



2012 ~ 13

Transforming the Community

More than 1,200 people served / \$114,681.89 in restitution assessed
/ 2,500 subscribers to e-mail alerts / 50 judges trained / voting
rights bill for ex-felons passed / Nearly 400 students served /
Social media reached 920 people / More than 250 people attended
public education events / 100 inmates and 200 probationers served
/ 166 cases mediated / more than 60 professionals trained

Delaware Center for Justice
Annual Report 2012-2013





Joanna & Ashley (L-R)

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a year of momentous change and transformation — both for DCJ and for the clients we serve. DCJ's executive director of nearly 20 years, **Janet Leban**, retired after an illustrious career in service to some of our state's most marginalized people. Janet's passion for improving the delivery of justice in Delaware, and for implementing programs that could facilitate fresh starts for victims of crime, youth at risk, and adults in the prison system was second to none.

Shortly after I transitioned into my new role as executive director, we hired **Ashley Biden** as our new associate executive director. Together, Ashley and I have carved out a vision for continuing the legacy of justice programming that has been the bedrock of DCJ's success over the last 20 years. We have also mapped out some exciting new strategies for the agency so we can meet the unique needs of today's justice-involved population. We look forward to working with the superb staff of DCJ, as well as our Board of Directors, volunteers, clients, community partners, and donors to continue DCJ's legacy of making a difference.



I am pleased to report that our programs served **more than 1,200 justice-involved people this year!** We've helped victims and people who've been involved in the court or prison systems to get back on their feet, make a fresh start, find hope, and meet the challenges that lie ahead. Through our continuing focus on using motivational interviewing and client-centered approaches, we are helping our clients to achieve meaningful progress and change toward a safe, productive lifestyle. I hope you enjoy reading about our work — and that you'll consider supporting our work by becoming our friend on Facebook, volunteering in one of our programs, attending one of our public education forums, or making a tax-deductible donation.

Thank you for partnering with us to advocate for a justice system that works and for interventions that turn lives around. By doing so, you help us to restore families to a state of wholeness that all people desire and deserve — and **you are helping us to make the community of Delaware a better place to live for everyone.**

What a privilege it is to do this work.

In service,

Joanna Champney

Transformation and sharing our story.

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Advocacy *That Transforms the Community*

Stand Up for What is Right and Just

(SURJ) merged with DCJ in February 2012 and had an exciting year at its new home. SURJ has continued to accomplish its mission to pursue criminal justice reform by raising public awareness about pertinent criminal justice issues, educating legislators and policymakers, lobbying for relevant legislative reform, collaborating with other community-based organizations, and disseminating research and position papers. The new “SURJ at DCJ” Program combines SURJ’s strengths as a policy reform/advocacy organization with DCJ’s strengths as primarily a social service organization working with justice-involved individuals. SURJ is currently funded by the Public Welfare Foundation, which supports efforts to ensure the fundamental rights and opportunities for people in need.



During the 2012-2013 calendar year, SURJ advocated on a wide range of issues including voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals, repeal of the death penalty, age-appropriate sentencing policies for youth, and the increased use of community-based alternatives for non-violent offenders through the following activities:

Public Education

- *Over 100 judicial stakeholders attended the 12th annual Visions of Justice Forum, which focused on strategies to promote community safety in bail and pre-trial release. Of the attendees surveyed, 100% reported an increased understanding of risk assessment, and several cited the desire to increase the state’s capacity to safely supervise defendants in the community rather than in jail*
- *Approximately 50 judges participated in a special training session focused on how to improve bail decisions*
- *Numerous emails sent to over 2,000 subscribers to provide updates on justice legislation and public education opportunities*
- *Conducted site visits to Washington, D.C. and New York City to observe innovative, research-based programs in order to introduce cutting edge criminal justice practices and programs to Delaware*

Legislative Advocacy

- *Fostered relationships with new and returning legislators through regular policy meetings*
- *Conducted letter writing campaigns regarding more than half a dozen bills in the 147th General Assembly*
- *Successfully advocated for the passage of House Bill 10, the bill that lifted the existing five year waiting period before eligible ex-felons who have fully discharged their sentences may have their voting rights restored*
- *Provided legislative testimony on more than 6 crucial pieces of public safety and criminal justice legislation*



Community Engagement

- *Increased social media presence via Twitter and Facebook by recruiting more than 70 new followers; popular posts reached as many as 920 individuals*
- *Launched Community Advisory Committee to discuss ways to build community capacity for programs that will serve as alternatives to incarceration, particularly for pre-trial defendants*
- *Developed advocacy curriculum for justice-involved women to enable them to become effective self advocates in the areas of health and healing for at-risk women and their families*

Youth Services *That Transform the Community*

Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative

Through the **Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative** (DYOI), DCJ is working toward ensuring successful transitions for youth aging out of Delaware's foster care system. Without continuing support into adulthood, this population is at high risk for becoming engaged in the justice system and other challenges such as homelessness

and unemployment. In its third year, with financial support from the Longwood and Welfare Foundations and technical assistance from the **Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative**, DYOI leveraged community support to generate legislation to implement new child welfare policies and practices that will support a comprehensive array of developmentally appropriate independent-living services up to age 21. This legislation, entitled **Ready by 21**, will be introduced in 2013 in the Delaware House of Representatives.



Ready by 21 has become a model for expanded services for foster youth. As the lead on this effort, DYOI has received national recognition for including youth and young adults who have experienced care in crafting the program and the legislation. DYOI continues to work with members of the Community Partnership Board and its working groups, in partnership with the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families, to establish programs such as a customer service training, life skills courses, and an education mentorship program, to improve outcomes for current and former foster youth.

“The best part of DYOI is the youth engagement piece. We develop, in partnership with Delaware’s Youth Advisory Council (YAC), a policy agenda for DYOI to work on. The leaders of YAC are then trained to become better advocates on the specific issues they identified in the policy agenda. Young advocates are at the table and involved in the conversation. This type of collaboration is exciting and meaningful for everyone involved.” – Julie Miller, Program Coordinator

Delaware Girls Initiative

The **Delaware Girls Initiative** has continued its focus on working with community partners and agencies in the effort to create a gender-responsive continuum of services for girls in Delaware who are at-risk or already involved in the juvenile justice system, and to continue to raise statewide awareness of girls' issues. Nationally, girls make up the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice system. As a group they continue to be disproportionately "high need" and "high risk." We have strengthened our advocacy efforts towards bringing **Juvenile Civil Citation to Delaware**. Juvenile Civil Citation will offer early intervention, counseling, education, and other appropriate community resources with limited court and law enforcement contact, while still holding youth accountable for their actions.

"Many girls in the system have experienced traumatic events that have deeply wounded them emotionally and physically. I am proud to say that DGI is an advocate for the girls in this state and will continue to play a significant role in advocating for their needs." – Donna M. Pugh, Esquire, Coordinator

The Juvenile Restitution Determination Program

Program staff assist victims of crime committed by individuals under 18 by writing and filing court orders of restitution on behalf of victims. Court orders of restitution ensure that juvenile offenders are legally obligated to make amends and to pay back their victims for their financial losses. Through the actions of this program, in 2012, juvenile defendants were legally obligated to repay \$114,681.89 in restitution to 201 Family Court victims.



School Offense Diversion Program

Ensuring middle and high school students that their first involvement with the criminal justice system can indeed be their last – the goal of DCJ's **School Offense Diversion Program** – begins with a reflective dialogue that emphasizes personal responsibility. Working with students who are referred by the Delaware Department of Justice, the program takes a highly individualized and holistic approach to help the students take responsibility for their behavior, to address the underlying issues that contributed to the incident, and to make

amends for harm they have caused. Participating students work with program staff to create a plan for mindful growth and academic achievement. Throughout 2012, SoDP worked with 160 students.

“I thought everything SoDP said and talked to me about, I was going to ignore or [that] it was going to go in one ear and out the other, but it has made me change my attitude and my ways.” – From a student, on how SoDP affected them

Juvenile Gun Violence Prevention Program

At a time in our nation where gun violence is receiving much attention, the **Juvenile Gun Violence Prevention Program** continues its efforts to reverse the trend of increased gun violence among youth by helping them understand the impact of gun violence on individuals and communities. First year data indicates that of the 83 students completing the program in the first year, approximately 95% did not receive a gun charge within one year of release from school. This past year, 64 students at the Ferris and Cleveland White Schools completed the program.



To expand the program’s reach, we conducted three train-the-trainer sessions for 34 professionals who can now facilitate the program in their communities, having gained the skills necessary to adapt and implement similar programs through their organizations. Community partners such as Christiana Care, Chester- Crozier Medical Center, The Wilmington Peacekeepers, Department of Correction, Wilmington Police Department, Community Policing, Mothers of Crime Victims, Contact Lifeline, The Brandon Lee Brinkley

Foundation, individuals who were formerly criminally involved, and other concerned community members offer students support and mentorship beyond their time spent in the program.

“Our community presenters have the ability to connect to the students in a remarkable way. Core topics such as the types and impacts of gun violence, conflict resolution, healthy relationships, promoting pro- social values and taking an active stance against gun violence are presented in such ways that are relatable to the students. It provides them the opportunity to see life beyond their current circumstances, giving a much needed sense of hope and allowing students to see life beyond their current circumstances.” – Davi Mozie, Program Coordinator, Truancy Reduction Project

Truancy Reduction Program

The **Truancy Reduction Program** works with high-risk students who are not attending school. The program seeks to increase truant students' engagement in school to decrease dropout rates and future criminality. The program provides students and their families with intensive case management that addresses the causes of truancy. During 2013, the program served 15 Red Clay Consolidated School District students and their families to develop case plans outlining interventions needed and conditions of court bonds. Visiting teachers and/or Truancy Court Judges refer truant students for intensive case management services that include visits to the student's school and home. The case managers work to engage parents and guardians in their child's education, re-engage students in school, and provide necessary referrals to community-based and school-based services. Program outcomes showed that students achieved on average a 50% decrease in unexcused absences as verified by the Red Clay School District.

Victim Sensitivity Program

The **Victim Sensitivity Program** provides opportunities for adjudicated youth at juvenile detention facilities to learn about the impact of their delinquent behavior. The program develops empathy among its participants as they are confronted by the realities of the impact of their crimes on the people whom they were committed against, as well as the families of those victims, the community, and themselves.

Community members who have been victimized are invited to share their stories with the youth. In 2012, 102 students from Ferris School, Grace Cottage, and Snowden Cottage participated. Students are surveyed before and after the program to determine the impact of participation on their thinking. Before taking the course, 56% of the students indicated that they did not view others, community members, or families as being victims. After completion of the program, 95% of the students had broadened their understanding of the impact of crime on the community. All 102 students were able to express in some form how victims are created and the role they had played in victimizing the community.

“Victim Sensitivity is learning about other people and the hurt and pain I caused by not thinking of what would happen. I didn't realize that I also made myself a victim and my family from victimizing others; this is a lifestyle that leads to nowhere.”

– Student participant

Adult Services *That Transform the Community*

Community Reentry Services Program

In calendar year 2012, in its 12th year, the Community Reentry Services Program enrolled 140 new clients who are currently on probation and assisted 200 total probationers with reentering the community after incarceration. CRSP clients are referred to the program by probation officers whose clients are unemployed or underemployed and who need case management services. In addition to job placement/job search assistance, case managers assist probationers with housing placement, transportation, education, job training, treatment needs, clothing and food assistance, and with rebuilding positive family and social ties.



If formerly incarcerated people returning to the community do not have support in navigating the countless barriers they face, the likelihood for re-offending increases.

Of the 200 clients, 57 (29%) were successfully discharged, 102 (50%) remained active and were job searching and/or receiving other services at the end of the calendar year, and 41 (21%) have had unsuccessful discharges (13% due to not completing the program and 8% due to violation of probation). Successful discharge from the CRSP is defined as securing employment, completing all goals of the developed case plan and maintaining stability in the community. There were 1,349 client contacts in 2012 and the average length of stay in the program in 2012 was 128 days. The program worked with 45 clients in Judge Tolliver's Enhanced Supervision Reentry Court. These clients are between the ages 16 and 25 and, based on their high level of risk or need, are earmarked by probation officers for inclusion in this Court program.

“The program has given me more structure and motivated me to explore different avenues to better myself. If it wasn't for the program, I wouldn't have a job right now and honestly I would be locked up. I have never gotten this far in probation and I know I have because of your help.” – Program Client

Dover Prisoner Reentry Initiative

The Dover Prisoner Reentry Program expanded DCJ's case management program into Kent and Sussex Counties to serve men and women returning to Dover, Delaware, from Sussex Correctional Institution. The program has now finished its three year funding term. 46 clients received intensive, wrap-around case management over the course of three years. 100% of enrolled participants received immediate crisis alleviation following release from incarceration through case management services, and 47% received immediate assistance with emergency housing placement through temporary housing placement in Kent/Sussex County. 34% of clients gained employment during active case management enrollment. 23% of clients were referred for mental health/substance abuse treatment. 51% of clients were referred for social service resources (i.e. Medicaid, food stamps, etc.) Four clients violated probation, and only two clients accrued new charges, resulting in a 13% overall program recidivism rate.

“DPRI provided ease of transition from incarceration to community for the participant by offering assistance such as getting a Delaware ID card, a copy of the client’s birth certificate, social service and medical benefits and documents, temporary shelter, social security benefits, assistance with seeking employment, transportation to needed services, DART bus passes, and purchase cards when needed for personal toiletries. The intensive case management services provided to each individual allowed them to focus on productive living and connecting with appropriate support network.” – Lucy Williams, Case Manager

Project for Older Prisoners (POPS)

The POPS Program screens older inmates for early release from prison based on their age, medical condition, and decreased risk of reoffending. In accordance with current national statistics, the average cost to incarcerate an elderly prisoner is \$68,270 per year as opposed to \$34,135 for the average prisoner. The program is a partnership between the Delaware Center for Justice and the University of Delaware. Elderly prisoners who participate must meet strict eligibility criteria. Student volunteers, under the supervision of attorney mentors, interview candidates recommended by the Department of Correction. The students then prepare and file petitions on behalf of qualified inmates to the Institutional Release Classification Board and the Delaware Board of Parole. DCJ works to develop a reentry plan to assist in securing housing, employment and other necessary support for the candidates. Since the inception of the program, four inmates have been released, with several petitions now in process.

Elderly Victims Services Program (EVS)

When Elderly people are abused, neglected, robbed, or attacked, they often find it difficult to work their way through the criminal justice system and to access needed services. DCJ provides specialized assistance to them through case management services which include home visits, transportation to medical appointments, supportive counseling, and court accompaniment. During the 2012 calendar year, 279 elderly victims of violent crimes were referred to DCJ. The clients received more than 1,468 various service contacts, including transportation, court accompaniment, home or office visits, phone calls, referrals, and letters. Staff also gave 26 presentations about the signs of elder abuse to community groups, such as senior centers, places of worship, and civic groups.

“Elderly Victims often experience feelings of guilt for ‘allowing’ themselves to be victimized. It is my job as an advocate to restore confidence within and to help maintain the dignity of the elderly victims I work with.” – Falon Desselle, Program Coordinator

The ADHD Corrections Project

The ADHD Corrections Project continues to serve individuals with undiagnosed and untreated Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) at Howard R. Young Correctional Institute. This year the program screened over 100 incarcerated individuals for ADHD. Over 50% of participants screened positive and were invited to participate in ADHD group coaching sessions. Using cognitive behavioral therapy, the sessions provide a supportive atmosphere for participants to learn and grow by affirming one another’s experiences with ADHD and the criminal justice system and gaining tools for managing their ADHD. Activities include learning how to manage a schedule and calendar, how to communicate with others about having ADHD, how to create a financial budget, time management, and positive self-talk. Broader topics such as how to deal with ADHD in relationships with others and at the workplace are also covered. In November, the ADHD Corrections Project offered its first annual Judicial Roundtable to local judges, attorneys, probation officers, and justice related personnel in effort to increase the understanding of ADHD and its impact on the justice system.

“(The Group Coaching sessions) gave me more confidence... I don’t feel so alone in it. I’m not the only one.” – Group Coaching Participant

Adult Victim-Offender Mediation Program

Mediation services at DCJ provide a voluntary, safe, and confidential alternative to adjudication in court for victims and defendants. Participants are able to work out their conflicts without having to go to trial, and both parties have an opportunity to share the impact of the incident, to create an agreement for how the situation can be resolved and for how amends can be made. In 2012, we successfully mediated 166 cases that resulted in signed agreements between parties.

“I think mediation can be particularly powerful for criminal cases where the parties have a relationship - friends, family members, neighbors, work associates. In these cases, mediation can help resolve the core problems that may actually be at the heart of the legal issue, that may have been going on for a while, far more effectively than the legal system can.” – Jim Salt, volunteer mediator

Project Reach

Project Reach facilitates visits between incarcerated mothers and their children so that mothers can practice their parenting skills and children can build positive relationships with their mothers. Prior to participating in supervised visits with their children, mothers complete parenting classes. In preparation for visits with their child(ren), mothers work together with our program coordinator to develop short- and long-term goals for their visits, receive coaching from the program coordinator during the visit to practice the relevant parenting skills, and debrief with the program coordinator after the visit to discuss the interactions they had with their child(ren).

“It was important for me to maintain the connection with my children; before this incident I was very prevalent in their lives and it was also very important that it stayed that way! I needed to be able to assist in their development... building and improving their behavior, working on social skills and addressing any day to day matters.” – Participating mother

Read In- Read Out Program

The Read In, Read Out Program provides incarcerated mothers and fathers an opportunity to read books to their children on tape. A copy of the book is then sent to the children, along with the audio tape and a tape recorder. The program strengthens family bonds, improves literacy skills, and encourages the children of incarcerated parents to read. This service is provided in cooperation with Read Aloud Delaware. In calendar year 2012, 110 reading sessions took place and volunteers contributed more than 70 hours.

Contributors *That Transform the Community*

Donations Received During Calendar Year 2012

Golden Circle

\$1,000 or more

Janet Kramer
Gregory W. Ladner
Carl & Doris Schnee
William Sudell, Jr, Esq.
Ginger Ward
Morris and Morris LLC

Benefactors

\$500 - \$999

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ANONYMOUS

Financial Statement

Revenue

United Way Of Delaware	\$122,519.47
United Way Designations	\$125.03
Fundraiser, Contribution & Investment Income	\$45,310.23
Fees And Grants From Government	\$745,754.04
Misc Income	\$74.00
Total Revenue	\$1,315,782.77

Expenses

Employee Salaries, Benefits & Payroll Taxes	\$905,599.54
Insurance - Business	\$8,016.39
Occupancy - Expenses	\$45,917.51
Program Expenses	\$125,006.69
Other Expenses	\$17,217.70
Outside Contractors	\$140,993.65
Postage, Printing, Shipping & Telephone	\$23,730.46
Rental And Maintenance Of Equipment	\$13,821.83
Supplies	\$12,884.40
Travel, Conference Cost & Professional Dues	\$18,785.36
Total Expenses	\$1,311,973.53

The following foundations/funders supported DCJ in 2-12-2013:

Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA), Chichester DuPont Foundation, Delaware Community Foundation, Delaware Criminal Justice Council, Eckerd Family Foundation, Jim Casey Foundation, Laffey McHugh Foundation, Longwood Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, Robin Foundation, State of Delaware, United Way of Delaware

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Ashley Biden, Associate Executive Director
Rachael Heim, Development
And Administrative Coordinator
Ron Spinks - Finance Director
Rosemary Carey-Comptroller

ADHD Corrections Project

Caitlyn Jackson, Project Coordinator

Delaware Girls Initiative

Donna Pugh, Program Coordinator

Delaware Youth Opportunities Initiative

Julie Miller, Program Coordinator
Amanda Brennan, Youth Adviser

Elderly Crime Victims Services

Falon Desselle, Program Coordinator

Juvenile Gun Violence Prevention Program

Davi Mozie, Program Coordinator
Amir Lyle, Program Partner

Project Reach

Nikita Robins-Thompson, Parenting Specialist

Community Reentry Services Program

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Jessica Alicea, Case Manager
Suzanne Kirk, Case Manager

SURJ

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Mark Brunswick, Advocacy Associate

Project For Older Prisoners (POPS)

Regina Gray, Program Coordinator

Victim Restoration /Mediation Program

Karin McManus, Case Manager

School Offense Diversion Program

Cindy McDaniel, Program Coordinator

Victim Sensitivity Program

Angie Walker, Program Coordinator

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With Special Thanks to...

