

CAMPAIGN FOR
YOUTH  JUSTICE

BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR

December 2008 Newsletter

Happy Holidays!

The Campaign for Youth Justice is a national organization dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system.

In This Issue

[A MESSAGE FROM THE TOP](#)

[ACROSS THE COUNTRY](#)

[NATIONAL MOMENTUM](#)

[FROM THE HILL](#)

[RESEARCH AND POLICY](#)

[MEDIA WRAP](#)

[VOICES](#)

[CFYJ WELCOMES GRACE BAUER](#)

[GET IN THE ACTION WITH CFYJ](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links

[READ MORE](#)

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

[DID YOU KNOW?](#)

[ADVOCACY RESOURCES](#)

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOP

by Liz Ryan, CEO, Campaign for Youth Justice



As 2008 comes to a close, many of us are making preparations for the holidays: parties and get-togethers with friends, holiday cards and gift exchanges, family gatherings.

Even as we celebrate, we are reminded of the many families and young people who won't have the opportunity to be with all of their loved ones over the holidays.

Thousands of our nation's young people will spend their holidays in adult jails and prisons, juvenile detention and correctional facilities, and residential placements. Some are near home, but many are far away from their families and communities.

These young people won't experience the joy of family gatherings, holiday treats made by that favorite aunt, or gift-giving and laughter with friends.

This year, however, thanks to so many of you, several hundred detained and incarcerated youth will know this holiday season that they are remembered by their families and communities.

For example, here in the District of Columbia, through a holiday gift-giving project, over 200 detained and incarcerated children in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems will receive holiday gift bags, books, and cards. And the District of Columbia's children who have been sentenced as adults and sent some 1500 miles away to Devil's Lake, North Dakota will be joined by some of their family members on December 19-21 through "Bridging Families Together," a project of CFYJ.

Thank you all who have remembered our young people through these and other holiday efforts throughout the country!

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones!

We look forward to being in touch with you in the New Year!

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

CFYJ Pays Tribute to Bob Shepherd

With sadness, we report that Bob Shepherd passed away on December 11th. Bob was an advocate for young people, especially youth in the justice system, for many decades. Bob joined the Richmond Law faculty in 1978. While he retired from the law faculty in 2001, he continued to teach until this past month.

Bob was a member of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Coalition and served on Virginia's State Advisory Group for many years. Bob worked closely with CFYJ's partner in Virginia, Just Children, on transfer reform efforts.

Bob served on the CFYJ Advisory Council for the past three years and provided advice, guidance and support to our efforts. He donated his files on the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), which focused on the "Jail Removal" provision, to the Campaign this fall. We have dedicated our library to Bob and we hope to make these files accessible on the worldwide web.

We understand that Bob's family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to The Robert E. Shepherd, Jr. Endowed Fellowship Fund, University of Richmond, School of Law, 28 Westhampton Way, Richmond, VA 23173.

Our deepest sympathies to Bob's family.

Bob, you will be missed.

Multnomah County, Oregon Approves New Policy on Youth Detention

On Thursday, December 18, the Board of County Commissioners for Multnomah County, Oregon unanimously approved a resolution, proposed by Commissioner Lisa Naito, to place youth in juvenile detention rather than the county jail.

"We have an opportunity to protect young people and enhance public safety," says Commissioner Lisa Naito. "Thankfully, our Corrections Deputies are doing their jobs and protecting these young offenders that end up in jail instead of the Donald E. Long Center. We haven't had any recent incidents between adult and juveniles in Multnomah County jails, but we don't want to wait and act after something has happened."

Current policy in Multnomah County allows youth to be placed in the county jail if they are charged as adults. In practice, the county usually does not house youth in the adult jail. However, there have been instances where youth have been placed in the adult jail in recent months. To clarify the county's policy of placing youth in juvenile detention rather than adult jail pretrial, Commissioner Lisa Naito spearheaded an effort to pass a countywide policy.

"Multnomah County has been leading the nation in developing approaches to reduce youthful offending that are now being use in 100 communities around the country," says Judge Nan Waller, the County's chief family law judge. "By memorializing what we have been doing, the County is keeping pace with national best practices to enhance public safety, and keep young people safe."

The resolution cites the recent research on how youth are developmentally different from adults and states that programs designed for youth are not available in the county's jail. The resolution requires that youth in custody in Multnomah County be held at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Home unless the Sheriff and the Director of the Department of Community Corrections, or their designee, agree to alternate placement.

"With our partners, we will continue to safely manage these young people, meet their educational, treatment and counseling needs, and provide services geared to reduce their chances of re-offending," says David Koch, Assistant Director, Juvenile Services Division, Department of Community Justice.

CFYJ applauds Commissioner Lisa Naito on her leadership in spearheading this resolution! Congratulations to the Board of County Commissioners for Multnomah County, the Department of Community Justice, and the Partnership for Safety and Justice for their work on this effort.

For a copy of the resolution, visit:

http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/cc/WeeklyAgendaPacket/12-18-08_R-07/RES_JuvenilesInCustody.doc

"Bridging Families Together" Trip for DC Parents to North Dakota

On December 19, members of seven Washington, D.C. families, sponsored by the Campaign for Youth Justice, will fly into one of the coldest regions of the country to visit youth who have been sentenced as adults and incarcerated at Lake Region Law Enforcement Center in Devil's Lake, North Dakota. For some of these parents and family members this trip will mark the first time they have seen their loved one in two and a half years. Devil's Lake is 1500 miles from Washington, D.C.

There are currently eight young people from D.C. incarcerated in North Dakota. Recognizing how difficult this distance makes it for families to support their loved one, the Campaign for Youth Justice is sponsoring the trip. The group will spend the weekend with their loved ones.

Because Washington, D.C. does not have a prison, those incarcerated as adults are sent out to facilities across the country by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP). The Campaign for Youth Justice learned that Devil's Lake is a common destination for youth under the age of 18 sentenced as adults in D.C. BOP has a policy that disallows the placement of youth in adult prisons if they are under the age of 18, thus Lake Region Law Enforcement Center is a juvenile correctional facility.

Read more about the North Dakota trip in next month's newsletter!

Celebrating a Brighter Holiday for Youth in DC's Justice System

This holiday season, D.C. youth in the juvenile and criminal justice systems have been remembered, thanks to a wildly successful coordination of help from across the city. The joint gift-giving event was cosponsored by the Campaign for Youth Justice, Justice for D.C. Youth (JDCY), Free Minds Book Club, Mentoring Today, and the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates (DCAYA). The December 3 holiday party at Busboys and Poets was a huge success, raising over \$1500 towards the gift bags for youth housed at the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF); Oak Hill, the D.C. juvenile corrections facility; and the Youth Services Center (YSC), a detention facility for youth from the District of Columbia. Thank you to everyone who supported the holiday gift-giving event either at the party or otherwise!

On Monday, December 8, volunteers from JDCY, DCAYA, Mentoring Today, Free Minds Book Club, and especially volunteers from the Alliance of Concerned Men, made record time in putting together over 200 gift bags. The bags contained toiletries such as lotion, soap, deodorant, and toothpaste, as well as socks, boxers, note cards, puzzle books, and snacks. Special thanks to all our volunteers!

Gift bags were delivered to CTF (thanks Tara and Kelli at Free Minds!) and YSC (thanks Shani at JDCY!) on Wednesday, December 10. Delivery to Oak Hill is scheduled for the evening of December 18 (thanks Becky and Whitney at Mentoring Today!).

Many thanks to Erika Scrugham at Frito Lay, who donated bags of Lays potato chips and Doritos for the gift bags.

A big thank you to Didi O'Boyle, who donated books of stamps to the youth tried as adults at CTF.

We also especially thank Ava Page and Justice Not Jails at American University, as well as Lori Bowes and others with Books to Prisons, who collected books to be donated to the youth.

Check out the slideshow of pictures from the holiday party at:

<http://animoto.com/play/LJ0ooOV116bt5nbHYfB1Qg/greetings/holidays2008>.

Nevada Strikes Down Presumptive Certification Statute

This month the Nevada Supreme Court threw out the presumptive certification statute that allowed prosecutors to file cases directly in adult court, finding that the statute violated juveniles' constitutional right against self-incrimination. Under the presumptive certification law, juveniles 14 or older charged with gun crimes and sex crimes were automatically sent to adult court unless they could show that substance abuse or emotional or behavioral problems led to the crimes. But by making that connection the juveniles admitted to the crimes, and those admissions could be used against them in future court hearings. The law's "requirement that a juvenile admit the charged criminal conduct, and thereby incriminate himself, in order to overcome the presumption of adult supervision is unconstitutional," the court wrote in its unanimous ruling. The high court also reversed a 1995 decision that said Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination did not apply in juvenile certification hearings because guilt was not being determined. After this ruling, juveniles charged with serious crimes will still be sent to adult court using the traditional judicial discretionary transfer process.

Congratulations to Kristina Wildeveld and amici curiae Nevada ACLU, National Juvenile Defender Center, Juvenile Law Center, and Baker & McKenzie for their victory in the case.

Here is a link to the opinion:

<http://www.nvsupremecourt.us/documents/advOpinions/124NevAdvOpNo95.html>.

Here is a link to the ACLU/JLC brief:

<http://www.jlc.org/files/briefs/aclunjlc.pdf>.

Here is a link to the NJDC/Baker & McKenzie brief:

<http://www.jlc.org/files/briefs/njdcwilliamm.pdf>.

Here are two links to local Nevada newspaper articles about this decision:

http://www.lvrj.com/news/breaking_news/35162274.html.

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/nov/26/court-overturns-juvenile-self-incrimination-law/>.

NATIONAL MOMENTUM

NAACP Adopts Resolution Opposing Transfer of Youth to the Adult System

This fall, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) adopted a policy resolution to oppose the transfer of youth to the adult criminal justice system and the detention of youth in adult jails. Expanding on previous policies in which the NAACP highlighted the important of youth rehabilitation, the new statement urges state and local NAACP chapters to actively oppose prosecuting youth as adults. It also calls on members to get behind reforms that reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the adult criminal justice system. Finally, it supports the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) and calls for strengthening of the jail removal and DMC core requirements.

A copy of the resolution can be found in the CFYJ policy brief *Critical Condition, African-American Youth in the Justice System*, found online at:

<http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/AfricanAmericanBrief.pdf>.

Transfer Highlighted at National Black Caucus of State Legislators Conference

At the National Black Conference of State Legislators conference on Thursday, December 11, Roger Ghatt of CFYJ spoke to state legislators from around the country on the prosecution of youth in adult court. He highlighted the work spearheaded by state advocates and encouraged legislators to get involved in reforming transfer policies. To engage the legislators in combating disproportionate minority contact, he discussed and distributed CFYJ's latest policy brief, *Critical Condition: African-American Youth in the Justice System*. In addition, several state legislators working on state-based transfer reforms law gave interviews with local press.

FROM THE HILL



Act4JJ Campaign Submits Recommendations to the New Administration

Earlier this month, the Act4JJ Campaign submitted recommendations to President-elect Barack Obama and Attorney General-designate Eric Holder on youth in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. The Act4JJ Campaign is a working group of the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition and has been promoting the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) for the past several years.

In these recommendations, the Act4JJ Campaign called for three main areas of focus for the new Administration:

1) Elevating and strengthening the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice by:

~Appointing an experienced and competent leader with expertise in the juvenile justice field to run OJJDP;

~Refocusing the agency on the JJJPA and its core protections for children;

~Restoring the comprehensive nature of the agency, including conducting research and gathering data, identifying and disseminating best practices and relevant information, leading demonstration projects, providing training and technical assistance, and promoting the expansion of effective practices in the field;

~Improving technical assistance to States;

~Updating JJDP A regulations when the new law is passed to reflect current priorities and core protections; and

~Increasing transparency

2) In the President's Budget Recommendations to the 111th Congress, including substantial federal investments in juvenile justice by funding the JJDP A and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) at FY2002 levels; and

3) Providing leadership and direction to the 111th Congress to ensure a strong reauthorization of the JJDP A in 2009 by adopting the Act4JJ Campaign's recommendations for the JJDP A, which can be found at:

www.act4jj.org.

The full text of the recommendations can be found at:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/CFYJ-Recommendationsfor2008AdministrationTransition.pdf>.

Youth PROMISE Act Update - Youth Violence Summit

On Wednesday, December 3, 2008, Representative Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-Va) held a half-day Youth Violence Summit to highlight evidence-based strategies for juvenile justice prevention and intervention. The Summit also focused on the "Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act" (Youth PROMISE Act), H.R. 3846, which was introduced earlier this year by Rep. Scott.

The Summit's first presenter was Marian Wright Edelman, President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), and a lifelong advocate for children. Ms. Edelman's remarks focused on CDF's most recent report on youth entitled "America's Cradle to Prison Pipeline," which can be downloaded here:

http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/DocServer/ CPP_report_2007_lowres.pdf?docID=5222.

More information and resources on this report can be found at:

http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/PageServer?pagename=c2pp_summit2007_resources#report.

The second panel focused on a legislative and policy analysis on what works with regard to reducing gang crime. The two presenters were Dr. Barry Krisberg, President of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), and Judith Greene, of Justice Strategies. NCCD recently released a report entitled "Evaluating Federal Gang Bills," which compares the Youth PROMISE Act and the Feinstein/Schiff gang bills. The NCCD report is available for download at:

http://www.nccd-crc.org/nccd/pubs/2008_eval_fed_gang_bills.pdf.

Three additional panels followed, including panels on what positive programs and interventions are currently working, law enforcement and judicial perspectives on the need for prevention, and comparative benefits of effective crime prevention strategies. For a full list of speakers, please view Rep. Scott's press release at: http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/va03_scott/pr_081126.html.

RESEARCH AND POLICY

New Report Summarizes Transfer Laws

Patrick Griffin at the National Center for Juvenile Justice released "Different from Adults: An Updated Analysis of Juvenile Transfer and Blended Sentencing Laws, With Recommendations for Reform," at the Models for Change Working Conference this December. This report maps the current landscape of laws governing the trial, sentencing, and sanctioning of juveniles as adults; it also summarizes and takes stock of the transfer laws of all 50 states and the District of Columbia as of the beginning of 2008.

The report also explores what the data tell us-and do not tell us-about the volume and characteristics of youth who are being transferred under these laws. Finally, it suggests some simple measures that states can take to make implementation of these laws more fair, flexible, and consistent.

The report can be found online at:

<http://modelsforchange.net/pdfs/transfer2008entire-1.pdf>.

Models for Change Awards Betsy Clarke

Congratulations to Betsy Clarke at the Juvenile Justice Initiative (JJI) in Illinois for receiving one of the inaugural Champions for Change awards from the MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change Initiative. JJI has achieved some impressive legislative victories in recent years related to youth tried in the adult system. In 2005, JJI spearheaded legislation representing the first rollback of automatic transfer laws in the nation. In the first two years after its enactment, automatic transfers to adult court declined by almost two-thirds. In just over two years, nearly 500 youth of color were afforded individualized assessment and treatment in juvenile court rather than being tried as adults. Most recently, the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction for all misdemeanors to age 18 following extensive educational efforts on the issue by JJI. Not only is this reform in line with solid research on adolescent development, but also increases the likelihood that youth can receive the individualized interventions and community-based rehabilitative services necessary to improve outcomes and preserve community safety. Congratulations Betsy and the rest of the JJI staff for a job well done!

CFYJ Sponsors Student Paper Competition

The Campaign for Youth Justice is sponsoring its first paper competition for undergraduate and graduate students. \$250 will be awarded to one undergraduate student, and \$500 will be awarded to one graduate student for an outstanding paper dealing with youth in the adult criminal system. In addition to the monetary award, the Campaign may publish the two winning papers as a policy brief, post them to our website, and circulate them in our monthly

newsletter.

Undergraduate and graduate students who are currently enrolled or currently accepted into a university with a plan to enroll, or recent graduates within one year are all encouraged to apply. Papers should be original research papers using primary sources, between 15 and 25 pages double-spaced and should uncover new information about the issue of youth tried as adults by predominantly citing primary sources.

Papers should be submitted no later than April 1, 2009 to bandemariam@cfyj.org.

For full information about the paper competition, please visit our website at:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/CallforPapersplusTemplatefinal.pdf>.

MEDIA WRAP

Tyler Edmonds Featured on *Dr. Phil* Show



Tyler Edmonds, who was featured on *Juvenile Justice Matters* on December 4, was a guest this week on the Dr. Phil Show, where he discussed his case. Tyler received life without parole on a false confession, and the case was later overturned.

Tyler Wayne Edmonds was a 13 year-old honor student at his West Point, MS middle school in May, 2003. He had no history of violence, gang affiliation or proclivity to anti-social behavior. Tyler attended his local church regularly and respected adult authority. In an effort to help cover for his older sister, Tyler confessed to the murder of his sister's husband and was arrested the next day, with the mistaken belief that his status as a child would mean nothing more than a slap on the wrist.

Tyler gave a confession to the authorities without an attorney or parent. Despite the fact that his mother requested to be present, the police denied her, and she was thus unable to request an attorney. Tyler later recanted his confession, explaining that his sister had talked him into confessing in an effort to cover for her.

Despite the lack of physical evidence, motive, or prior criminal record, Tyler was tried, convicted and sentenced as an adult to life in prison without the possibility of parole until at least the age of 65. All independent observers noted that the trial, held in a courtroom presided over by a former prosecutor, was balanced significantly against Tyler Edmonds and his attorneys. For example, he was not permitted to introduce expert testimony pertaining to false confessions. Constitutional law experts and juvenile justice experts have called this case egregious beyond words. The Mississippi State Supreme Court agreed, calling for a retrial based on a quantity of errors. Tyler was finally released in May 2007 and was acquitted at his retrial in November 2008.

You can watch Tyler's segment of the Dr. Phil show on our Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=22937084155#/video/video.php?v=113250415130&oid=22937084155>.

You can also catch Tyler on Dr. Phil on YouTube at:

http://mx.youtube.com/watch?v=9XSIjLC_5Tg.

The Scoop on

Juvenile Justice Matters!

Juvenile Justice Matters can be heard live every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. EST. Here's a summary of shows from this past month:

December 4: Tyler Edmonds, prosecuted as an adult at age 13 on a false confession. His conviction was overturned by the Mississippi State Supreme Court, and he was recently acquitted at his retrial.

December 11: Vinny Schiraldi, Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services in DC.

Listen live to *Juvenile Justice Matters* January 8th and every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. EST at:

www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters.

If you miss the show, you can download it later from Blog Talk Radio or from the CFYJ site:

<http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/radio.html>

New Campaign for Youth Justice Website Launched

After months of designing and uploading, the Campaign for Youth Justice is proud to announce the unveiling of our new website. Along with a design overhaul, the website has added content, including new case profiles from incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth and their families. Enhanced video and radio content will allow you to watch videos from our YouTube page and listen to episodes of our radio show, *Juvenile Justice Matters*. Keep checking back for more new content to come.

If you haven't seen it yet, please visit www.campaignforyouthjustice.org.



Aakeem,
Georgia

Aakeem grew up in Albany, Georgia, with his parents, two brothers, and two sisters. As a child, he played the viola and stayed out of trouble. When Aakeem was 12, his family moved to Atlanta for his parents' new jobs. "The move to Atlanta for me was the beginning of a one-way ticket to hell," Aakeem explains. "For the first time I was living around teenagers where I was the only African-American in my neighborhood. All I wanted was to be accepted by my new friends. However, to be accepted by my new friends, I couldn't be Aakeem. I had to become...the image that is seen in rap videos and violent movies... I lost my true identity in the darkness that became my prison."

Aakeem tried to be himself in playing sports, but his parents, who were Jehovah's Witnesses, were not supportive. "I can remember being the fastest track star in school. I would run a race praying that my parents [were] in the crowd watching. But after every event I had to catch a ride home. Another medal just to sit on the shelf." Aakeem lost motivation and began skipping school with his friends. Not long after, he was asked to join two friends in a robbery, where, tragically, the store clerk was killed when a gun went off inadvertently.

"That night they came to pick me up was a night I wish I [had] just turned around and [gone] back into the house. I felt like I needed my friends to accept me...to know that I was not afraid...How stupid I was, just a toy being pushed along...That night I took my own life," Aakeem writes.

Neither Aakeem nor his family understood what was going on when his case came to court; Aakeem received a life sentence. He was sent to a juvenile facility until he turned 18, when he was sent to a Georgia state prison. Aakeem felt that some of the guards singled him out for abuse. He was punched and pushed down stairs by other inmates working for those officers.

In spite of conditions in prison, Aakeem sought opportunities to turn his life around. "I took a stand for the first time in my life," he writes. "Never again would I give in to wrong just to be accepted." He obtained his GED, then self-advocated relentlessly until he was able to complete trades in automotives, small engine repair, building maintenance, baking, and barbershop. He also completed courses on FEMA, AA/NA, stress management, victim impact, family violence, and confronting self and others.

It hasn't been easy for Aakeem to do the right thing in prison. "...guys are coming in with no hope of going home soon, regardless of what they do." Because inmates have no positive reinforcements to work for, punishments like lock-down and marked files do little to prevent stealing and violence among prisoners. Violence in the name of self-defense is equally punishable.

Aakeem is troubled by a system that treats youth offenders the same as adults. "In Georgia, teens are dropped into a system that has nothing in place to evaluate their growth as they become adults...In the 21 years I've spent in prison, I've never had one interview with the parole board. You would think because I came to prison so young that my progress would be noted and followed." Meanwhile, his codefendant, an older teen, received parole five years ago.

Aakeem remains positive. He tells us, "I've worked with a lot of young men helping them see through the fog." He tries to be a mentor of hope for young people on the inside, but he also hopes his story can help kids on the outside realize the grave consequences of their actions and turn their lives around before it's too late.

GET ORGANIZED

A Monthly Column by Grace Bauer

Organizing a Movement

Once upon a time...

...in a village called Louisiana, a terrible thing happened. The children began to disappear. Families all across the land were terribly sad, frightened and isolated from one another. Each thought they had been an awful parent and thought their child was the only one. This went on for 40 years and many places in Louisiana began to realize that their communities were being robbed of their futures. Their schools didn't have enough qualified teachers, businesses refused to come to their communities because there were not enough skilled workers, and the little towns began dying off. As the smaller towns died, all of Louisiana began to suffer from a weak economy, and soon the whole Louisiana village began to die.

Many people began to wonder aloud why this was happening to a village like theirs, so rich in resources. One by one, people began to come together and demand to know where their children were going and why this was happening. Along the way, each discovered they were not alone, and they also began to find guidance and strength from one another. Some people thought they should follow the children to see where they were going, some thought they should go to the king and demand answers, and others thought they should remain in their towns to stop any more children from disappearing. Which group would you join?

Is this just a silly story? No, in fact, there is a lot of truth in it. In 1998, Louisiana had nearly 2000 young people locked up in 5 large facilities. Now there are only 3 juvenile facilities, and the number of kids as of September 30, 2008 stood at 579. The reason for this dramatic reduction in the number of detained or incarcerated children is a strong reform movement. The Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL), Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC), and many of their allies began to demand change. Though change did not come overnight, it did happen and continues to happen today.

You may wonder if organizing people really made a difference. YES! The JJPL filed a lawsuit that began to bring about change, but without the serious organizing efforts of FFLIC and its allies, new reform legislation would not have been passed, and change would have taken longer: possibly, it never would have come at all. The families of children locked up in these brutal facilities and formerly incarcerated youth gave heart-wrenching testimonies about the abuse and neglect endured by the youth inside. This testimony and the media coverage made it impossible for the legislators to continue to ignore what was happening to hundreds of Louisiana's children every single day. From a small group of dedicated folks working on juvenile justice reform, grew a strong, strategically planned and very successful movement. It was this mass organizing effort that brought sustainable and much needed change to Louisiana's long-broken juvenile justice system. Is the struggle for a better system over? No, but organizations like FFLIC and JJPL continue to work for quality programs, better schools and stronger communities.

Do you want to learn more about Louisiana's reform efforts? Would you like information about how to begin a movement in your area? Contact us at the Campaign for Youth Justice, and we will share the information we have gathered on Louisiana's efforts, as well as other places. Check out our guides and organizing tips on our website at: www.campaignforyouthjustice.org

Remember...

"You must be the change you want to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi

GET IN THE ACTION WITH CFYJ

Listen to *Juvenile Justice Matters* radio show at: www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters or download from www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/radio.html.

Call in to the show with questions at (347) 843-4360.

Join

the Campaign for Youth Justice group on Facebook and connect with hundreds of advocates across the country at: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=22937084155&ref=ts>.

Visit the Campaign's YouTube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/jjreform>.

Read JJ Today, Youth Today's blog on juvenile justice at: www.youthtoday.org/jjtoday.

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