

CAMPAIGN FOR  
YOUTH  JUSTICE

BECAUSE THE CONSEQUENCES AREN'T MINOR

## November 2008 Newsletter

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.

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### FROM THE HILL

#### **CFYJ Releases Recommendations for the Obama Administration**

In the past several weeks, DC has been abuzz with news of President-elect Obama, including who he will appoint to key positions in the Department of Justice and in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

With the election of Senator Obama, who championed juvenile justice issues in Illinois, the juvenile

justice community and stakeholders will have a unique chance to advance a progressive juvenile justice policy agenda in the next four years.

In light of these changes in Washington, this month the Campaign for Youth Justice, along with many of our colleagues, released our recommendations for change under the new Obama Administration, including Administration-driven changes and Congressionally-driven changes that the Administration can either support or oppose.

***CFYJ's recommendations for the new Administration are as follows:***

Strengthen OJJDP: CFYJ strongly supports strengthening OJJDP by

- 1) refocusing the agency on the JJDPA and its core protections for children;
- 2) improving technical assistance to States;
- 3) updating JJDPA regulations to reflect current priorities and core protections;
- 4) 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; and
- 5) increasing transparency.

Provide technical assistance and financial support to States to comply with the jail removal and sight and sound core requirements: The current JJDPA law's "jail removal" core requirement prohibits youth who are charged as juveniles from being held in adult detention facilities before their adjudication hearing except in very limited circumstances. In these limited circumstances, the "sight and sound separation" core requirement ensures that youth are sight and sound separated from adult inmates.

With regard to these core requirements, CFYJ recommends that the new Administration provide support and technical assistance to

- 1) ensure States are in compliance with current law;
- 2) help those States not in compliance with current law become fully compliant;
- 3) encourage the development of best practices for States already in compliance with current law; and
- 4) assist all States in complying with any new jail removal and sight and sound separation requirements included in the forthcoming JJDPA reauthorization bill.

Collect data on transfer policies in States and at the federal level: Data on the prosecution of youth in and transfer of youth to the adult criminal justice system is lacking for States and the federal criminal justice system. CFYJ recommends that the new Administration provide resources to States to track and evaluate the impact of transfer laws.

For each State and the federal system, collected data should include

- 1) the number of youth prosecuted in and transferred to the adult system;
- 2) in each jurisdiction, how youth are prosecuted in and transferred to the adult system;
- 3) where and how long transferred youth are held pre-trial;

- 4) where and how long transferred youth are held post-conviction; and
- 5) the nature and length of post-release activities for transferred youth, such as probation.

For each category, the data should be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, and age.

Conduct on-going research on the effects of prosecuting youth in or transferring youth to the adult criminal justice system: CFYJ recommends that the new Administration undertake additional research efforts on the impact of transferring youth to the adult criminal justice system, including recidivism and collateral consequences of prosecution in or transfer to the adult system, such as education attainment, employment, and access to federal programs (i.e. Medicaid).

Increase engagement of youth and families affected by the juvenile and criminal justice systems: CFYJ recommends that the new Administration undertake new efforts to engage a wide variety of stakeholders in the juvenile and criminal justice fields, particularly youth and their families who have been involved in these systems, to ensure federal policies and guidance to States considers the needs and recommendations of these key stakeholders.

***Recommendations for the New Administration - Congressional Action:***

Show support for and sign into law a strong reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP): The JJDP - the main vehicle for juvenile justice reform at the federal level - is currently due for reauthorization. CFYJ supports a strong JJDP reauthorization that includes the recommendations of the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition, a coalition of more than 80 national organizations who work on youth development and juvenile justice issues. CFYJ strongly supports these recommendations, including expanding the JJDP's jail removal and sight and sound core requirements to protect youth no matter what court they are in - juvenile or adult. Visit: [www.act4jj.org](http://www.act4jj.org).

Oppose/veto any legislation or amendment that increases the number of youth prosecuted in or transferred to the adult criminal justice system: Given the harmful effects of prosecuting youth in or transferring youth to the adult system, CFYJ recommends the Administration veto any bill that allows more youth to be prosecuted in or transferred to State or federal adult courts.

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**American Bar Association (ABA) Hosts Town Hall Event on Juvenile Justice**

On Thursday, November 6th, the ABA Criminal Justice Section hosted a town hall event entitled "A Call to Action for Juvenile Justice" on juvenile justice issues. The purpose of the event was to inform the incoming administration about juvenile justice issues, including the prosecution of youth in the adult criminal justice system.

The event was co-sponsored and hosted by the Georgetown University Law Center Juvenile Justice Clinic. Other co-sponsors included the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition as well as the following organizations: National Legal Aid & Defender Association; Children's Defense Fund; National Criminal Justice Association; DLA Piper LLP; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; Perkins Coie LLP; and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. Several ABA Committees also co-

sponsored the event, including the Standing Committee on Substance Abuse, Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants, Center on Children and the Law, Public Education Division, and Commission on Youth at Risk.

The event was moderated by Professor Charles Ogletree, who is the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and the Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice.

Professor Ogletree moderated both the speakers and a panel of experts, which included Kristin Henning, Professor, Georgetown University Law Center; Jay Blitzman, Associate Justice, Juvenile Court Department, Middlesex County Division, Massachusetts; State Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R-Pa.); Patrick Lynch, Rhode Island Attorney General; and Chris Jenkins, Juvenile Justice Reporter, Washington Post.

The event began with introductions from Wallace J. Mlyniec, Professor, Georgetown University Law Center, and H. Thomas Wells, President of the American Bar Association. The first presenters were youth scholars at the Oak Hill Youth Center, the facility that holds youth in DC who are adjudicated delinquent.

Throughout the event, various juvenile justice experts presented on a variety of topics ranging from girls in the juvenile justice system to conditions of confinement to restorative justice. Erin Davies of CFYJ presented the Campaign's recommendations for the new Administration, (referenced in the newsletter article above regarding Administration recommendations).

A book of the recommendations presented at the event can be downloaded at:  
<http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjust/calltoactionmaterials.pdf>.

A full webcast of the event can be accessed at:  
<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/webcast/eventDetail.cfm?eventID=656>.

In order to view the webcast, you may need to download Apple Quicktime, which is available at:  
<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>.

More information on the event and the ABA's Criminal Justice Section: Juvenile Justice Committee can be found at:  
<http://www.abanet.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=CR200000>.

## ACROSS THE COUNTRY

### **CFYJ Announces Holiday Gift-Giving Event and Party**

The Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ), along with Justice for DC Youth, Free Minds Book Club, Mentoring Today, and the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates is co-sponsoring the fourth annual holiday gift-giving event to benefit the detained and incarcerated youth of the Correctional Treatment Facility; Oak Hill, DC's juvenile corrections facility; and the Youth Services Center, a detention facility for youth from the District of Columbia.

We cordially invite you to attend our holiday party and gift-giving event:

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

4-7p.m.

Busboys and Poets

5th and K Streets, NW

Washington, DC 20001

R.S.V.P. to Shanta Gray at 202.558.3580 ext. 10 or by email at:

[sgray@cfyj.org](mailto:sgray@cfyj.org).

We are asking for your support so that we can give gift bags to 250 incarcerated kids who will spend the holidays apart from their families this year. Just \$15 will sponsor one child for a gift bag that includes:

- A pair of white socks
- A stick of deodorant
- A tube of toothpaste
- A small bottle of lotion
- A pair of boxer shorts
- A bar of soap
- A set of notecards

Even if you can't attend the party, please help us sponsor the youth. Monetary donations will be accepted through our website, <http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/donate.html>.

We encourage donations before December 5, 2008.

For more information about the gift drive, contact Kate Figiel at CFYJ at 202.558.3580 ext. 29 or by email at:

[kfigiel@cfyj.org](mailto:kfigiel@cfyj.org).

Thank you for your generosity.

Happy Holidays!

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### **Illinois Passes Raise the Age Bill for Misdemeanors**

On November 13, the movement to reduce the prosecution of youth in adult court took another step forward when the Illinois Senate passed SB 2775 by a vote of 43-13. The bill previously passed the house and now awaits the governor's signature. SB 2775 amends the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 to raise the age of adulthood for misdemeanor offenses from 17 years old to 18 years old. Beginning on January 1, 2010, all 17-year-olds being tried for misdemeanor offenses will be in Illinois's juvenile justice system. The bill also creates a task force to explore the possibility of raising the age for 17-year-olds charged

with felonies.

The Campaign thanks Illinois legislators for recognizing the benefits of keeping youth out of the adult criminal system. We congratulate the Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative for their leadership in this effort and applaud all the other advocates, communities, and organizations who worked tirelessly to move this bill forward!

For more information, visit the Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative at:

<http://www.jjustice.org/>.

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### **Seeking Virginia Youth Prosecuted as Adults**

Just Children, a legal advocacy group and the Campaign for Youth Justice's Virginia partner, is collecting the stories of youth who were prosecuted as adults in order to understand and share their experiences, perspectives, and recommendations for change on the prosecution of children in the adult criminal justice system. Just Children is looking for individuals or the families of individuals who are or have been involved with the adult criminal justice system as minors (under 18) in Virginia. In particular, they are interested in hearing about cases with the following circumstances:

- ~ cases that were transferred or could have been transferred directly by prosecutorial waiver
- ~ simple robbery cases (i.e., not involving a weapon)
- ~ first time offender cases
- ~ cases of children under 16

Just Children provides legal representation on individual cases of youth transferred to the adult criminal justice system, conducts trainings for attorneys on how to improve individual transfer case advocacy, and works to expand legal representation through pro bono assistance to youth facing transfer or who have been convicted in adult court in Virginia. The case profiles they gather will help them better understand the experience of those who are or have been directly affected by the prosecution of children in the adult criminal justice system.

If you or someone you know has a story to share, please contact Andy Block at Just Children at 434-977-0553 x11 or email at:

[andy@justice4all.org](mailto:andy@justice4all.org).

The Campaign for Youth Justice is also conducting a national Case Profiles Project for youth tried as adults, so if you have a story or a story referral from outside of Virginia, please contact Kate Figiel at 202.558.3580 ext. 29 or email at [kfigiel@cfyj.org](mailto:kfigiel@cfyj.org).

To learn more about Just Children, visit:

[www.justice4all.org](http://www.justice4all.org).

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## **Urgent Action Alert: Stand Up for Virginia's Youth!**

The Virginia Crime Commission will consider recommendations on youth transfer

Date: Tuesday, December 9th  
Time: 10:00 am  
Location: Virginia Crime Commission Meeting  
Senate Room A  
General Assembly Building  
Richmond, Virginia

On Tuesday, December 9th, for the first time in many years, the Virginia Crime Commission will discuss and consider making recommendations on how to make the transfer to adult court more fair for Virginia's youth.

This meeting will offer a unique opportunity for community members to show that the issue of prosecuting youth in adult court matters! We are trying to get as many people at the meeting as we can! A representative from Just Children will introduce our group and invite us to stand as a demonstration of support. By attending this meeting, you will be showing that you care about youth in adult court and are concerned that the current system is unfair and negatively impacts youth.

Youth tried as adults in Virginia:

- ~ Face barriers to employment and education
- ~ Receive an adult criminal record
- ~ May never have access to student financial aid
- ~ Can be placed in adult jails and prisons

Please let us know if you will be able to attend!

Contact: Andy Block  
Just Children  
434-977-0553  
[andy@justice4all.org](mailto:andy@justice4all.org)

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## **Oregon Governor's Summit Features Panel on Youth in Adult Court**

The Oregon Governor's Disproportionate Minority Contact Summit, held on November 17 and 18 in Portland, Oregon, featured a panel on youth in adult court. The panel, "Juvenile Injustice: Rethinking Oregon's Policy on Treatment Youth as Adults," was kicked off by Liz Ryan of the Campaign for Youth Justice as the moderator with over 50 participants from throughout the state of Oregon.

Panel experts included Shannon Wight of the Oregon Partnership for Safety and Justice, Bart Lubow of

the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Neelum Arya of the Campaign for Youth Justice.

Bart Lubow, Director of Programs for High Risk Youth at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, highlighted the key themes in this year's Kids Count essay, "A Roadmap for Juvenile Justice Reform," particularly focusing on trends in juvenile justice practice that blur or ignore the well-established differences between youth and adults. The Kids Count essay can be found at: <http://www.aecf.org>.

Neelum Arya discussed the recent research on the negative impacts of transferring youth to adult criminal court released by the federal Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, and the Brookings Institution.

Shannon Wight talked about Oregon's "Measure 11" on prosecuting youth in adult criminal court and the negative impact on youth and their families. For more information on how to get involved in "Justice for Youth" campaign efforts in Oregon, contact the Partnership for Safety and Justice at: <http://safetyandjustice.org>.

Congratulations to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ), especially Mark Ferrante, and CJJ's Oregon partners for hosting such a terrific event!

## RESEARCH AND POLICY

### **New Report on Jails in Indian Country Released**

On November 7, 2008 the Bureau of Justice Statistics released "Jails in Indian Country, 2007," which includes information on the 83 jails, confinement facilities, detention centers, and other facilities operated by tribal authorities or the Bureau of Indian Affairs. According to the report, in 2007 there was a one-day count of 253 juveniles (167 boys and 86 girls) held in tribal facilities, 13% of the total incarcerated population on that day.

The report can be found online at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/jic07.pdf>

## MEDIA WRAP

### ***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:

Dr. Jennifer Woolard is a leading psychologist from Georgetown University who has testified before Congress and the DC Council against transfer of youth to the adult criminal justice system. We also hear her perspective on the recent case of an 8-year old boy from Arizona who is being charged as an adult and his video confession to police that he shot his father.

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters/2008/11/20/Leading-Psychologist-Dr-Jennifer-Woolard>

Mario Rocha was released from prison after serving 10 years for a wrongful conviction. He recently learned that all charges against him have finally been dropped.

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters/2008/11/13/exclusive-interview-with-formerly-incarcerated-youth-mario-rocha>

Vicky Gunderson talks about the loss of her son in the adult justice system and her current advocacy work.

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters/va/2008/10/30/neelum-arya-discusses-new-report-on-african-american-youth-in-the-justice-system>

Our guest for December 4 is Tyler Edmonds, prosecuted as an adult at age 13 and recently released from prison.

Check out the promotional video for next week's show at:

<http://mx.youtube.com/watch?v=ry5sJr5vb9o&feature=Playlist&p=9F20D07C74842ADC&index=1>.

Listen live to *Juvenile Justice Matters* December 4th and every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. EST. If you miss the show, you can download it later from the same site:

[www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters).

## VOICES

### **Dwayne Betts Shares Memoir at the University of D.C.**

On Thursday, November 6, over a hundred people assembled in an auditorium at the University of the District of Columbia to hear Dwayne Betts read a selection from his forthcoming autobiography, "A Question of Freedom."

Mr. Betts read aloud the portion of his memoir detailing the incident that landed him in prison as a youth: a carjacking that he freely admits he committed, for which he served eight years in an adult prison. The section interlaced his vivid memory of the incident with storylines from his time in prison, where he says he quickly went from a naïve and immature youth who committed a rash crime to one suddenly faced with a very adult situation in prison.

Since his release, Mr. Betts has managed to overcome the unbelievably steep odds that face formerly

incarcerated youth prosecuted as adults: he has enrolled in college, become a husband and a father, and started a book club for young black men. The book club is an effort to create a space in which black young men may feel free to express themselves and their intelligence. Mr. Betts, who was a high school honors student before he was imprisoned, has said that without this type of space, young black men risk falling astray toward criminal behavior, as he did.

The reading from the memoir was accompanied by a panel of Mr. Betts and two representatives from local organizations providing reentry services for former inmates released into the community. At the event, Mr. Betts and the panel offered insight on the state of juvenile justice, the problems affecting young black men today, and how to help at-risk youth succeed. The reading and discussion were well received by the audience, many of whom stayed after to speak personally with Mr. Betts and others on the panel. Dwayne Betts's book is scheduled for publication in May, 2009.

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**The following is an excerpt from a testimony presented by a youth prosecuted as an adult before the DC Council earlier this year:**

My name is William R. I am 19 years old and a resident of the District of Columbia.

In November of 2005, when I was just 17 years old, I was charged and incarcerated as an adult at the DC Jail. I served eight months at the DC Jail, followed by 5 months at CTF, Correctional Treatment Facility, where I was sent to complete a Youth Act Study. At CTF, I spent several months in what is known as "the hole" or solitary confinement. I received a two-year sentence and was initially sent to Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, PA, a maximum security facility. I was not supposed to be sent to a maximum-security facility because I received my sentencing under the Youth Act. When the Bureau of Prisons realized this, they transferred me to McKean Federal Correctional Institution where I served the remainder of my sentence. I was released in December 2007 and returned home to Washington, D.C.

I sincerely regret the mistakes I have made. I am dedicated to changing my life and to making up for the harm that I caused by making a positive contribution to my community. I am currently enrolled in college where I am studying Business Administration. My goal is to become an accountant. I also plan to work with at-risk minority youth to help them live healthy, positive and violence-free lives and pursue their education. I will never give up in this pursuit.

My experience at the DC Jail was very hard. At the jail I was the only Latino on the unit, and I felt extremely isolated. There were many fights. At CTF, my cellmate and I were jumped and beaten by several other inmates so badly that I had to be taken to the hospital. The inmates who attacked me kicked my face, chipped my teeth, and stabbed me under my eye. During my incarceration, I witnessed many acts of violence that would go unnoticed by correctional officers. The medical treatment was insufficient and the mental health services were not effective. It is my belief that they did not understand how to treat youth. If you couldn't sleep they just gave you pills. When I was there, I believe some kids were overmedicated. It did not seem to be well-monitored. There were several suicide attempts among the youth that officers and mental health professionals were not aware of or did not care to know about. I personally was involved in talking down one youth from taking his own life.

The juveniles I was incarcerated with brought street conflicts with them into the jail. This resulted in an

explosive environment. I felt that the guards should have paid more attention. By treating these youths as adults, they only become more aggressive and the hatred just built up inside. Youth my age should not go through this stuff.

I realize that conditions might have improved since I was at the jail, and this is a good thing. Even so, I do not believe that an adult jail is an appropriate place for juvenile offenders. I am here to express my belief that Title 16 youths are in need of special attention and programs that simply weren't available at the DC Jail, which is clearly designed for adults. For example, I recommend one-on-one counseling to help youths cope with the trauma of being incarcerated. Youths also need a special program devoted to helping them with reentry. When you are 16, 17 or 18 years old, it is very hard to come back and adjust to society. Many of the young guys I was with came home without a GED. They have fallen way behind, and they are now too old to return to their high schools. So they returned with little education, a felony record, and they are still carrying the emotional burden of their experience in a harsh and violent environment. How do you expect them to succeed? These youths need extremely specialized programming and support.

I work hard every day to heal from my experiences in the adult system. I am always looking over my shoulder and feel anxious, tense, stiff, and angry. If there is anything I can do to keep other youths from undergoing this same experience, I will do it.

For more stories of youth prosecuted as adults, visit:

[http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/case\\_profiles.html](http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/case_profiles.html).

## CFYJ WELCOMES GRACE BAUER, COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

### **Hello from Grace Bauer, New CFYJ Organizer**

Greetings, friends and allies of the Campaign for Youth Justice! I have just arrived at the Campaign for Youth Justice as the new Community Organizer. I am absolutely delighted to be a part of a group whose work I have long respected and admired! I bring with me years of hard experience as the parent of a child formerly incarcerated in Louisiana's infamous "Tallulah." I have also had the fortune of spending the last seven years working side by side with the best parent organizing group in the country, Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC) and all of its many allies and friends.

As an Organizer for the Campaign, I will be providing technical assistance to the six states involved in the work to end the inhumane practice of sentencing children as adults. Isn't it a ludicrous idea that somehow a child becomes an adult because he or she becomes involved in the system? It has been said before, and I will reiterate it here: although the juvenile justice system is plagued by many problems, none is worse than the use of transfer, which not only fails to benefit youth, but it creates the very crime we are trying to avoid. In the meantime, transfer policies ignore years of research that has provided us with the best practices.

As the mother of a formerly incarcerated child, I belong to the group most often blamed for youth crime, alienated from the decisions about their children and many times ignored. Yet, I also belong to the group who has the greatest possibility of making the most effective impact on system reform. The

time for shutting parents out should come to an end in all jurisdictions that consider themselves progressive and effective. Parents have made significant progress in Louisiana and in many other states. Given the tools and resources needed, parents could help systems make the reforms that are needed and sustain those changes long after foundations and others turn their attention to other issues. Indeed, parents can be the greatest partners systems can hope to have in the reform of the long-broken juvenile justice system.

This past week I had the wonderful opportunity to join a group of families and allies in Portland, Oregon hoping to make some changes to the law that allows their children to be prosecuted and sentenced as adults. In this group, I saw an amazing amount of passion and knowledge of the issue as well as a tremendous desire to see real change. The Campaign will now be able to provide organizing assistance and expertise to make that change possible.

Please give your attention to the Holiday Toolkit in this issue of the newsletter. It gives anyone with a desire the opportunity to make real connection with kids in secure care during the holidays, as well as their family members. There is no time like the present to pick one or two things and do them. This may make a world of difference to a child far from home or even close to home but still very much alone. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months and hope you will give consideration to the importance of families and their voices in this struggle.

## NATIONAL MOMENTUM

### **CFYJ Releases Holiday Toolkit on Reaching Out to Local Incarcerated Youth**

The holiday season is a perfect time to reach out to youth in adult jails and prisons. While most of us are celebrating with family and friends, thousands of youth in facilities across the country will be away from their families.

The Campaign for Youth Justice has just released a new toolkit with ideas for holiday projects that you can organize to reach out to detained and incarcerated youth in the adult criminal justice system. Besides making a difference to these most affected populations, holiday outreach is an amazing opportunity to connect with, inform, and empower community groups and decision-makers. This outreach will enhance your organization's visibility in the community and strengthen partnerships in the field.

The holiday toolkit provides everything you need to get started on a holiday outreach project. It includes sample steps and timelines as well as templates for proposal letters, invitation letters, and thank you letters. The toolkit explains how to throw a party or special event at a facility, arrange a facility visit for state and local elected officials, set up a holiday card campaign, or organize a holiday gift-giving campaign like the one CFYJ has done for the past few years.

The toolkit starts off with information about holding a party or special event at a local facility. This project can take many creative forms depending on the resources available and what activities and outside materials and food the facility will allow. Just a few ideas include:

- A movie screening of a favorite holiday film, complete with popcorn
- A reading of a book or poetry, followed by an opportunity for youth to write and/or share their own: this can be combined with a gift of a journal or composition book to each youth
- An art or craft activity to make or make and send as a gift: gingerbread cookies, ornaments, picture frames, etc.
- A visit by a legislator, celebrity, magician, motivational speaker, or musician
- A games tournament such as jeopardy, Pictionary, chess, or bingo

Next, the holiday toolkit provides some suggestions on how to organize a holiday gift drive like the one cosponsored this year by CFYJ, JDCY, Mentoring Today, Free Minds, and DCAYA.

Another project in the toolkit is organizing an event for state and local legislators to visit youth housed at adult facilities. This visit will raise policymakers' awareness of youth who spend their holidays in facilities and encourage them to take action to help protect these youth.

It gives youth in facilities hope to know that their communities care. The key to a successful project is to be creative and to take advantage of the resources and expertise available to you. CFYJ hopes that you will read our holiday toolkit and use it as a starting point for your outreach projects during the holidays and after.

To get a copy of the holiday toolkit, please email Kate Figiel at: [kfigiel@cfyj.org](mailto:kfigiel@cfyj.org).

## ON THE CALENDAR

### December 3: CFYJ Holiday Party and Gift-Giving Event

Don't forget to mark your calendar for a holiday party on Wednesday, December 3, 2008, from 4 to 7p.m.! The Campaign for Youth Justice will be hosting a holiday party at Busboys and Poets, at 5<sup>th</sup> and K Streets NW, Washington, DC. We'll be spreading good cheer among all our friends and collecting sponsors for holiday gift bags for local youth incarcerated at CTF, YSC, and the Oak Hill facility. Sponsor a youth for only \$15, and take home a keepsake from our giving tree. The holiday gift-giving event is co-sponsored by Justice for DC Youth (JDCY), Free Minds Book Club, Mentoring Today, and the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates (DCAYA). We hope to see you there!

R.S.V.P. to Shantá Gray by Nov. 28 at 202.558.3580 ext. 10 or by email at: [sgray@cfyj.org](mailto:sgray@cfyj.org).

Even if you can't make it to the event, please contribute to the gift drive at: <http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/donate.html>.

## GET IN THE ACTION WITH CFYJ

**Listen** to past and future editions of *Juvenile Justice Matters* radio show at:  
[www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters!](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/jjmatters!)

**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](http://www.youthtoday.org/jjtoday).

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