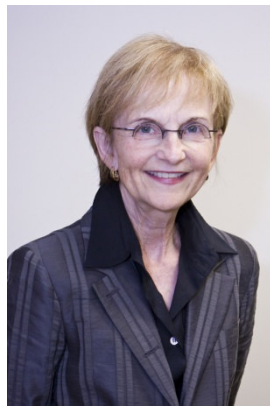


March 2010

Better Systems. Better Lives.

The CCYJ E-Newsletter



Dear Friends,

The Center's third annual Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award Breakfast has come and gone, but the spirit of hope remains with me... as I hope it does with all of you who attended, too.

Our Maleng Award honoree, Ann Ramsay-Jenkins -- in the words of Norm's son, Mark -- exemplified everything that Norm "admired in others and lived himself -- not just kindness and compassion, but hard work, innovative approaches and relentless advocacy." Our two President's Award winners, Seattle Detectives Al Lebar and Kim Bogucki, made us all feel so proud to live in a community whose law enforcement officers give so much of themselves. And speaker Lane Shtelen touched our hearts with her story of how education uplifted her from a difficult life in and out of foster care.

To our 300+ guests and sponsors, who supported us with a record \$90,000 in donations, thank you! Your generosity brings us closer to our vision of creating better lives for children and youth involved in our child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Very truly yours,

Justice Bobbe J. Bridge (ret.)
Founding President/CEO

Ann Ramsay-Jenkins receives the Norm Maleng Award

Ann Ramsay-Jenkins, co-founder and vice-chair of the College Success Foundation, received the 3rd annual Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award at our breakfast fundraising event on March 3.

Through her leadership of the Foundation, Ann has spearheaded efforts to help ensure that foster youth have the support they need to make higher education a reality. In accepting her award, Ann praised Norm Maleng for "teaching us, by example, how to nurture and support the most vulnerable among us -- children who are victims of 'the system.'



"There were then, and continue to be, too many of those enigmatic systems for children to navigate alone -- children who are ignored, abandoned, abused, forgotten and almost always invisible to mainstream society," she said. "Nonetheless, as Norm taught us through his leadership, they are our children and they deserve our time, our attention, our resources and our love."

"We are all challenging the status quo," she concluded. "We are all pushing hard to improve the systems, to try new and promising programs, to set these children free and healthy and well-educated as they become adults in an uncertain world."

Learn more about [Ann Ramsay-Jenkins](#) and the [College Success Foundation](#).

Seattle Police detectives earn President's Awards

In the past year, six Puget Sound-area law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty and three others were wounded. Recognizing their unparalleled commitment led Justice Bridge to create the President's Award.

"In the criminal justice system, we all wear many hats and play many roles, but these tragedies assault us all. They assault our entire community," Justice Bridge said.



Chosen for the inaugural President's Awards were two of Seattle's finest -- **Detective Al Lebar** and **Detective Kim Bogucki** (pictured flanking Interim Seattle Police Chief John Diaz).

Detective Lebar was recognized for his work with youth in a program to combat dating violence that focuses on self-respect and respect for others. Going into schools and youth detention centers, he talks to young women and men about love, relationships and the law. He teaches them about the role of positive interpersonal relationships, families and the law in a healthy, happy life and introduces them to new perspectives on honesty, trust and

personal responsibility. And in doing all that, he works to break the cycle of hopelessness, low self-esteem and violence that pervades far too many young lives.

Detective Bogucki earned her award for the creation of [The If Project](#), which poses a question to women prison inmates: *"If there was something someone could have said or done that would have changed the path that led you here, what would it have been?"* The essays and videos not only reflect the women's desire to search themselves to find what could have changed their own lives, but a larger desire to impart their stories to help others. Detective Bogucki was recognized for restoring dignity and hope to women who have made and paid for bad choices in their lives and for working to prevent tragic mistakes that can destroy more young lives.



THANK YOU! To our generous Breakfast sponsors!

Thanks to the contributions of these sponsors, every dollar raised at the 3rd annual Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award Breakfast will go directly to support CCYJ's mission.

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Please join us in thanking these great businesses and organizations for their support! We also want to express our gratitude to our emcee for the event, Enrique Cerna of KCTS-9.



2009: A year of great progress for CCYJ

"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."



This CCYJ Vision Statement led off Justice Bridge's remarks to guests attending the breakfast last week. She went on to describe a few of the past year's accomplishments -- ways that "the Center is collaborating, innovating and implementing real and lasting changes in our child welfare and juvenile justice systems."

Among just a few: CCYJ's 13 [Models for Change](#) state and local partners advanced dozens of reforms. In our [Supporting Early Connections](#) program, which provides early intervention mental health services to families who have been referred to court for child abuse and neglect in South King County, families are being successfully reunited and learning to better care for their young children. Our [Child Welfare Resource Bank](#) also took a huge step forward last year. The searchable database went online in 2009, and we also sponsored three summits to bring together decision-makers from all three branches of state government to review past recommendations and commit to implement



unfinished priorities. (To learn about progress on other initiatives, read our [2009 Progress Report](#).)

"And what's every bit as exciting about the work and the results and the great things that lie ahead," Justice Bridge concluded, "is that all of you are playing such a huge part in making it all happen. Your contributions mean that we can say 'Yes' to new opportunities, increase our capacity to respond to emerging needs, and support an infrastructure that will leverage your support into more reforms that will build better systems today and better lives tomorrow."

Unable to attend the breakfast? Don't worry -- you can still donate to support our work! Click [here](#) to secure make a contribution online.

Lane Shtelen: Education is the path from turmoil to success

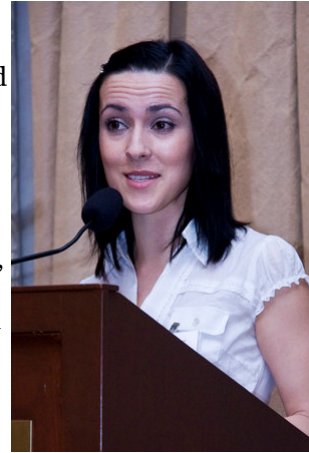
Lane Shtelen was born in the Ukraine and moved to Seattle when she was 8, living for years amid horrifying domestic violence before the foster care system -- and her own determination to get an education -- led her on a more positive path.

Speaking to guests at the Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award Breakfast, Lane told of shuttling from family to family at Seattle Academy, where she'd earned a scholarship. With support from those who took her in, she was able to hang onto her desire to get an education and escape the tumultuous life she'd lived both before and during foster care.

While that system eventually worked for her, Lane said, "I know that comprehensive, systemic reforms are highly needed so that my experience of using education as a path to success is the norm and not the exception for foster youth.

"I think one of the best approaches to helping youth in need is building positive relationships and following up with them on a regular basis," she suggested. "In addition to theories, I believe schools and social services systems have to work together on a concrete action plan to produce success. As Justice Bridge and CCYJ say, 'foster care should be a blessing, not a risk'

"I am so grateful for the opportunities I've had and today, I'm especially grateful that the Center for Children & Youth Justice is here to make sure that those who are less fortunate have a better chance to succeed. Knowing that people like you care about people like me means more than you may know because what you do has long lasting effects. The support you show for organizations like CCYJ with your time and money proves that you not only wish to *see* change in the world, but you *are* the change the world."



Learn more about CCYJ



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CHILDREN & YOUTH
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The Center for Children & Youth Justice is shaping better lives for youth involved in Washington's foster care and juvenile justice systems. In partnership with parents, advocates and policymakers, the Center develops and advances innovative approaches to systemic changes that will support kids, stabilize families and strengthen communities.

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