

2022

JUVENILE JUSTICE COALITION

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW




FOR THE UNHEARD AND UNSEEN

2022 was a momentous year for Juvenile Justice Coalition. We added to our ranks both a new Executive/Policy Director and a new Community Outreach Coordinator. Both of these women have impressive backgrounds, experience, and perspective which have allowed JJC to flourish during this rebuild year. As a team, we needed to learn where we fit into the landscape of juvenile justice in Ohio. What do our kids need most? Where are the lapses in the system? Who can we build strong partnerships with to multiply our efforts? What issues have been ignored or overlooked for too long?

We asked these questions and more as we jumped into every arena we could. We advocated for incarcerated youth, provided oversight and accountability for juvenile detention centers, engaged in statewide budget advocacy, and fought for an end to Mandatory Bindover across the state. We made inroads with local courts to increase diversion from prisons and persuaded local governments to invest funding to the programs communities need to lower incarceration and recidivism of their youth. We educated the public on issues from policing standards to harmful sentencing trends plaguing our youth and created a mentorship program to give incarcerated children what they need most as we continue to work for a more rehabilitative and just juvenile system.

We supported ballot measures that would make our communities safer and stronger, not weaker and less able to rebuild. We have provided our knowledge and our conviction that a child's place is not in prison while working closely with the Department of Youth Services to protect youth who are already incarcerated. We helped to educate legislators and influence policies that effect children who would be incarcerated without our intervention.

We are so honored to serve the most vulnerable in our state and thankful for your partnership and participation in that journey. Every one of you who signed our petition, made calls to your legislators, gave your time, money, and passion...**you are changing the world.** You are helping to make Ohio into a place that is safer for our children and our futures. Thank you!



HIGHLIGHTS

- *CCF step-down policy freed 25 kids*
- *760 people heard our Director speak about youth bindover in Cleveland*
- *Invited to provide quarterly oversight to Cuyahoga Detention Center*
- *Hosted Youth-Led Policing Reform Panel*
- *Advocated for statewide bindover elimination*
- *Avg juvenile jail population decreased by 162 kids!*



Our social media presence has grown by leaps and bounds this year. We love hearing from you and seeing you interact with our posts. Most of all, we appreciate that you care so much for our mission that you're willing to help spread it farther than we can reach alone! Please continue liking, sharing, and commenting. ***YOU are the community***--share your thoughts, feelings, and support for our incarcerated and at-risk youth. We would love to grow our online outreach even more in 2023--tell your friends to follow and interact with us! We're @ohiojjc on Twitter and Instagram and @ohio.jjc on Facebook. Thanks!!

At JJC, community engagement remains one of our top priorities. We seek to ensure that the community is an active participant in our goals, strategies, and policy recommendations. ***Our accomplishments are the communities accomplishments.*** In just a few months, we've built a volunteer base of passionate youth and paved the way for their voices to be heard. We not only want youth to share their stories, but to make sure they are at the table in all we do.

We hosted a youth-led police reform panel to share their stories and experiences with our community. We also extended our outreach to the Cuyahoga Juvenile Detention Center to interview youth about their experiences involving law enforcement and the need for change.

We took our Mandatory Bindover campaign to The Ohio State University to educate students on laws that affect them and encourage them to be part of lasting reform.

We are truly a coalition thanks to our relationships with OFUPAC, Children's Law Ctr, Schubert Ctr, Groundwork Ohio, Greater Cleveland Congregations, Honesty for Ohio Education, Ohio Conservative Juvenile Justice Network, Advocates for Ohio's Future, National Juvenile Justice Network, Ohio Public Defenders, and ACLU. Together we have created measurable change in the landscape of juvenile justice in Ohio. ***The future is brighter when we work as a team!***

UNTIL ALL ARE FREE

Our work in the three juvenile prisons and several juvenile detention centers has been our most critical and rewarding role this year. JJC meets with youth throughout the facilities to discuss conditions, staff, programs, incidents, and their general well-being on a continual basis. We file grievances, work with parents, and ensure that youth concerns are handled swiftly. We also act as a permanent advocate for youth voices at the table with leadership from both the Department of Youth Services and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center, as Cuyahoga County sends the most children to juvenile corrections facilities and adult prison. In this advocate role, we respond both to the events that make it to the news and the ones that don't.

We see the importance of having trusting advocates within the walls of the facilities and do our best to protect every child there. Our most impactful victory is advocating for the use of Community Correctional Facilities as opposed to children's prisons. JJC spent months researching and advocating for the use of these smaller, less restrictive, and more rehabilitative facilities located in our children's own communities. This work culminated in a small group of advocates creating a detailed procedure for the youth prisons to 'step down' incarcerated youth to these smaller community programs! To date, more than two dozen children have been **released** from youth prisons. ***We know this is only the beginning!***



25
CHILDREN
RELEASED

THANK YOU!!!



We would love to thank our funders and donors, as JJC's work cannot happen without your continued support. Special acknowledgments to The George Gund Foundation, the Ohio Transformation Fund, the Emergent Fund, National Juvenile Justice Network, the Communities Transforming Policing Fund, Youth First, and the Circle for Justice Innovations for their generous grants that make it possible for us to protect Ohio's youth and create safe and nurturing communities where children can thrive. ***And thank you, our donors, for contributing to our work and our kids.*** Your support means the world to us and to them. If you appreciate what JJC does and haven't donated before, why not consider a recurring donation? Simply visit jjc.ohio.org/donate to set one up!

INFO@JJC OHIO.ORG

TW/IG: @OHIOJJC

FB: @OHIO.JJC

