



center for  
**CHILDREN & YOUTH**  
JUSTICE

# Better Systems. Better Lives.

**Achievements. 2010.**



## OUR VISION

Through the work of the **Center for Children & Youth Justice**, more children and youth will be diverted from entering Washington's juvenile justice system. Those children and youth who are involved in the juvenile justice, child welfare and related systems will maximize their potential to become more successful and productive members of their communities. They will have the support of integrated systems staffed by highly-skilled practitioners, utilizing evidence-based practices, in an environment of fair and unbiased decision making.

## Dear supporters, colleagues and friends,

We measure our children's progress in simple but meaningful milestones. First steps, after months of crawling. First words, soon becoming abundant sentences. First day of school, ready for a lifetime of learning.

As the Center for Children & Youth Justice reaches its fifth birthday, we've also measured our progress in milestones representing broad but significant achievements. In our infancy, we seemed to grow and change every day, bolting from the starting gate with major grant funding to seed our mission and build our confidence. By three years old, we were steady on our feet as the tangible results of our work took shape. And in 2010, the lasting systems reform that we envisioned in our earliest days was evidenced where it counts the most: in the lives of children and youth.

Today, we are making a real difference for children and families, for systems and service providers, for advocates and policy-makers. Better systems, better lives – which began as a concept and a tagline – are becoming a reality. But, just like a child on that first day of school, years of hard work lie before us.

Today, new opportunities are opening up to us to lead, collaborate and innovate. Now more than ever, decision-makers within the systems are increasingly eager to partner and change. They recognize that reforms can transform lives, lessen financial strain on government agencies, and save tax dollars long term. We must take advantage of these shifts while becoming even more focused and more committed to the issues and projects that will make the biggest impact on systems reform.

We also must rally more support from people like you. It is thanks to your trust and commitment that we have reached these first half-decade milestones. We are counting on you to help us toward greater achievements in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



**Justice Bobbe J. Bridge** (ret.)  
*Founding President and CEO*



**Vickie Rawlins**  
*Board Chair*

### OUR MISSION

To advance justice for and enhance the lives of children and youth through juvenile justice, child welfare, and related systems reform.

“Justice Bobbe Bridge is serious about taking intelligent action on behalf of our children who depend on public systems and public policy for their success. She has established an effective center that aims high and puts children first.”

**Mary Ann Murphy**, Partners with Families and Children: Spokane

# The impact of the Center for Children & Youth Justice



## **SUPPORTING EARLY CONNECTIONS:**

All the infants who completed the mental health treatment program showed significant improvements on an assessment scale which measures their relationships

with their parents, advancing from unhealthy or disturbed relationships to those that are more nurturing and rewarding for both baby and parent.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Here are highlights of some of the many achievements of our work in 2010 to create better systems and better lives for children, youth and families.

## **LAWYERS FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE:**

Nearly **50** new volunteer attorneys signed up to represent former foster youth in civil legal cases.



## **MODELS FOR CHANGE:**

CCYJ's leadership provided support, facilitation and direction to our nine state and four local partners in juvenile justice reform as they implemented projects addressing issues such as minority overrepresentation, indigent defense, mental health, alternatives to court involvement and incarceration, and improving collaboration and coordination between multiple systems serving youth and families.

## **PROMOTING POSITIVE OUTCOMES:**

**83%** of youth enrolled in the program were reengaged in school; nearly **90%** made academic progress toward graduation; and **94%** avoided contact with the juvenile justice system.

# Giving life to 'systems reform': We are making a real difference

**What is “systems reform”?** It's making the kind of difference that goes beyond today, beyond the individual child or family. It's permanent change. Significant change. The kind of change that may start in one agency, school or county and then take hold statewide, even nationwide. Reforming systems means making life better for hundreds of thousands of kids, for generations of kids, for all kids.

And it all starts with ideas, model projects and collaboration. It all starts with the **Center for Children & Youth Justice**.

The 2010 stories you read here are examples of reforms that herald the shape of things to come. Yes, we are making a difference today. But the kind of lasting, systemic change that we envision will give rise exponentially as the years progress toward better systems, better lives forever.

**February 2006** CCYJ becomes a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.) as Founding President/CEO and Michael Curtis as Managing Director.

**June 2006** The MacArthur Foundation selects CCYJ to serve as the Lead Entity directing its Models for Change juvenile justice reform project in Washington State.

**July 2006** The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awards CCYJ a grant to research best practices to prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system and to better support those already in the system.

**March 2007** CCYJ completes an in-depth work plan to guide the Models for Change juvenile justice system reform work in Washington State.

## Overcoming barriers to a better life

Daniel Mac\* grew up without his father. He wasn't about to let his young daughter grow up without hers.

After aging out of foster care at 18, Daniel simply wanted to make a life for himself – and be a part of his little girl's. But he couldn't do either without the help of an attorney.

"It was really hard, really frustrating to try to make it on my own," says Daniel, who found himself homeless, jobless and dependent on relatives.

Fortunately, he also found out about our Lawyers Fostering Independence (LFI) program, created two years ago to help current and former foster youth overcome the civil legal barriers that prevent them from successfully moving forward with their lives.

Daniel was matched up with a volunteer LFI attorney who is helping him work through his legal issues, make good on past child support payments, and re-establish his visitation rights.

He is among the more than 70 young adults to benefit from LFI, a program that has taken on some 120 legal matters for its young clients, including employment claims, housing issues, debt and credit problems, benefits denials, and family law.

"These young people kind of get dropped into their adult lives without a safety net and often need the chance for a fresh start," says Laura Ewbank, an attorney with Perkins Coie and one of the more than 100 pro bono lawyers in LFI's pool. "This is such an important time in their lives, and their success or failure really depends on them working out the kinks."

LFI helps fill that need.

Daniel is grateful. During the week, he's busy working and going to school. On weekends, he sees his daughter.

*\*Daniel's name has been changed and a model image substituted to protect his privacy.*



**April 2007** CCYJ presents the "Pathways to Success" report, funded by a 2006 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, identifying programs to prevent high-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system and recommending groups of youth who could benefit from those model programs.

**July 2008** A Perkins Coie fellowship and American Bar Association grant allows CCYJ to initiate work on a program to recruit volunteer attorneys to help youth aging out of foster care with the civil legal issues preventing them from moving on successfully with their lives.

**May 2008** The 1st annual Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award is presented to the Maleng family.

**October 2008** CCYJ's infant mental health project, Supporting Early Connections, is funded by the Stuart Foundation.

**February 2009** The Child Welfare Resource Bank is made available online to researchers and policy-makers.

**May 2009** Perkins Coie is recognized with the 2nd annual Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award.

## A forum for funding and collaboration

Some of the nation's most influential and generous funders of child welfare and juvenile justice reform projects now have a permanent home for their collaborative work.

CCYJ first convened the Philanthropist's Forum in 2009, bringing to the table individual funders, Casey Family Programs, Philanthropy Northwest and the Bill & Melinda Gates, Giddens, MacArthur and Stuart Foundations. By mid-2010, the gatherings had proved so beneficial that the group agreed to provide funding to CCYJ to hire a staff person to more intensely guide and manage the Forum's efforts.

Why do the grantmakers – each with their own interests, guidelines and goals – find it valuable to work together?

"A forum like this is critical for funders to fully understand the landscape of child welfare in Washington, to map out all the change efforts that are under way, to better align and leverage our work, and to create relationships and partnerships that help us make more informed decisions," says Teri Kook, Director of Child Welfare with the Stuart Foundation.

"We are not going to agree on everything, but this collaboration enables us to examine together all the promising projects that should be piloted and research that should be advanced. We can then collectively discuss what deserves funding in order to move to the next stage."

CCYJ was the perfect partner to lead this collaboration, she adds, because of Justice Bridge's leadership: "She brings a sense of urgency along with in-depth knowledge of what it takes to create not just change but transformational change."

**October 2009** CCYJ brings together leaders from local military branches, county courts, the Legislature, and child and family service organizations in a Military Youth Roundtable to focus on issues affecting the children of service men and women.

**October/November 2009** Decision Maker Summits secure commitments from policy-makers to move forward with more than 60 unfinished priority reforms to Washington's child welfare system.

## A model for positive change

Tyler\* dropped out of high school only to discover that it's hard to get a job – much less get ahead in life – without a diploma. Fortunately for him and about two dozen other young people in the Tri-Cities area, an innovative program called Fast Forward is giving them that second chance.

New to Washington, Fast Forward is just one of the many promising programs and reforms being advanced by the national Models for Change initiative, supported by the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. CCYJ is leading the effort statewide, overseeing projects in five counties to further juvenile justice reform and help at-risk youth and young offenders achieve success.

In the last year, many of our local and state partners have put their plans into action with projects that, among other goals, provide alternatives to formal court involvement for non-criminal juvenile offenders and reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth in the system.

Fast Forward, a collaborative effort operating through the Boys & Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties, connects high school dropouts to alternative education programs that fit their learning styles, interests and goals. Participants also receive support – including transportation, child care and tutoring – to make their schooling possible.

This program – like others across Washington – is one example of successful models that CCYJ hopes to replicate toward an ultimate goal of institutionalizing them statewide.

*For details on the progress of our other Models for Change projects, visit the website at [www.ccyj.org](http://www.ccyj.org) and click on Partners.*

\*Tyler's name has been changed and a model image substituted to protect his privacy.

“The Center is working to bring about comprehensive, permanent improvements in the system so that (children and youth) can emerge resilient, healthy and on a steady course toward successful lives.”

**Laurie Lippold**, Children's Home Society

**March 2010** CCYJ honors Ann Ramsay-Jenkins with the 3rd annual Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award.

**October 2010** The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute recognizes CCYJ with its Angels in Adoption Award for outstanding advocacy on foster care issues.

**October 2010** A gift from Admiral Herb Bridge launches the Shirley Bridge Girls+Justice Initiative.

**November 2010** A second Roundtable advances collaboration to address issues related to the children of military personnel.



“Children in foster care live in an uncertain world. Stability and permanence, things that most children can take for granted, are not guaranteed... Thoughtful, meaningful reforms created in partnership with all stakeholders are what it will take to ensure that every foster child has a real chance for a successful life. No other organization in the state is doing more to advance that goal than CCYJ.”

**Janis Avery**, Treehouse

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## 2010 FINANCIALS

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2009 (audited)</b>	<b>2010</b>
Contributions	\$ 1,716,764	\$ 585,928*
Interest and other income	\$ 14,369	\$ 49,532
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,731,133</b>	<b>\$ 635,460</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2009 (audited)</b>	<b>2010</b>
Programs and services	\$ 1,144,819	\$ 1,069,623
Management and general expenses	\$ 178,314	\$ 217,375
Fundraising	\$ 69,605	\$ 145,891
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,392,738</b>	<b>\$ 1,432,889</b>

\*Does not include pledge payments made on grants awarded in previous years.

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to the foundations, corporations, families and individuals who enable the Center for Children & Youth Justice to advance our mission to reform the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.



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