

2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT



works to **end** the **School-to-Prison Pipeline**

Dear Supporters and Friends:

The past year saw growing awareness across the nation about the existence of a school-to-prison pipeline that undermines the future for many U.S. youth—especially those of color and from poor communities. At CCA, however, thanks to your help, we also saw some success in interrupting the pipeline for many of the youth with whom we work.

In fall 2013, a national study cited the Syracuse City School District, among others, for disparities in suspending students who were black or categorized as “special needs.” Asked by the school district to help address the problem, CCA created a pioneering “Student Advocate” program with the goal of reducing the number of suspensions and repeat suspensions. Our advocates help prepare students and their families for disciplinary hearings, make sure that hearings are conducted fairly and in accord with the law, and support students to make a successful transition back into the classroom. After only six months, CCA’s school advocacy work has already made a difference with more than half of the students served by advocates allowed to return to mainstream school. Prior to CCA’s involvement, a Superintendent’s Hearing almost invariably resulted in a student’s long-term out-of-school suspension.

Our battle to end barriers to college admission for people with criminal records also gained national attention. On September 21, 2014, the *New York Times* published an editorial stating: “The need to change the way criminal records are weighed in college admissions was underscored in a 2010 study by the Center for Community Alternatives.” The editorial called on colleges to stop asking applicants on the initial application about their criminal records, and raise the issue only after giving the applicant a condi-



Marsha Weissman, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Kwame Johnson
President, Board of Directors

tional offer of acceptance. This recommendation is modeled on best practices for employment applications and is exactly what CCA and our partner organizations are campaigning to achieve.

The workings of the school-to-prison pipeline are further illuminated in a new book from Syracuse University Press, *Prelude to Prison: Student Perspective on School Suspension*, by CCA Executive Director Marsha Weissman. Dr. Weissman’s research and analysis presents the voices and perspective of young people themselves to reveal the impact of school discipline on real lives.

In other news, our groundbreaking Trauma Treatment Initiative, led by nationally recognized experts from the Beth Israel-St. Luke’s HEARTS program, is helping CCA address the widespread problem of untreated trauma in juvenile-justice-involved youth. CCA placed 241 adults in our Parent Success Initiative in Syracuse in unsubsidized jobs, enabling them to make a total of \$568,529 in child support payments. Our Recovery Networks in upstate New York helped 338 men and women sustain recovery from substance use disorder issues. In New York City, 437 people participated in Crossroads substance use disorder treatment and 42% successfully graduated.

CCA is one small part of an ongoing campaign to reduce the nation’s reliance on incarceration and create more just and humane solutions. Your participation and continued support are essential to success.

Marsha Weissman, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Kwame Johnson
President, Board of Directors

Syracuse School District and CCA Work Together to Make School Discipline Fairer

In spring 2013, a national study by The Civil Rights Project at UCLA named Syracuse public schools as among those with “profound disparities” in suspending students who were African American or had disabilities. The Syracuse City School District took this finding seriously. In November 2013, it began working with CCA to eliminate bias and unfairness in its suspension hearings and regain the trust of students and their parents.



*Sharon Contreras, Syracuse City School District Superintendent
Patricia Warth, CCA Director of Justice Strategies*

SYRACUSE SUSPENSION RATES ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

Syracuse’s pioneering program now employs five full-time Student Advocates, who work under CCA’s supervision. They prepare students and families for suspension hearings, help make their case at the hearings, assure that hearings are conducted in compliance with the law, and support students’ successful return to school.

Patricia Warth, CCA Director of Justice Strategies, oversees the project. She said, “The Syracuse School District wisely recognized that the advocates had to be independent of the school system, so it is contracting with CCA to ensure this independence. The mission is to restore students’ and parents’ relations with the schools by honoring their rights.”

Racial disparity in school suspensions is a national problem, so the reforms adopted by Syracuse may be of interest to other school districts seeking to restore justice to the system. A 2012 national study by the U.S. Department of Education found that although

black students made up only 18 percent of the enrollment in the schools that were studied, they accounted for 35 percent of those suspended once, 46 percent of those suspended more than once and 39 percent of all expulsions.

Being suspended or expelled from school greatly increases the likelihood that a student will drop out of school altogether. Dropping out of school, in turn, has a more dramatic impact on the likelihood of serving time in prison than any other factor. An astonishing 35 percent of black males who do not complete high school are incarcerated, according to a recent study by the National Academy of Sciences. The figure for those who complete high school is 20 percent. It is less than 5 percent of those with some college.

Before the Student Advocate Program began, students in Syracuse might have been suspended without sufficient regard to the due process required by state and federal law. Families were not always notified of

the upcoming hearings. Irrelevant information was introduced at hearings. Students with disabilities were suspended without adequate consideration of whether the misbehavior was related to their disability or the supportive services specified in their individual educational plans were being delivered.

Now, under the new procedures, the Office of Pupil Services refers students under threat of long-term suspension to the CCA Advocates. If the family consents, the Advocate meets the student and parents at home. The Advocate discusses with student and parents how the charge came about, reviews the relevant issues, and prepares the student and parent for the hearing.

Before the hearing, the Advocate reviews school records and any videotapes of the incident, identifies witnesses who should appear at the hearing, and prepares a written plan, presenting mitigating circumstances and identifying school or community

supports that could help address problems. Finally, the Advocate accompanies parents and students to the hearing and supports the student to tell his or her side of the story.

From January–June 2014, CCA employed three full-time Student Advocates. In six months, they were able to provide services for 57 students who were under threat of suspension. Of the 57 students who received services, 12 were found not guilty or had their cases dismissed; 37 were found guilty; and 10 were found guilty of less serious charges. More than half the students found guilty were returned to their home school without a long-term suspension and with the supports needed for better behavior.

The District is now funding an additional two Advocates for the 2014-2015 school year, bringing the total to five. Also, because students who have been suspended once are highly likely to be suspended a second time, the School District has contracted with CCA to fund four Transitional Coaches. United Way has funded a Project Director. The Transitional Coaches work with students who have received long-term suspensions or been incarcerated to help them make a successful transition back to mainstream school.

Warth said, “This is a marathon effort. Like the criminal justice system, the school disciplinary system needs to shift from a punitive to a restorative approach. Rights are substantive. When parents and students see the system as fair, they feel respected and their relationship with education can be restored.”

Three Elected to Board in June 2014



CCA welcomed three new Board members at its June meeting.

Daniel N. Arshack, Esq. is a criminal defense attorney who has represented thousands of clients in over 25 years of practice. He formerly created the public defender’s office in the Bronx known as the Bronx Defenders, where he supervised 25 lawyers who handled 13,000 cases per year. A past President of the NYS Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Mr. Arshack is a partner in the New York City law firm, Arshack, Hajek & Lehrman.

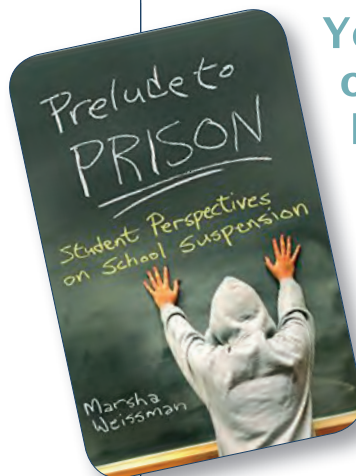


Len Campolieta is Chief Engineer at O’Brien & Gere, an engineering company headquartered in Syracuse, NY. Formerly Senior Vice President of Capital and Facilities Solutions at the same company, Mr. Campolieta has more than 40 years of professional engineering experience. He earned his degree in mechanical engineering at Syracuse University.



Liz Jarit, Esq. is Assistant Public Defender with the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, the Appellate Section. A graduate of Middlebury College and NYU Law School, she has also clerked for the Hon. Anne M. Patterson in the NJ Supreme Court and worked as an intern for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Urban Justice Center, and the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission.

Top to bottom: Arshack, Campolieta, Jarit



Youth Perspectives on School-to-Prison Pipeline

“Prelude to Prison,” a new book by Marsha Weissman, interweaves the voices of youth caught up in the school-to-prison pipeline with Weissman’s own experience as a community organizer, advocate, and researcher. The book is scheduled for publication in November by Syracuse University Press.

Opening College Doors for People with Criminal Records

A hard-fought campaign by CCA in collaboration with the Education from the Inside Out Coalition to get colleges to stop asking about criminal histories on college applications has now entered the mainstream. On September 21, 2014, the New York Times published an editorial called “A Chance at College for Ex-Offenders” that drew attention to CCA’s work and called for “banning the box” about criminal records on the initial application.

The Times called the inclusion of a question about criminal records on a college application a “widely overlooked obstacle that confronts at least 70 million Americans who have criminal records— often for relatively trivial transgressions in the distant past.”

In 2006, the Common Application, currently used by more than 500 colleges and universities, added a question about criminal histories to its application form. CCA soon began a vigorous campaign to explain that this practice would not accomplish any useful public safety goal for colleges and universities, but rather would screen out people with criminal records—the great majority of them people of color.

In 2009-10, CCA partnered with the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officials to undertake a survey and analyze data about the prevalence of the practice and how colleges were using the criminal history information. The resulting study, *The Use of Criminal History Records in College Admissions Reconsidered*, was published in 2010 and is available at communityalternatives.org. It found that of 273 institutions surveyed, 66 percent said they were collecting criminal history in one way or another. Yet fewer than half had written policies in place to guide their use of criminal history records and only 40 percent were training their admissions staff in interpreting criminal history information. This report has helped to spur a campaign to get colleges and universities to stop asking the questions. While the campaign is off to a good start, there is still work to be done.

The question about a criminal record prevents men and women with criminal convictions from improving their lives through higher education. Emily NaPier, CCA Senior Research Associate, said, “People of color have been particularly affected by the over-criminalization of an ever-widening range of behaviors and are especially likely to be ensnared in the system for low-level, nonviolent offenses. It is impossible for current admissions practices to be race-neutral because of the pervasiveness of racial disparities at every stage of the criminal justice system.”

In 2013, CCA began a new phase of the work, meticulously researching what happens to the college applications received at the 64 campuses of the State University of New York (SUNY) when the criminal history box is checked. This research has been supported by private grants and by Education from the Inside Out (EIO), a national advocacy coalition led by College and Community Fellowship, JustLeadershipUSA and CCA.

CCA’s research in this area has focused on two concerns. First, what is the chilling effect simply from including a criminal history question on the application? Second, how do the follow up requirements directed at those who check the box deter or prevent applicants from completing the process?

Alan Rosenthal, CCA’s Counsel and Consultant on Special Projects, said, “Asking the question does not improve campus safety. It does deter many deserving men and woman from pursuing their dream of a college education and all that comes with it. It serves no legitimate purpose.”

The “Ban the Box” campaign is modeled on the movement to open doors to employment for people with criminal records. According to the National Employment Law Project, over 70 cities and counties and 13 states have now passed legislation to bar questions about criminal records on initial employment applications.

Legislation to “ban the box” on applications to admission at all New York colleges and universities has been proposed in the New York State Legislature and is continuing to gather sponsors. It is hoped that the new endorsement of the New York Times will spur action and inspire other public and private academic institutions to follow suit.



Recovery Network: “Each Day is a Day to Love”

Adjusting to society after a prison term is, for many, a hard and lonely road. For men and women who are also recovering from substance use disorder, the struggle can be overwhelming. CCA’s Recovery Networks provide services and support to help men and women build new, constructive relationships and keep their lives on a positive course.

Jackson Davis, CASAC Director of Recovery Services, oversees the CCA Recovery Networks in two upstate communities, Rochester and Syracuse. He shuttles 70 miles between the two cities each week. He said, “The Rochester Recovery is one of only three in the state that still receives public funds. We consistently exceed performance goals, measured by criteria set by the state, such as abstinence and lack of criminal involvement. Last year our benchmark was serving 300 individuals; we served 338.”

Carolyn Q., 56, a Peer Leader in the Rochester Recovery Network, candidly described her battles in a conversation with Tammy Butler, Project Director for the Network. Carolyn said she began drinking at the age of 9 at family functions. At 15 she became pregnant and left home as a way to cope with her shame. Her drug use continued well into her adult life. “What brought me to the light was my hospital rehabilitation in 2011,” she said. “I realized I had to completely let go of all hurts and pains that kept me using drugs. Nothing would ever make me go back.”

“I have three years clean now and I have been doing well. Nothing is perfect but it’s better than it was. At Recovery Network, I meet different people and can relate to their situations. I find that people are so much alike and the comfort level and encouragement is great. Now I can walk down the street and know it’s all right.”

John S., another Rochester member, works with homeless and at-risk youth as a volunteer, as an emergency shelter phone counselor, and a conflict interrupter. Active in the Men’s group workshops run by the Recovery Network, he told Tammy he appreciates the help men are able to give each other in recovery. “We are able to have serious discussions about our characteristics as men and build up and encourage each other,” he said.

John remarked, “When I was released from the correctional facility, I needed a connection to a program that would help me with the transition. Other than AA, the Network is the only program I found that focuses on recovery in a community-like, non-threatening, positive manner.”

His goal is to return to college and become a substance abuse counselor. “I have two daughters and two grandchildren. Each day is a day to love, build and reestablish my relationships with each one.”

Rosenthal, Brumfield Win Awards



Alan Rosenthal received the Wilfred R. O’Connor Award from the New York State Defenders Association. The award is given annually to a criminal defense attorney who exemplifies a client-centered sense of justice for poor people and people of color who face criminal charges. Rosenthal is a founder and the original Director of CCA’s Justice Strategies Division. He currently serves as Counsel and Advisor on Special Projects.



Bruce Brumfield received the 2014 Marlene Matarese National Youth Professional of the Year Award from Youth M.O.V.E. National. Bruce is Director of Youth Involvement/OnCare, which works with Onondaga County to transform mental health services for children and youth.



Parent Success Initiative

241 Placed in Jobs

A CCA/Syracuse model program designed to help non-custodial parents obtain jobs so they can pay their child support obligations is showing signs of success. CCA's Parent Success Initiative (PSI) has now placed 241 adults in unsubsidized employment. Since the program began in late 2011, participants have paid \$568,529 in child support.

Many of the program's participants have struggled with substance use and spent time in prison. The self-esteem and optimism they have gained as the result of having paid work is perhaps as important an outcome of the program as their child support payments.

Darlene Priest, a mother of four in her 40s, said that when TOPS Grocery Store called her two years ago to tell her she had a job, "I was so happy, I was in shock. When I was first in the program, I was applying for jobs but I wasn't getting responses. CCA helped me with my resume and coached me on how to handle interviews."

Mike Pegram, 46, was sleeping under a bridge when he was approached by a volunteer who took him to CCA. "I got involved in a recovery program and moved into a shelter," he recalled. "I was at CCA every day on the internet, looking for work. I had to get back to the shelter every night by 6:30 to get a bed. My life was unmanageable."

Mike was placed on a CCA transitional work crew through PSI, working at the Syracuse Housing Authority. A graduate of a vocational school and former truck driver, the maintenance work came easily to him. Offered a permanent job by the Housing Authority, he has successfully kept it for over a year.

"I've got my own place now, just up the street from my job," he said. "I work at the Housing Authority Monday-Friday and do other work on the side. They take money for child support of my nine-year-old son out of my paycheck. I feel good about that. I see him every week."

PSI is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, which is seeking to determine whether providing people with supportive services in addition to employment services contributes to their ability to maintain employment. The program enrolled 1,016 participants, exceeding its goal of enrolling 1,000. Since PSI is part of a USDOL research study, half of those enrolled received PSI services while the other half remained in a control group and received no services. In addition to job placements, participants have benefited from the LEADERS work readiness program, parenting classes, and access to CCA's wraparound case management services.

David Gist, 26, has worked for CCA as a youth leader at a high school and is now employed by PEACE, a non-profit that works with at-risk youth. "CCA helps you as much as you help yourself," he said. "CCA cares about people's well-being. CCA wants to see you succeed. The Legal Aid lawyers who work with PSI helped me get my child support to a manageable level. I see my son; I buy him things.

"You wouldn't believe how many people wake up happy just because they're going to work."

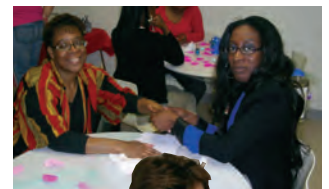
Darlene Priest
Mike Pegram
David Gist



Crossroads

Crossroads for Women was one of the first programs in the nation to offer substance use disorder treatment for women-only groups. The concept grew from the recognition that substance use is often closely linked to intimate, personal issues that women feel more comfortable discussing among themselves. Crossroads remains today one of the few programs in New York City where women who have been arrested can participate in outpatient treatment for substance use. CCA also holds Crossroads for Men groups that help men focus on issues related to male identity and roles. From July 1–June 30, 2014, Crossroads/NYC served a total of 437 people, successfully graduating 42% of those discharged. In the photos below, Crossroads women enjoyed a "Love Your Body Day" of fitness training and healthy social activities.

"Love Your Body" Day encourages Crossroads women to stay on track with recovery.



Financial Statements

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

ASSETS

	2013	2012
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,637	\$ 74,007
Grants and contracts receivable	2,692,840	1,716,535
Client specific planning receivables	45,925	87,867
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	16,208	51,096
Total current assets	2,763,610	1,929,505
PROPERTY:		
Furniture and equipment	178,655	161,076
Less accumulated depreciation	162,493	160,100
Property—net	16,162	976
SECURITY DEPOSITS	156,963	122,963
TOTAL	\$ 2,936,735	\$ 2,053,444

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Short-term bank borrowings	\$ 424,000	\$ 232,511
Current portion of long-term debt	60,000	20,000
Accounts payable	401,979	302,120
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	272,714	329,242
Deferred revenue	544,372	85,733
Total current liabilities	1,703,065	969,606
LONG-TERM DEBT, net of current portion	460,000	530,000
Total liabilities	2,163,065	1,499,606
NET ASSETS—UNRESTRICTED	773,670	553,838
TOTAL	\$ 2,936,735	\$ 2,053,444

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	2013	2012
PUBLIC GRANTS AND CONTRACT SUPPORT:		
City of New York	\$ 1,862,177	\$ 1,767,559
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)	932,653	422,510
U.S. Department of Labor	1,903,159	1,774,909
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs	6,089	—
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services	1,037,364	1,147,461
New York State Department of Health	1,138,942	875,179
New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision	22,781	41,235
New York City Department of Probation	258,346	250,346
New York State Department of Labor	3,350	26,800
New York State Education Department	15,379	—
Syracuse City School District (SCSD)	28,574	57,999
New York State Office of Court Administration—CASA Programming	22,699	12,348
Public Health Solutions (PHS)/MHRA, Inc.	67,544	311,258
New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)	250,418	257,502
New York State Office of Children and Family Services	62,274	18,199
Onondaga County Department of Social Services	136,163	142,542
Onondaga County Probation Department	11,904	—
Total public grants and contract support	<u>\$ 7,859,816</u>	<u>\$ 7,105,847</u>
FOUNDATION:		
Open Society Foundations	\$ 160,399	\$ 210,385
Public Interest Project—Fulfilling the Dream	—	48,219
Total foundation	<u>\$ 160,399</u>	<u>\$ 258,604</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT	<u>\$ 8,020,215</u>	<u>\$ 7,364,451</u>



Jim Corl, Esq., Onondaga County Legislator, with CASA staff Tebo Cossa, Gerri Regan, and Betty Carroll

CASA

Light of Hope Breakfast Honors Family Center

CCA's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program honored Huntington Family Centers with its annual Light of Hope award at a breakfast on September 30, 2014. The breakfast drew 166 attendees and raised more than \$9,500 from donations and sale of ads, mum and cookies at the event. All proceeds are donated to the CASA program, which recruits, trains, and supervises adult volunteers to assist courts in protecting the best interests of children.

	2013	2012
OTHER REVENUE AND CONTRACTS:		
Client specific planning	\$ 89,462	\$ 69,702
National Court Appointed Special Advocates	—	30,869
United Way of Central New York	130,089	212,791
Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society	9,400	12,000
CNY Works Funding	—	107,929
John Jay College of Criminal Justice—CUNY	989,452	290,288
Fortune Society—Castle Replication Project	65,000	10,000
Miscellaneous revenue	17,431	30,532
Contributions	146,222	49,317
Interest income	153	521
Total other revenue and contracts	<u>\$ 1,447,209</u>	<u>\$ 813,949</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	<u>\$ 9,467,424</u>	<u>\$ 8,178,400</u>

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES:

New York State Demonstration/Client Specific Planning	\$ 93,668	\$ 146,090
Crossroads	416,082	619,009
SAMHSA Programs	806,648	411,048
Youth Advocacy Program—Syracuse	391,515	354,475
Syracuse City School District	45,860	29,697
Youth Advocacy Program—New York City	409,971	438,267
New York City—After School/ATD—Community Monitoring	741,534	829,696
Young Adult Services—New York City	1,243,358	734,260
New York State Department of Health	518,204	496,004
Family Court Client Specific Planning	172,817	160,877
Court Appointed Special Advocates	82,468	131,935
Public Health Solutions—Co-Factors/EIP	54,692	65,685
Public Health Solution—Positive Choices	22,257	199,275
U.S. Department of Labor—Parent Success Initiative	1,690,489	1,575,058
NYS OASAS/Medicaid	196,627	369,809
Re-entry Related Services	116,105	185,348
Rochester Recovery Community	372,857	224,173
Disproportionate Minority Contract	26,663	18,297
Open Society Foundations	133,831	190,798
Total program services	<u>\$ 7,535,646</u>	<u>\$ 7,179,801</u>
Management and general	1,711,946	1,466,876
Total expenses	<u>\$ 9,247,592</u>	<u>\$ 8,646,677</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	219,832	(468,277)
NET ASSETS—BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>\$ 533,838</u>	<u>\$ 1,022,115</u>
NET ASSETS—END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 773,670</u>	<u>\$ 553,838</u>

2013 Donors & Funders

CCA is grateful to all its private and public supporters.
Your belief in the work we do is vital to the struggle for reintegrative justice.

Government

U.S.

Department of Justice,
Office of Justice
Programs
DHHS/Substance Abuse
and Mental Health
Services Administration
(SAMHSA)

New York State

Department of Corrections
and Community
Supervision (DOCCS)
Education Department
Department of Health
Department of Labor
Division of Criminal
Justice Services
Office of Alcoholism
and Substance Abuse
Services (OASAS)
Office of Court
Administration
Office of Children and
Family Services

City/County

City of New York
New York City Probation
Department
Onondaga County
Department of
Probation
Onondaga County De-
partment of
Social Services
Public Health Solutions
(PHS)/MHRA, Inc.
Syracuse City School
District

Foundations, Corporations and Organizations

Over \$100,000

John Jay College of
Criminal Justice—
CUNY
Open Society
Foundations
United Way of
Central New York

\$10,000-\$99,999

Fortune Society—Castle
Replication Project

\$1,000-\$9,999

Frank H. Hiscock
Legal Aid Society
Kappa Alpha Theta—
Chi Chapter*
Patrick Clement Fund
Prince Charitable Trusts
The Macchetto
Family Trust

\$500-\$999

Charles and Margaret
Levin Family
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Kappa Alpha Theta—
Iota Chapter*
Price Chopper's Golub
Foundation*
Rosamond A. Gifford
Foundation*
Stephen and May Cavin
Leeman Foundation

\$50-\$499

Aloha Foundation*
The John L. and Corrinne
Alpert Foundation
American Refining Group
Bond, Schoeneck & King*
Donatella's Salon
and Spa*
Gorman Enterprises*
Insul Tek*
Logan Jaycees
Phillip and Helen Buck
Family Fund*
Rochester Area
Community Foundation
Safe and Sound
with Amaya*
Testone, Marshall
and Discenza*
Williams Restaurant*
Zerrillo Gardens*

Individuals

Over \$5,000

Anonymous

\$1,000-\$4,999

Donald and Gail Kohn
April Stone
Sara Stuart
Alan and Christine Vickery
Marc Wolinsky

\$500-\$999

Christine and
Charles Abaté#
Dan Arshack
Leonard Bertram*
Betty and Richard Carroll#
Bonnie Catone+
Susan R. Horn+#
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Edward Klein and
Linda Trapkin
Patricia Warth and
Bill Quinlisk
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Scopelianos
Marsha Weissman#
Linda Witherall*
Lorna Woodham
Anonymous

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James Regan*
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Samuel Rowser
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Cassia Spohn
Ted and Elizabeth Stark*
Susan V. Tipograph

Stephen and Gale Warren
Deborah Weissman
Doug and Elaine Wolf

\$5-\$99

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Anonymous* (3)
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and Randi Bregman
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Pioneering Trauma Treatment Program Underway

CCA has begun a pioneering program to treat trauma in juvenile-justice involved youth, led by Dr. Christopher Branson, clinical psychologist, and his colleagues at the HEARTS trauma program at Beth Israel-St. Luke's. In fall 2013, training began for CCA staff. Since spring 2014, Dr. Branson and his colleagues have conducted weekly groups at CCA's Brooklyn office for youth who have been identified as possibly experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), with the goal of alleviating their symptoms and helping them attain better overall outcomes.

CCA is one of the first community based agencies working with juvenile justice involved youth to explicitly address possible trauma. Research released last year by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention showed that 90 percent of youth involved in the juvenile justice system have experienced at least one traumatic event and an estimated 30–50 percent have PTSD. This is comparable to the rate of PTSD among veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.



Above: Hans Menos, CCA/ NYC Director of Youth Services, and Dr. Christopher Branson, Beth Israel-St. Luke's HEARTS program, after a staff training session in trauma treatment.

OUR MISSION

The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) is a leader in the field of community-based alternatives to incarceration. Our mission is to promote reintegrative justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights.



Youth Syracuse

Helping youth who are at risk or have been suspended from school or arrested is core to CCA's work. In Syracuse, NY, CCA operates a year-round after-school program for at-risk youth that focuses on social/emotional learning. In New York City, juvenile-justice-involved youth get their lives on a healthier track through counseling, tutoring, and healthy social activities. Said one, "Here we learn the harsh reality that if you do something, it can lead to something else. There's a pipeline from school to prison. Now my grades are ok and I'm going to graduate from high school. CCA is the best opportunity I got."



Left: CCA/Syracuse youth prepare a meal in the professional kitchen at Syracuse University.
Below: Creating music in CCA's sound studio.



New York City



CCA/NYC youth graduates and staff at their graduation ceremony on June 19, 2014.



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