

# ANNUAL REPORT

Center  
for  
Court  
Innovation

2019



# A Note from the Director

Creating an annual report is a challenge for an organization like the Center for Court Innovation. We are not an agency devoted to achieving a simple goal or pursuing a single strategy in just one place.

Each year, we touch the lives of tens of thousands of people through a variety of mechanisms—operating programs, research and analysis, and consulting services that provide help to reformers around the globe. The cumulative impact of this work is difficult to summarize quickly or neatly. This annual report does not attempt to document everything we have achieved in the past year. Rather, it offers a series of vivid snapshots that provide a sense of the breadth and depth of our work. For texture, we offer both statistics and the voices of the people who are leading the work in the trenches.

One of the things that I hope shines through this annual report is our belief in the importance of changing practice on the ground. For us, this means working alongside local residents to build stronger and healthier neighborhoods that do not need to rely on law enforcement to maintain safety. It also means working directly with judges, attorneys, probation officers, and other officials to reengineer the justice system from within. Whether we are working in courthouses or in communities, we always attempt to incorporate the voices and perspectives of victims, defendants, and those who rely upon government for services. This kind of collaborative effort takes time and invariably involves compromises. But we think it holds the promise of creating enduring change.

It has been my privilege to be part of the Center for Court Innovation since its founding in 1996, including serving as director since 2002. The field of justice reform has changed dramatically since the Center was created. Nowhere is this more true than in New York City, our homebase. After a generation of hard work, New York has seen both its crime and incarceration rates plummet. The city has pledged to close the notorious jails on Rikers Island. New ideas and new energy are coursing through the system. Justice reform, once a marginal pursuit, is now an issue of urgent national concern. The Center for Court Innovation is not responsible for all of this, of course, but we have been an important part of the story.

This will be my final annual report as director of the Center for Court Innovation. In the spring of 2020, I will make way for our new leader, Courtney Bryan. I have known Courtney since the very start of her professional career. She has the vision and passion to take the Center for Court Innovation to the next level. I look forward to doing whatever I can to support her. I think our brand of pragmatic reform, which is rooted in creativity, intellectual rigor, and compassion, is going to have a significant role to play in the days to come.



Greg Berman

# Advisory Board

Victoria Pratt (chair)  
Courtney Bryan  
Cecily M. Carson  
Rasmia Kirmani-Frye  
Eric Lee

Jonathan Lippman  
Marshall L. Miller  
Marlon Peterson  
Richard Roberts  
Anthony Thompson

## Programs

Bronx Child Trauma Support  
Bronx Community Solutions  
Brooklyn Justice Initiatives  
Brooklyn Mental Health Court  
Brooklyn Young Adult Court  
Brownsville Community Justice Center  
Civil Alternatives  
Domestic Violence Court  
Harlem Community Justice Center  
Legal Hand  
Make It Happen  
Midtown Community Court  
Neighborhood Safety Initiatives  
Neighbors In Action  
Newark Community Solutions

Parent Support Program  
Peacemaking Program  
Project Reset  
Queens Youth Justice Center  
Red Hook Community Justice Center  
RISE  
Save Our Streets (S.O.S.)  
Staten Island Justice Center  
Strong Starts Court Initiative  
Supervised Release  
UPNEXT  
Westchester Court Education Initiative  
Youth Impact  
Youth Justice Board

## National Initiatives

Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research  
Community Court Grant Program  
Domestic Violence Mentor Courts  
Judicial Engagement Network  
Justice for Families  
MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge  
Mentor Community Courts  
Minority Youth Violence Prevention Initiative  
Price of Justice  
Sixth Amendment Initiative  
Treatment Courts Online  
Tribal Risk-Need-Responsivity Tool Initiative  
Veterans Treatment Court Strategic Planning Initiative

The Center for Court Innovation is a non-profit organization that seeks to create safer and healthier neighborhoods and a more effective, fair, and humane justice system. It accomplishes these goals by designing and implementing operating programs, performing original research, and providing reformers around the world with the tools they need to launch new strategies.

This report offers highlights of our work in 2019.



Photo: Kwesi Johnson

## Reducing Incarceration

As New York prepared for the most significant legislative change to the criminal justice system in more than a generation, we expanded our **supervised release program** to work with the growing number of people referred to pretrial supervision as an alternative to jail. The Center's programming helped pave the way for the New York City Council's historic vote in October to close the Rikers Island jails.

The Center initially launched supervised release at **Brooklyn Justice Initiatives** in 2014. After the program proved successful in reducing the use of bail, New York City made the program available across the city in 2016, with the Center responsible for cases in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Staten Island. We also developed the city's first pretrial supervision program to work with high-risk youth; the Center's model of intensive engagement and supervision enabled vulnerable young people to remain safely in their communities rather than stay in jail pending trial.

Since 2016, our supervised release program has worked with approximately 1,900 people a year. This number is expected to as much as quadruple in 2020, following the implementation of bail reform legislation in Albany. The Center also became the go-to source for data about the legislation's impact. Our analysis, *New York's Bail Reform Law: Major Components and Implications*, was downloaded over 130,000 times and cited frequently in press accounts.

## Working with Children and Families

ONONDAGA COUNTY  
PARENT SUPPORT  
PROGRAM

**48**  
new clients

**\$33,896.47**  
child support payments made

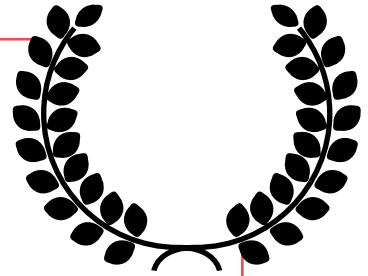
The Center helps children by helping their parents. The **Parent Support Program**, which we started in Onondaga County Family Court in 2008, is an alternative for non-custodial parents facing child support debt. The program links participants with job training and employment and helps them foster positive relationships with their children. The Center expanded the program to Brooklyn in 2011, the Bronx in 2018, and Manhattan in 2019. At the request of the New York State Office of Court Administration, the Center is seeking to bring the program to Queens in 2020. Over the years, the Brooklyn program has collected nearly \$6.4 million in child support payments.

The Center also helps young people by offering tools to deal with trauma, financial support for families, and leadership development opportunities. For example, the **Queens Youth Justice Center** provides case management and a range of youth development programming for young people and their families in Queens. In 2019, the Justice Center launched a new group mentoring program for 13- to 18-year-olds to help them change attitudes and behaviors that lead to violence or criminal activity. Originally created to work exclusively with justice-involved youth, the Justice Center expanded its reach in 2019 to work with young people who are not involved in the justice system.

**3,022**  
people in 34 states  
and territories were  
trained by Center  
experts in topics of  
gender and family  
justice

## Awards

In 2019, the **Red Hook Community Justice Center** received the Spark Prize from the Brooklyn Community Foundation, which celebrates innovative social justice nonprofits in Brooklyn. The book *Start Here: A Road Map to Reducing Mass Incarceration* by Greg Berman and Julian Adler and our film *From Defendant to Survivor: How Courts are Responding to Human Trafficking* were both finalists for the 2019 Media for a Just Society Awards, which recognize media that furthers public understanding of social justice issues.



The **Youth Justice Board** is a leadership training program that educates New York City teenagers on public policy issues that directly affect them. During the 2018-19 school year, board members researched the impact of digital surveillance on teens. Through interviews, site visits, and focus groups, the Board developed recommendations for preventing the criminalization of youth for their actions on social media. During 2019-20, the Board is working in partnership with other youth programs and community-based organizations to implement their recommendations.

Our **Strong Starts Court Initiative** promotes a collaborative approach in Family Court to better address the needs of families. Infants and parents receive customized service plans and access to a network of community-based service providers. In 2019, the Strong Starts team worked with 92 children and 170 adult caregivers from 79 families.

Through **Bronx Child Trauma Support**, the Center provides mental health assessment and treatment immediately following a child's experience of violent crime. In 2019, the program worked with 43 young people between the ages of six and 15.

## Improving Mental Health

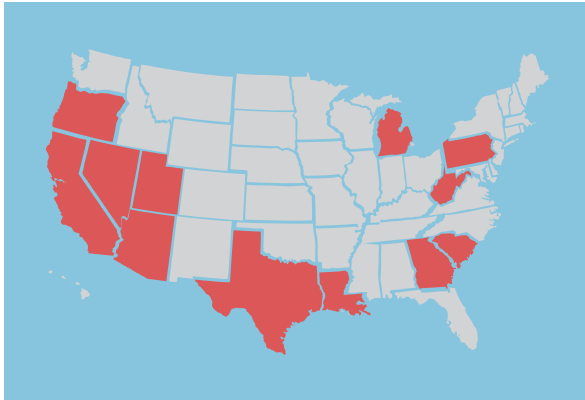
The Center is committed to improving outcomes for justice-involved individuals with mental health disorders. In 2019, we co-hosted a ceremony at the **Brooklyn Mental Health Court** to honor the court's 1,000<sup>th</sup> graduate. With the support of the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, the court expanded in 2019 to reach those diagnosed with neurodevelopmental disorders, including autism spectrum disorders. An independent evaluation by the Urban Institute found that participants in the Brooklyn Mental Health Court were 46 percent less likely to recidivate than defendants whose cases received conventional adjudication.



*A program graduate performs at the Brooklyn Mental Health Court's celebration of its 1,000<sup>th</sup> graduate.*

## Promoting Fairness

Our Price of Justice initiative works with 12 jurisdictions across the United States to help reduce their reliance on criminal justice fines and fees.



We work across the country to promote new thinking and greater fairness within the justice system. Our Sixth Amendment Initiative works to make sure state and local governments uphold constitutional rights for people accused of crimes like the right to a speedy trial and to have the assistance of a lawyer. This year we helped jurisdictions in 12 different states rethink their approach to public defense.

Our tribal justice team created a toolkit (in collaboration with the American Probation and Parole Association) to help tribal justice systems enhance reentry programs. We released a na-

tional survey of data management technologies as a first step toward identifying gaps and developing new tools to better support tribal justice systems. The Center also worked with tribal justice partners to develop a risk-need-responsivity screening tool for tribal populations.

The Center hosted three forums at the 2019 National Public Safety Partnership Symposium in Memphis, Tennessee, where law enforcement agencies from across the nation weighed in on the difficulties of building trust in the aftermath of a homicide. The Center also provided training in procedural justice practices to over 25 detectives and prosecutors in the Essex County (N.J.) Prosecutor's Office and over 40 community supervision officers at the Department of Community Supervision in Georgia.

## Responding to the Opioid Crisis

The Center responded to the opioid crisis by developing *The 10 Essential Elements of Opioid Intervention Courts* and *Court Responses to the Opioid Epidemic*, two guides for frontline justice system practitioners. The Center also helped expand and improve opioid courts around New York State, including the Overdose Avoidance and Recovery courts in the Bronx and Manhattan. Under a U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance initiative, the Center also worked with five states to develop statewide strategic plans for the development of veterans' treatment courts.

**Newark Community Solutions** helped strengthen the capacity of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office in New Jersey to respond to the opioid crisis. In partnership with Rutgers University, we helped develop Newark HOPE, which will flag those arrested for low-level offenses who have substance use issues and divert them into treatment, with the primary goals of promoting safety while preventing overdose deaths. Those who successfully participate will avoid the court process and a criminal conviction.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Jethro Antoine

Deputy Director, Criminal Justice Programs

- My job has given me the opportunity to work with very talented and fundamentally kind people in the communities I love.
- The best advice I would give to anyone facing a challenge would be to seek advice and be willing to collaborate. There are very few circumstances where the opinions and efforts of others wouldn't improve your chances of success. Take a moment and ask questions.
- The most surprising thing I've learned on the job is that I've learned more from the people I've been tasked to "help" than I would've thought.
- I'm motivated by the idea that people and communities represent unrealized potential. Our work, and that of our partners, hopefully, helps us meet that potential.
- Advice I'd give my younger self: take more photographs and record your grandmothers' voices.



*The Midtown Community Court helped organize a dance workshop led by the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater as part of the Court's Arts and Wellness Community Summit.*

# Media

**Our staff and programs were featured in dozens of media outlets in 2019. Here is a sampling:**

## “Jail or Bail? There’s a New Option”

*The New York Times*, February 1, 2019

Eric Simmons, a social worker at Bronx Community Solutions, discussed how a client who had been addicted to heroin for decades had long been stymied in entering a drug-treatment program because he’d lost his only means of identification. Thanks to Bronx Community Solutions, his ID was replaced so the recovery process could begin. “He’s reconnected with his daughters, who had lost touch with him,” Simmons said.

## “Jury of their peers: Youth Court aims to keep students out of criminal justice system”

*NBC Nightly News*, April 13, 2019

Omar Perkins served as a judge at Newark Youth Court where he had once been a defendant. A year later, he was on his way to college. “[Youth Court] helped me do a complete 360,” he said.

## “Shutter Island: Lessons from the Campaign to Close Rikers”

*New York Daily News*, October 18, 2019

Greg Berman, on the closing of the Rikers Island jail complex: “The campaign is a rare coming-together of multiple actors, both outside agitators and inside operators that, together, generated the momentum needed to overcome inertia, apathy, and opposition.”

## “Project Reset Diverts Low-Level Offenders from Court with Art Workshops in New York City”

*Colossal*, November 7, 2019

Adam Mansky explains why Project Reset is effective: “We allow people to use arts to reflect on their behavior and the injustices of the system. It can be a constructive experience for people.”

## “The Faulty Technology Behind Ankle Monitors”

*Vox*, December 1, 2019

According to Shubha Bala, “some people see electronic monitoring as this magical way of knowing where someone is all the time. And that’s not what it is.”

## In the following pages we highlight our work in four important areas:

- increasing access to justice for those facing eviction and other challenges;
- empowering neighborhoods to address violence and disinvestment through placemaking and entrepreneurship;
- exploring new ways of using art to produce positive change for individuals and communities; and
- testing the use of restorative justice to heal rather than punish in diverse settings.





## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

*A tenant visits the Housing Resource Center at the Red Hook Community Justice Center.*

The Center for Court Innovation helps people solve problems before they reach the justice system and seeks to ensure that everyone has access to legal remedies when necessary. Our work includes training community volunteers to offer free access to legal information through **Legal Hand**, providing support to public-housing residents dealing with repairs and rent-related issues, rendering the justice system more transparent and responsive, improving the cultural responsiveness of courts to domestic violence, and assisting parents with child support cases.

Public housing residents in New York City face a unique situation: they do not have the same legal protections as their counterparts in the private rental market. The **Housing Resource Center** in Red Hook and the **HELP Center** in Harlem work to prevent evictions and maintain safe, healthy, and affordable housing. Our housing programs help with repair and rent payment issues and the often confusing process of annual lease recertification. In Red Hook, the Housing Resource Center assisted 786 households in completing recertification in 2019.

The Center's housing programs also serve as a bridge between residents, community organizations, and government. In 2019, we started a new partnership with Harlem Housing Court and the New York City Housing Authority to help residents resolve repair issues. The HELP Center also collaborated with Midtown Community Court to offer a Housing Rights Workshop for NYCHA residents, providing them with information about their rights and legal protections as tenants.

**3,000**

New Yorkers received help at our housing centers

*When you come in here, we focus on making sure that you leave knowing your rights so that you can advocate for yourself.* — Marium Sultan,  
Legal Hand volunteer in Queens

Legal Hand assisted with more than 19,000 legal issues for community members throughout New York City in 2019 and trained more than 120 new community volunteers. The Assigned Counsel Defendant Services Program has served 145 clients since its inception in August 2018. The program connects clients with safe and affordable housing, mental health and substance abuse services, and job training while providing support in court and at treatment appointments.

The Red Hook Community Justice Center was named a finalist in the World Justice Challenge, an international competition that recognizes programs around the world that promote access to justice and advance the rule of law.



*A staff member helps a visitor at the Legal Hand office in Jamaica, Queens.*

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

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### **Marissa Williams**

Housing Resource Specialist  
Red Hook Community Justice Center

- My favorite things about working at the Justice Center are working with a group of amazing people, and that I am able to give back to the community I grew up in and see the change and impact that our work can have.
- My advice to someone facing a challenge is to never give up and to never be afraid to ask for help. Always give it your all and follow your dreams.
- The most surprising thing I've learned on the job is that the people I work with have the biggest hearts. They really care about the clients that come into the building.
- What motivates me to do this work are my kids and my family. I want to provide a better life for them.





## PLACEMAKING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*Neighborhood Safety Initiatives staff, along with Green City Force, host a beautification day at the Butler Houses in the Bronx.*

The Center is helping to reimagine public spaces and engage residents in an effort to promote neighborhood safety. Our placemaking programs are collaborative, based on community needs and input from residents. **Neighborhood Safety Initiatives** engages residents in community organizing and local problem-solving efforts. Based on input from the Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, the initiative works in 15 public housing developments in New York City that are disproportionately impacted by violent crime. This year, staff worked with residents to develop a range of placemaking projects including outdoor kiosks, murals, gardens, and renovations of basketball courts and greenspaces. All told, \$550,000 was invested in resident-driven projects. In 2019, the initiative held 500 workshops, trainings, and community events reaching over 11,000 public housing residents.

*Brownsville alum Kwesi Johnson explains the concept behind his clothing brand, which he operates out of the Hub space (right).*

The Center’s work is not just about physically reinvigorating public space, it’s also about economically reimagining neighborhoods. The **Brownsville Community Justice Center** has invested heavily in placemaking work and entrepreneurship training on Belmont Avenue. A key component of our work in Brownsville



# 3,400

community members engaged with the Brownsville Community Justice Center through block parties, pop-up markets, and a music and arts festival

is the Hub, a shared work and learning space that provides resources and support for neighborhood youth to test out their business ideas. The Hub offers training,

access to materials, and a space to connect. In 2019, the Hub helped launch three businesses. The Justice Center also launched a lighting installation that improves street safety with pedestrian-activated LED streetlamps and 3D-art installations. The goal of these projects is to increase safety, revitalize neglected space, and energize economic growth.

Reaching young people before they become involved in the justice system and providing them pathways to greater economic mobility is another core component of our work. This summer, our justice centers in Queens, Harlem, Staten Island, and Red Hook provided more than 70 young people with entrepreneurship and employment training, including a partnership with Progress Playbook to create a clothing brand, and a project exploring food deserts that culminated in youth distributing herb and vegetable plants to over 100 community members.



Resident leaders of the Upstate Peacemaking Program's Community Impact Team raised funds to create new neighborhood signs, like this one. Over 200 residents had input into the design and placement of the signs.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Jose Wellington Torres

Associate Director  
Neighborhood Safety Initiatives

- My favorite things about my job are the amazing team we've built to do this work and the opportunity to work in the communities I call home with such vibrant people.
- The advice I would give to someone facing a challenge is, any difficulty life throws in our direction is a lesson we needed to learn, one to help us strive for our better selves.
- The most surprising thing I've learned on the job is the politics behind gardening—Tammany Hall would be proud!
- I'm motivated by my children and the drive to live up to the greatest responsibility we can have as individuals: being a good parent.





## ARTS

Teaching artist Craig Blue facilitates a discussion with Project Reset participants at the Brooklyn Museum.

Newark Community Solutions staff stand with their mobile art cart (right).

We believe the arts can help build stronger, safer communities and serve as a bridge to employment, education, and therapeutic opportunities for individuals. We partner with artists, arts institutions, and community-based arts organizations to achieve these goals.

The Center established an Arts Strategies Department in 2019 to coordinate and expand our work in the arts, which includes engaging clients and community members in photography, theater, spoken word, music production, mural creation, songwriting, graphic design, and video game design. The Center’s arts strategy seeks to help people express themselves, learn new skills, and consider different viewpoints.

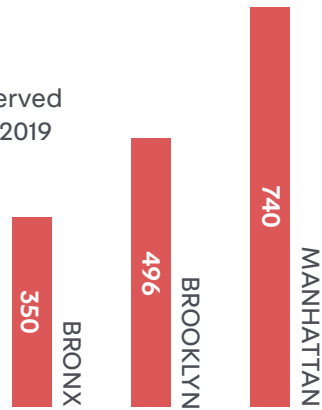
**Project Reset** embodies this philosophy. In 2019, we dramatically expanded this diversion program for people arrested for minor crimes. Participants avoid court and a criminal record by completing community-based arts programming that holds them accountable for their actions while promoting healing and self-reflection. Initially available in Manhattan and the Bronx, Project Reset expanded to all of Brooklyn in 2019. With support from the New York City Council, Mayor’s Office, and private funders, we also began work on an expansion to Staten Island and Queens. Project Reset works with the New Museum and the Brooklyn Museum, where teaching artists use the museums’





# 1,586

participants were served by Project Reset in 2019



City Council Speaker Corey Johnson and Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez participate in a press conference about Project Reset at the Brooklyn Museum.

collections to engage participants in group discussion and the creation of personal pieces. At a press conference in October announcing the partnership with the Brooklyn Museum, Speaker of the New York City Council Corey Johnson boiled the approach down to its essence: “Art instead of jail; culture instead of prosecution.”

The Center’s investment in the arts was reflected in a wide range of other activities. Clients, working with our staff and community-based groups, painted murals in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. Youth from the Tompkins Houses in Brooklyn worked with **Neighborhood Safety Initiatives** to create an anti-violence album. **Neighbors in Action** partnered with the **Youth Justice Board** to launch the Center’s first initiative for LGBTQ youth with an open mic event. **Brooklyn Justice Initiatives** linked 220 participants to Young New Yorkers, which offers sessions in arts-based diversion for young people. With a grant from the Newark Arts Council, **Newark Community Solutions** created a mobile “art cart” that travelled to locations throughout the South Ward. Community members were encouraged to reflect on their neighborhood by creating written and visual responses to the question, “If I had a million dollars to invest in the city of Newark, I would...” At the **Staten Island Justice Center**, a Hine Fellow from the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University worked with youth to produce radio documentaries focused on community safety.

Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the Just Arts photography program at the **Red Hook Community Justice Center** hosted 11 teenagers for a summer photography course that culminated in an exhibit at Red Hook Labs. Participants in the Men’s Empowerment Program at the **Harlem Community Justice Center** engaged in a three-month internship focused on photography, printmaking, and videography. Participants created projects that were displayed at the East Harlem Neighborhood Action Center.

In 2020, we plan to expand our arts-related work through a community-led arts initiative in Red Hook and a public exhibition highlighting the art created by Project Reset participants at the Brooklyn Museum.



Participants in the Red Hook Community Justice Center’s Just Arts youth exhibition pose in front of their photos.



"Skyline Looking from Shaolin"  
Original artwork by Anthony Ancona

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**Anthony Ancona**  
Specialist, Intake and Compliance  
Staten Island Justice Center

- My favorite thing about my job is working within the community and connecting with people.
- The advice I would give to someone facing a challenge is to remember that setbacks are just a learning experience. Every setback is a setup for a comeback.
- The advice I would give my younger self is that if you live through defeat, you're not defeated. If you are beaten but acquire wisdom, you have won. You have to lose yourself to improve yourself. Only when we shed self-definition do we learn who we are.

## "WHAT'S UPNEXT?" by Javon Lomax

A poem about UPNEXT, a workforce development and fatherhood engagement initiative. Lomax is a program associate at the Midtown Community Court

*Fathers.....watch your steps, for your sons and daughters, watch them close  
I believe the sky tears when a father steps, for the children who were so close, yet so farther from a father  
Makes one wonder why Father and Farther are so close  
Hard to see the difference until you notice the r there,  
Hard to see the distance until you notice you are there,  
I'd like to take a second now to snap for the fathers who are there. (Poetic Finger Snaps)  
Whether you were heard in the hallways, or spoke more softly,  
Whether you reminded staff daily, when you needed some coffee,  
Know that you were heard  
and as you move on, and we keep your words,  
Know there's a child yearning to keep your words, so keep your words,  
Know that this is deserved, which means rightfully earned,  
And know that it isn't money but fathers that make this world rightfully turn  
That T4C isn't just thinking for a change, but thinking for... a Change,  
And if we must become the change that we envision, that means being the father that we weren't exactly given  
But I've seen the future, so don't stress  
From looking at all of you fathers, it's never been so clear what's UPNEXT*



## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative justice plays a key role in a variety of our programs, including **Project Reset**, our **Peacemaking Programs** in Brooklyn and Syracuse, N.Y., and our Brooklyn-based **Restorative Justice in Schools** program.

Our report, *School Discipline, Safety, and Climate: A Comprehensive Study in New York City*, in which we examined more than 800 New York City public schools, found that schools that used positive approaches, like restorative justice, improved outcomes for students. Our restorative justice coordinators worked with high school students in several South Brooklyn schools, applying restorative practices to low-level infractions. Suspensions were reduced by more than half in these schools. In 2019, we changed the name of our Youth Courts to **Youth Impact** as the program moves toward greater use of restorative justice practices. Our Youth Impact programs in Harlem, Newark, Red Hook, and the Bronx train young people to serve as mediators, applying restorative interventions to their peers charged with low-level offenses. Participants also gain skills in communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and conflict resolution.

The Near Westside and Red Hook Peacemaking programs train local volunteers in restorative justice principles and techniques, allowing community members to respond to conflict and wrongdoing by forging outcomes that are collectively determined by all participants. The Near Westside Peacemaking program also works to foster stronger relationships with local Onondaga Nation members, honoring the traditions from which

*Some of our youth programs offer peer-led restorative justice circles to resolve conflict and support healing.*

**1,000**  
restorative circles  
were held in five  
schools since 2017

School safety officers play with students at the Restorative Justice in Schools Fall Carnival at Brooklyn's Tilden High School.



our peacemaking programs draw. Applying similar principles, our **UPNEXT** program holds restorative circles with fathers, allowing them to explore and reflect on notions of fatherhood while building supportive networks that extend beyond the classroom. **RISE** (Reimagining Intimacy through Social Engagement) is a new initiative that seeks to combat gun violence and intimate partner violence. In 2019, RISE engaged over 5,000 New Yorkers in trainings, workshops, and community healing events. Our Driver Accountability Program builds on our restorative justice work,

providing an alternative to fines and fees for those who have committed criminal driving offenses. Thanks to funding from the New York City Council, the program will soon be offered in the Bronx and Manhattan, in addition to its current locations in Brooklyn and Staten Island, allowing us to reach at least 2,500 people annually.

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

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### Rachel Gregory

Manager, Restorative Justice  
Bronx Community Solutions

- My favorite thing about my job is giving participants, community volunteers, and stakeholders the opportunity to experience a circle, for them to feel permission to share their stories and be heard, and when members from different walks of life can find moments of connection, supporting each other in healing from difficult challenges.
- Advice I would give to someone facing a challenge is that we all possess our own internal wisdom. Sometimes looking back on our past experiences and moments of strength and resilience can guide us, so can listening to the stories of how others have overcome adversity.
- The most surprising thing I've learned on the job: When I facilitated a circle for defense attorneys, prosecutors, and police officers. Each person shared a challenging personal crisis they had overcome and through this they were able to recognize their shared experiences and break down the judgements they had held of each other. They may approach their work differently, but the circle revealed their shared human struggles and beliefs.
- I am motivated by a desire to end cycles of interpersonal and systemic violence and harm to communities. I have witnessed the destruction caused by cycles of violence, and I want to create opportunities where people can experience healing and reconnection in place of punishment and isolation.



## SAVE OUR STREETS

# 630

days without a homicide in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn served by Save Our Streets



Judge Alex Calabrese welcomes Red Hook's inaugural Youth Impact cohort.

## Looking Forward

At the end of 2019, the Center announced that our director, Greg Berman, was stepping down. Berman was part of the founding team that created the Center in 1996. He became executive director in 2002. In February of 2020, former New York Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, who headed the committee searching for Berman's replacement, announced that Courtney Bryan, executive director and head of the East Region for Global Philanthropy at JP Morgan Chase and the former director of the Midtown Community Court, had been selected to replace him.



Courtney Bryan  
(Photo: Samiha Amin Meah)

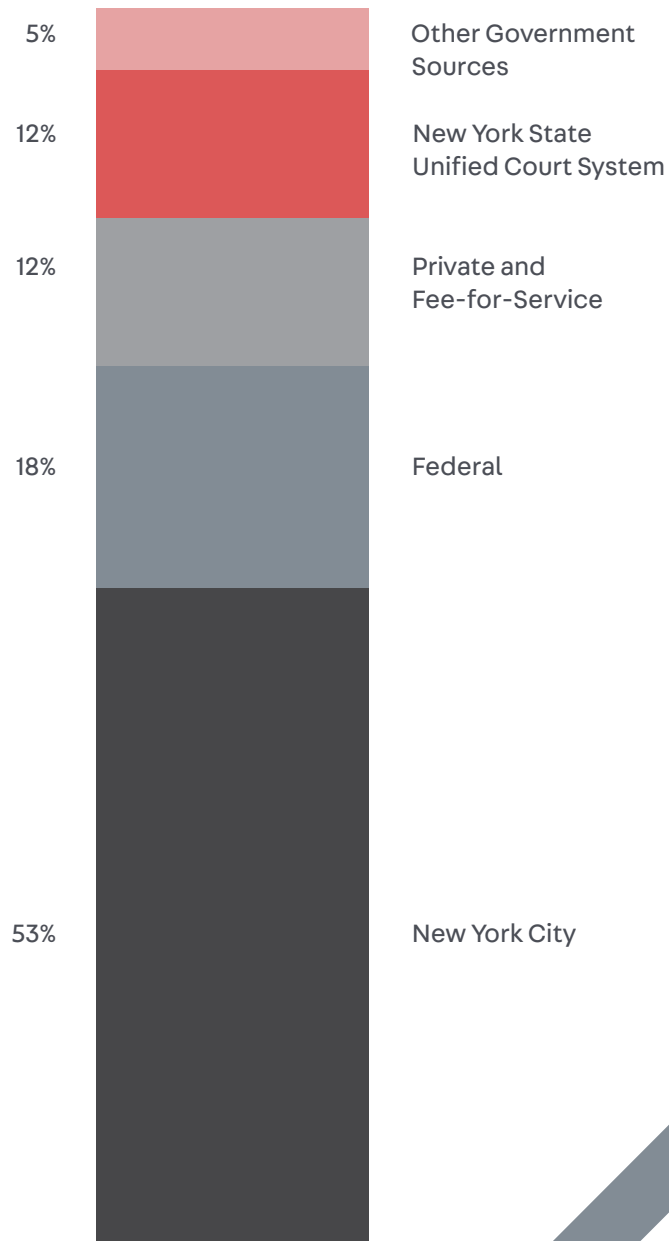
# Finances

October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019

## Statement of Expenditures

Programs	Expenditures	Technical Assistance	Expenditures
Access to Justice Programs	1,748,000	Community Justice	2,032,000
Bronx Child Trauma Support	145,000	Gender and Family Justice	3,273,000
Bronx Community Solutions	6,031,000	Fair & Just Prosecution	879,000
Brooklyn Justice Initiatives	6,378,000	Jail Reduction	270,000
Brooklyn Mental Health Court	469,000	Procedural Justice	350,000
Brownsville Community Justice Center	2,733,000	Research-Practice Strategies	3,658,000
Civil Alternatives	510,000	Treatment Courts	1,789,000
Harlem Community Justice Center	1,142,000	Tribal Justice	358,000
Manhattan Justice Opportunities	225,000	Youth Justice Programs	265,000
Midtown Community Court	2,249,000	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,874,000</b>
Nassau County Youth Court	101,000		
Neighborhood Safety Initiatives	3,233,000	<b>Research</b>	
Neighbors In Action	3,381,000	Community Justice	150,000
Newark Community Solutions	1,310,000	Gender & Family Justice	214,000
Parent Support Programs	491,000	Treatment Courts	40,000
Project Reset	2,080,000	Tribal Justice	31,000
Queens Trafficking - Hidden Victims Program	109,000	Violence Prevention	346,000
Queens Youth Justice Center	908,000	Youth Justice	40,000
Red Hook Community Justice Center	2,341,000	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>821,000</b>
RISE Project	809,000		
South Bronx Save Our Streets	2,152,000	<b>Administration</b>	
Staten Island Justice Center	1,937,000	Includes Administration, Technology, Planning and Oversight	2,458,000
Strong Starts Court Initiative	661,000		
Syracuse Programs	1,025,000	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,458,000</b>
Westchester Court Education Initiative	122,000		
Youth Justice Board	248,000		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>42,538,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53,978,000</b>

## Sources of Funding





Center  
for  
Court  
Innovation

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