

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES

SYRACUSE, NY · NEW YORK, NY · BROOKLYN, NY

2006-07 Annual Report

Dear Friends of CCA:

With great appreciation for your support of CCA, we are pleased to publish this report about our recent accomplishments. CCA is now entering our 26th year of working to reduce reliance on incarceration in New York State and throughout the U.S. We conduct vigorous public advocacy and policy analysis to educate decision-makers and the public about approaches to combating crime that make more sense and are more effective than prison. We also deliver model programs in Syracuse and New York City that provide healthy, community-based alternatives to incarceration and other services to 2,000 adults and youth annually. In recent years, we have been gratified by attention to the injustices and irrationality of our prison system and by the growing movement for criminal justice reform. While awareness increases, however, the number of people incarcerated in the U.S. continues to rise. Our state and our nation continue to overinvest in law enforcement as a response to social problems, while spending pitifully little to address the root causes of crime.

In 2006–2007, CCA continued its work on **POLICY** and **PRACTICE**, described in more detail below.

*Michael P. Freedman, Ph.D.
President, Board of Directors*



*Marsha Weissman,
Executive Director*



Policy

New York State Legislature Adopts “Reintegration” as Sentencing Goal

In 2006, together with colleague organizations, we achieved a victory in the New York State legislature, with the adoption of an amendment to the penal code that adds “reentry and reintegration” as a goal of sentencing.

The incorporation of “reintegration” opens the door to thinking about reentry as a process that begins at arrest and sentencing, and not just after someone serves a prison sentence. Currently, reentry and reintegration are difficult for people with criminal records, because of stigma and discrimination in housing, higher education, employment, and many other aspects of normal life. The odds against successful

reentry and reintegration are especially great for persons of color, and have come to constitute a kind of de facto segregation, with a conviction serving as a proxy for racial discrimination. CCA is continuing to work with colleague organizations to implement the new law so that it can transform sentencing practices in New York and eventually serve as a model for other states.

continued



CCA/ Brooklyn staff member helps youth with a school assignment.



Alan Rosenthal, CCA Director of Justice Strategies, confers with Ray Barnes, former CCA/Syracuse client, now staff counselor to new prison releasees.

Do U.S. Criminal Justice Practices Violate Human Rights Standards?

With the help of a two-year grant from the U.S. Human Rights Fund, CCA has joined with colleague organizations to apply international human rights principles to the fight for criminal justice reform in the U.S. Other organizations involved in this grant are Global Rights, an international human rights organization, the Justice Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., and the Haywood Burns Institute in San Francisco, CA. The collaborating agencies meet regularly under the guidance of an experienced human rights policy analyst.

In June 2007, CCA built on experience made possible by this grant by participating in the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta. Senior staff presented on topics related to race and the criminal justice system and on human rights as a means to advocate for major changes in the system. Currently, we are working with our colleagues on a "shadow report" on violations of human rights principles within the U.S. juvenile justice system. The report will be submitted to the 2008 Convention to Eliminate Racial Discrimination (CERD) in Geneva, where we also plan to send youth representatives.

Barriers to Education and Employment are Focus of "Fulfilling the Dream" Project

The sheer scale of arrest, prosecution and imprisonment of people of color has resulted in mass incarceration of communities. In fact, the criminal justice system so pervades the lives of black men that more black men have done prison time than have earned college degrees. Because of the racial inequity in the criminal justice system, laws and policies that limit the access of people with criminal records to employment and education may appear to be race-neutral. In fact, they have significant discriminatory effects.

For the past year and a half, CCA has partnered with the Legal Action Center HIRE Network on a project to identify and work to remove barriers to equal opportunity in education and employment for people with criminal records. The project, supported by a grant from the Fulfilling the Dream Fund, is conducting research to identify specific

barriers, documenting the barriers, analyzing their impact, and working to eradicate them through public education, advocacy and organizing.

Parole Policy Eased by New York State

New York State officials recently appointed by Governor Spitzer have sought CCA's input on policy matters affecting people with criminal records. In recent months, CCA has met with George Alexander, Chairman of the NYS Division of Parole and with Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo, Commissioner of OASAS (Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services). As a result of our discussion with Commissioner Alexander, qualified people can now receive their Certificate of Relief from Civil Disabilities immediately before they are released from prison. The Certificate of Relief is a document that can play a critical role in easing the way for people with criminal records to obtain jobs and housing.

Practice

“Choices Unlimited” Offers Safe, Healthy Activities for Youth

CCA’s model “alternative to incarceration” programs for youth in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Syracuse serve adolescents ages 13-17 who are referred to us by the courts. These young people have spent most of their lives battling against odds simply to survive such obstacles as poverty, dysfunctional families, and devastated neighborhoods and schools. When they come to CCA, though they are still very young, they have already been charged with serious offenses, and have few chances left to turn their lives around. At CCA, they find a safe haven where they can open up to counselors and share their uncertainties and problems with peers who understand. A skilled and sympathetic CCA court advocate accompanies youth on all their court dates and helps represent them to the judge.

In spring 2007, the Robin Hood Foundation made a generous grant to CCA to allow us to expand our services for youth. In the summer, we launched the expanded program, CHOICES UNLIMITED. CHOICES UNLIMITED offers youth academic tutoring under the guidance of a licensed teacher, to help them improve their school performance. We are also beginning to offer creative arts and sports activities. A new boxing program will help youth improve their physical condition, learn discipline, and build self-respect and the ability to relate to others.

CCA is also expanding its alternative to detention (ATD) services in New York City through a new contract from the New York City Office of the Coordinator for Criminal Justice, serving young people released from Brooklyn Family Court.



CCA/Syracuse staff Chayna Jamison helps youth prepare resumés for summer jobs.

Recovery and Community Reintegration Services Expand

The Recovery Network of New York is a peer-led initiative at CCA’s Syracuse office to promote lifelong recovery from drugs and the criminal justice system. Recently, it was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service’s SAMHSA division to expand services to Albany and Rochester New York. In September 2007, CCA received another award from SAMHSA that will further strengthen the Recovery Network’s ability to help people gain employment and address relapse.

The Recovery Network supports people reintegrating into the community from the criminal justice system to sustain healthy and productive lives. It confronts the lifetime consequences of a criminal conviction by helping people to regain their right to vote, apply for jobs and housing, and participate in safe and healthy social support networks.

CCA also has special reentry services for young people, between the ages of 16 and 24, returning to Syracuse from jail and prison. These young people are often unprepared to assume independent and productive lives. The lure of the streets is strong, and the challenges of undereducation and unemployment

are significant barriers to making a new start. Members of the Recovery Network are active in giving back to their community by mentoring young people and conducting outreach to the community about alternatives to drugs and crime.

Averting the School-to-Prison Pipeline

For a great many youth from disadvantaged neighborhoods, suspension from school starts a chain of events that quickly culminates in dropping out and going to jail or prison. CCA therefore provides a range of services to students in Syracuse alternative schools, most of whom have been suspended from mainstream schools, to help them get back on track and make a successful return. Services include case management support, school advocacy, individual trauma-focused therapy, after school programming, and special services for children of incarcerated parents. Youth are trained in alternatives to violence and serve as peer leaders for other young people confronting tremendous levels of community violence. Engagement of parents of these at-risk students in parent meetings and in counseling sessions is an additional strength of the program.

continued



CCA/Syracuse youth display their graduation certificates, commemorating completion of job readiness training and the start of their part-time jobs.



Men in Crossroads project learn about HIV transmission from program leader Delores Moody



New York City youth program participant learns boxing from instructor Tim Ferguson

This year, a new grant from SAMHSA will enable CCA to provide alcoholism and substance abuse treatment services to young people in alternative schools. We will also be able to expand our mentoring programs, in collaboration with the Syracuse City School District, thanks to a new grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

CCA is home to the CASA program in Onondaga County that helps children in foster care obtain a safe, permanent and nurturing homes. CASA volunteers, drawn from all walks of the community, speak up for the children who have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect and helps to ensure that children in foster care don't get lost in the cracks of the system. CASA volunteers encourage birth parents to make the changes they need to make to regain custody of their children. When that is not an option, CASA works to promote adoption of children into permanent, loving homes.

Innovations in Drug Treatment: Crossroads for Women & Men

In 1991, CCA helped pioneer gender specific treatment for women in the criminal justice system through launching its Crossroads program. Through the years, we have learned that women follow different pathways into and out of drugs and crime, that services need to address histories of abuse, and that family and children are important in the recovery process. This year, we have opened a companion program for men that will be testing new approaches for men reentering from the criminal justice system. The program will emphasize employment, independence, and fatherhood as the rewards of recovery.

Supporting Health In and Out of Prison: Choices

CCA continues its work inside and outside of prisons to help people with HIV get the services and support they need. CCA goes into prisons throughout New York State to deliver HIV counseling and testing, education, support groups and reentry support. This year, CCA's new SISTERS STRONG program worked

with African American women in the Syracuse community, using a peer-based support group model focused on empowerment, personal choices, and HIV prevention. In New York City, new programs will serve people with mental health problems as well as HIV, while harm reduction services will offer treatment support, education and connection to health and medical services.

Moving Ahead

Our pledge to you is to continue working to the best of our ability to bring about reform in criminal justice policy, promote reintegrative justice, and practice the highest level of excellence in our services for men, women, and youth.

Sincerely yours,

Marsha Weissman,
Executive Director

Michael P. Freedman, Ph.D.
President, Board of Directors

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES

Financial Statements

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005

ASSETS

	2006	2005
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 265,433	\$ 65,114
Grants and contracts receivable	1,846,385	1,602,758
Client specific planning receivables	128,736	169,751
Prepaid expenses	1,524	—
Total current assets	<u>2,242,078</u>	<u>1,837,623</u>
PROPERTY:		
Furniture and equipment	156,176	156,176
Less accumulated depreciation	144,191	134,827
Property—net	<u>11,985</u>	<u>21,349</u>
SECURITY DEPOSITS	<u>80,303</u>	<u>80,303</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,334,366</u>	<u>\$ 1,939,275</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Short-term bank borrowings	\$ 1,165,000	\$ 845,000
Accounts payable	55,308	130,264
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	224,489	241,694
Deferred revenue	117,847	62,058
Total current liabilities	<u>1,562,644</u>	<u>1,279,016</u>
NET ASSETS - UNRESTRICTED	<u>771,722</u>	<u>660,259</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,334,366</u>	<u>\$ 1,939,275</u>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	2006	2005
SUPPORT		
Grant and Contract:		
City of New York	\$ 1,451,704	\$ 1,262,472
Onondaga County Bar Association	148,722	209,772
New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives	422,985	343,149
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration	1,275,416	1,266,906
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services	442,071	543,337
New York State Department of Health	319,419	500,272
City of Syracuse	7,500	14,813
Syracuse City School District	12,472	14,810
New York State Court Appointed Special Advocate Association	88,462	93,691
Medical & Health Research Association of NYC, Inc.	728,516	800,076
Partnership for Abstinence Education	—	17,494
New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services	159,134	117,622
New York State Office of Children and Family Services	258,428	195,299
Onondaga County Department of Health	21,526	36,266
U.S. Department of Labor	—	62,542
Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES	5,286	
AIDS Community Resources	—	11,748
New York State Department of Education—Community Services	—	153,819
New York State Department of Education—21st Century	219,037	178,784
Onondaga County Office of the District Attorney	47,109	—
Bronx Defenders Association	84	—
Total grant and contract support	<u>\$ 5,607,871</u>	<u>\$ 5,822,872</u>
Foundation:		
MONY Foundation	1,318	656
Annie Casey Foundation	19,546	14,942
HIV Mac Global	3,140	3,280
New York Community Trust	19,168	—
Public Interest Project—Fullfilling the Dream	63,379	—
Public Interest Project—U.S. Human Rights Fund	24,128	—
Kennedy Foundation	6,000	—
U.S. Conference of Mayors Foundation	17,385	—
Langeloth Foundation	—	36,883
Gill Foundation	—	1,214
Drexel Foundation	—	4,584
Central New York Community Foundation	—	1,061
American Express Foundation	—	11,287
Center For Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE)	—	6,613
Total foundation	<u>\$ 154,064</u>	<u>\$ 80,520</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT	<u>\$ 5,761,935</u>	<u>\$ 5,903,392</u>

	2006	2005
REVENUE		
Client specific planning	225,953	201,347
United Way of Central New York	80,542	60,640
Rental income	24,750	12,375
Miscellaneous revenue	48,534	29,876
Contributions	25,534	19,820
Interest income	3,511	17
Total revenue	408,824	324,075
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$ 6,170,759	\$6,227,467

EXPENDITURES

Program Services:

New York State Demonstration/Client Specific Planning	108,773	156,310
Onondaga County ACER and PROUD Program	171,581	196,091
Crossroads	758,815	778,593
SAMHSA/Crossroads/Crossroads for Men	583,988	860,138
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Employment Services	—	24,702
Youth Advocacy Program—Syracuse	270,260	282,567
Strategies for Success	99,753	118,307
After School Alternatives—Syracuse	158,282	137,797
Community Services	—	136,526
Youth Advocacy Program—New York City	452,221	586,348
Youth Advocacy Program—New York City—After School	11,440	—
Office of Children and Family Services	87,710	46,095
New York State Department of Health—CHOICES	302,963	491,915
Family Court Client Specific Planning	209,571	215,876
NYC Common Council Adult Specific Planning	8,578	—
Pathway Out (Langeloth)	—	35,923
CASA	113,319	103,322
MHRA Programs/Choices-1A and Precise-A	447,473	456,076
MHRA Programs/Buddies and Women's Choices	249,055	304,425
21st Century	213,286	173,660
Reentry Program	422,412	167,328
HIV Mac Global	3,140	3,280
Parent Success Initiative	9,260	—
Total program services	4,681,880	5,275,279
Management and general	1,377,416	1,105,771
Total expenditures	6,059,296	6,381,050
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	111,463	(153,583)
NET ASSETS—BEGINNING OF YEAR	660,259	813,842
NET ASSETS—END OF YEAR	\$ 771,722	\$ 660,259



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Left: CCA staff Barbara Benedict (l) and Louella Williams (r) with Judge Michael Hanuszcak of Onondaga County Family Court. Center: Youth in the CCA/Syracuse Youth Services learn to help each other in positive ways. Right: Women in CCA/NYC Crossroads project improve their health and fitness in an on-site yoga class.



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