



center for
CHILDREN & YOUTH
JUSTICE | *Better systems. Better lives.*®

June 2008

Better Systems. Better Lives. The CCYJ E-Newsletter



We are pleased to introduce you to our first e-newsletter with highlights from our May 7th Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award Breakfast, held in May 2008. We look forward in the months ahead to sharing more news about our work to advance better systems, better lives.

Sincerely,
Justice Bobbe J. Bridge (ret.)
Founding President

CCYJ honors the Maleng Family

Judy and Mark Maleng accept the first annual Norm Maleng Friend of Youth Award



CCYJ created the Norm Maleng Friend of Youth Award to honor the late King County Prosecutor, whose passion for justice was equalled by his compassion and fairness. We were pleased to present the first annual award to Norm's wife, Judy, and son, Mark, in recognition of the family's "leadership, dedication and commitment to the youth and families of Washington state."

CCYJ President Bobbe Bridge praised Norm as a man who wanted to "alter our thinking about the best ways to respond to young people who lost their way - or who had it lost for them through abandonment, abuse or neglect."

"He was one of the first public officials, certainly the first prosecutor, who recognized and stated publicly that these kids frequently shared a common background - failing in school, troubled families, other risky behaviors, evident but unaddressed, long before a delinquent act erupted," she said. "Norm knew we had a special obligation to these kids."

From a child "struggling to be safe" to an advocate for reform

Attorney Julio Carranza inspires guests with his personal story of courage and commitment



Born to a mother so poor she had to give up her newborn son for adoption, Julio Carranza left his native Mexico as an infant... only to face far worse circumstances than poverty. He suffered such "horrific violence and abuse" at the hands of his adoptive family in the U.S. that he was hospitalized at age 9 and placed in foster care.

"Like a nightmare with my eyes wide open," Julio told Breakfast guests, the child welfare system returned him to his adoptive parents and more abuse. Other foster placements and hardships followed, but he eventually graduated from college and law school - the first former foster child in the state of Idaho to do so.

He challenged guests to understand the systems and policy reforms that could have made his youthful life easier. Among them: cultural sensitivity to ensure that racially and ethnically diverse children grow up with an understanding of their native languages and cultures; the assignment of advocates to children in dependency proceedings "to allow kids' voices to be heard"; and policies such as college scholarships that provide for the future of foster kids.

"Before I became an attorney, college graduate and high school graduate, my story began as an orphan from Mexico who had to struggle to remain safe," Julio said. "Children in Washington are struggling now, too."

Today, Julio's dedication to children and youth translates into his Native American law practice with the Seattle office of Williams Kastner. He also is a member of the Washington State Commission on Children in Foster Care, a collaborative effort to increase communication between key parties involved in monitoring the safety and well-being of children in foster care. He is married and the father of two children, 10 and 12.

Thank you, donors, from CCYJ!

Our first fundraising event raises almost \$60,000



We are very grateful to the nearly 300 guests who attended the Breakfast and many who did not attend but still chose to contribute. It was our first fundraising event since the Center was established in February 2006.

CCYJ Founding President Bobbe Bridge explained to guests that "CCYJ's goal is to make sure that when children come in contact with juvenile justice and child welfare systems, their lives are better as a result.

"We can no longer be satisfied with program by program progress," she said. "We can no longer be satisfied with change, however positive, without *substantial* change in outcomes for the largest number of children and youth across *all* racial and ethnic groups, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. We're leaving too many children and youth behind.

"Systems need to work together for all these kids. And we need to hear their voices, respect them and respond to them. That's what CCYJ is all about."

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