

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



# Living

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INSIDE TODAY



## Stylish coup

Jeffrey Fashion Cares raises money and lures a designer you just may have heard of, Oscar de la Renta. **E10**



RENEE HANNANS HENRY / Staff

Lucretia Doyle was 9 when her mother was sent to prison. Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers, now Forever Family, provided mentoring for Doyle and her siblings.

## Woman makes peace with past

In a brightly decorated room named for her mother, a young woman takes stock of her life.

She was 9 when her mother was convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to five years in prison, 24 when her mother died and she became the first in her family ever to get a college degree.

She is proud of her accomplishments, and as often as she can, she tells her story — in prisons, on panels, at workshops and seminars.

"You see my glory but you don't know my story," she tells people.

Lucretia Doyle's story is not unlike the thousands of other Georgia children who, with help, have persevered after their mothers have ended up behind bars.

Much of that help has come from programs such as Forever Family, formerly Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers Inc.

"Ninety-seven percent of our kids never get involved in



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the criminal justice system," said Sandra Barnhill, executive director of the Atlanta nonprofit.

Those are the kids the rest of us are not likely to hear about, she said.

Doyle's family was one of the organization's first.

Her stepfather went to prison at the same time as her mother, so Doyle's grandparents took in Doyle and her three siblings.

As the eldest of the four children, she felt responsible for them. She made sure they did their homework, bathed and got to bed on time.

And when people asked, she created stories about their mother's whereabouts to avoid teasing.

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