

Read about working with young people and a way to get trained, make a difference in a persons life and help in our community!

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*Article from Liz Ryan, the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, or OJJDP.*

Hello. I am Liz Ryan, the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, or OJJDP. Today, I want to talk about action.

October is Youth Justice Action Month—a time to reflect on the actions we must take to ensure that our juvenile justice system is truly just and helping to improve youth outcomes and community safety. This means a renewed focus on keeping young people out of confinement and in their communities.

OJJDP has established three priorities that will help us better meet the needs of young people. They are:

Perhaps the most powerful feedback we received was that we must always think of the kids in the juvenile justice system as “our” kids. We must treat system-involved youth the same way we’d want our own children to be treated.

We also held two virtual town halls with young people—including system-involved young people. The youth we spoke with highlighted the need for more training for law enforcement and prosecutors on the grave consequences of incarceration, more empathy from juvenile justice staff members dealing with young people, and more assistance with reentry.

Our dialogue with stakeholders is ongoing. One of our most recent webinars focused on Youth Justice Action Month. We discussed plans developed with young people on how to take action and change the status quo.

Taking action is rarely easy; it almost always involves many hands working together. We invite everyone to visit our [Youth Justice](#)

1. Treating children as children;
2. Serving children at home, in their communities, with their families; and
3. Opening up opportunities for system-involved youth.

Running through these priorities are

two essential principles:

a commitment to pursue racial equity and fairness, and a vow to listen to impacted young people and their families.

Throughout the summer, OJJDP held listening sessions with stakeholders in the field. As of the end of August, we had held 16 listening sessions and received input from stakeholders in nearly every state and territory.

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[Action Month webpage](#) to access resources and get involved as we work together to reform and improve our juvenile justice system and keep all of our communities and community members safe.

No matter where you live or what you do, you can take action for youth justice. Please join us. When we act together, we are bound to have an impact.

Thank you.

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## Upcoming Events

### [Community Day - Heal Greater Williamsburg/ Heal the Nation](#)

Saturday, October 22, 2022

1:00pm-4:00pm

[Jamestown Beach Event Park](#)

VCRJ is a proud community partner!

### [Turn Hurt into Healing!](#)

Free Training

Registration is open and we look forward to partnering with you!

[11/11/2022 - 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. - Mount Vernon Baptist Church](#)

[11/19/2022 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - St. Martins Episcopal Church](#)

*This training provides an introduction to Restorative Justice practices and theory, exposure to, and practice with communication skills which you will utilize during the training.*

## About the Center

We are a faith based non-profit organization dedicated to providing cooperative methods of resolving conflict. Our services include training and facilitation of restorative justice conferencing, restorative justice circles, restorative justice values-based programs, and introductory restorative justice training.

The Circle is part of the process of Turn Hurt into Healing.

*"In the Circle, you taught me that I am worth something. I can have respect for myself and others because I am honest and trustworthy."*

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