheets
- Fruit Snacks For Kids
- Fruit Drinks For Kids
- Toilet Paper
- Can Vegetables
- Can Soups
- Diapers Size 2—3

EASTER
CANDY AND
EASATER BASKETS



Matthew House


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Providing **HELP** and **HOPE** to
families with a loved one
incarcerated.

We are on the WEB ...
www.matthewhousemonroe.org


Matthew House is a 501 (c) (3) Non-profit Ministry to Families of Prisoners



You can count on me/us to help support Matthew House in the work of helping hundreds of women and children this year find help, hope and healing!

I have been blessed throughout the year and want to share my blessing...
Here's my/our gift:

My/Our Gift of \$ _____ is enclosed
Please make check payable to *Matthew House*
Set up a monthly charge to my credit card \$ _____
One Time Charge to my credit card \$ _____
Name: _____
Credit Card # _____/_____/_____



Contact Rev. Linda Paz / Executive Director to come speak to your group or organization at: 360 794-8720