

More than  
**two million Americans**  
are in prison today.

## CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES

has a **different** approach  
to criminal **justice**.

We draw on the **strength**  
of communities to provide  
**humane** alternatives  
to incarceration that  
**enhance** public safety,  
save taxpayer dollars  
and **reduce** crime.



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES  
I N N O V A T I V E S O L U T I O N S F O R J U S T I C E

# Board of Directors

BONNIE CATONE, *President*  
Director of Communications  
Treatment Research Institute  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

SUSAN R. HORN, ESQ., *Vice-President*  
Executive Director  
Hiscock Legal Aid Society  
Syracuse, New York

CAROLE A. EADY, *Secretary*  
HRA Family Advocate  
Human Resources Administration,  
City of New York  
New York, New York

KIMBERLY S. SCOTT, *Treasurer*  
Network Partner  
Literacy Powerline, Inc.  
Syracuse, New York

STEVEN BELENKO, Ph.D., *Member*  
Professor, Department of Criminal Justice  
Temple University  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

LEONARD BERMAN, *Member*  
Consultant  
Washington, D.C.

LORI BEZAHLER, *Member*  
President  
Edward Hazen Foundation  
New York, New York

MONIQUE R. FLETCHER, *Member*  
Community Executive Director  
Say Yes to Education  
Syracuse, New York

PAULA FREEDMAN, *Member*  
President, Freedman Associates, Inc.  
Syracuse, New York

DEBORAH GREEBON, *Member*  
Monitoring and Evaluation Manager  
Management Systems International  
Washington, D.C.

MICHELLE A. HENRY, *Member*  
Senior Program Manager  
Seedco  
New York, New York

KWAME JOHNSON, *Member*  
Director of Grants and Donor Relations  
Charities Aid Foundation America  
Washington, D.C.

# Senior Staff

MARSHA WEISSMAN, Ph.D., *Executive Director*

CHRISTINE ABATÉ, *Deputy Director*

JOSEFINA BASTIDAS, ESQ., *Deputy Director*

JOSEPH G. SCRO, *Controller*

ALAN ROSENTHAL, ESQ., *Co-Director of Justice Strategies and Counsel*

PATRICIA WARTH, ESQ., *Co-Director of Justice Strategies and Counsel*

MAX LINDEMAN, M.S.W., *Director of Adult Services*

RUKIA LUMUMBA, JD, *Director of Youth Services*



39 West 19th St., 10th Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
Telephone: 212-691 1911  
Fax: 212 675 0825

115 East Jefferson St.,  
Ste. 300  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
Telephone: 315 422-5638  
Fax: 315 471 4924

25 Chapel St., 7th Fl.  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Telephone: 718 858 9658  
Fax: 718-858-9670

228 South Plymouth Ave.  
Rochester, NY 14608  
Telephone: 585 328 8230  
Fax: 585 328 8232

237 Main St., Ste. 1510  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
Telephone: 716 853 9555  
Fax: 716 853-3219

EDITOR Jane Alpert, M.P.A. DESIGN Design Works, Neha Motipara + Abby Goldstein PHOTOGRAPHY Joe Lawton: Pages 2 4, 8 (top), 10, 15 (right), 16 (top & bottom right) 17 18, 19 (right), 20, 21 (left) and 23 (right). All other photos from CCA archives.

The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA), founded in 1981, 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.



## Letter From the Executive Director



In 1981 – 30 years ago this year – when CCA began its work, none of us was fully aware that we were in the midst of what was to become an orgy of incarceration. Now, as we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we also celebrate some success in attaining the goals of the reform efforts in which we have been a partner and a leader.

The criminal justice policies that brought the U.S. the dubious distinction of having the highest incarceration rates in the world are being reconsidered. The current prison population in New York State is 57,000, down from a high of 71,538 in 1999. In juvenile justice, a focus on adolescent development has replaced the framework that formerly labeled some youth as “super predators.” In 2009, New York State’s draconian drug laws were finally reformed, eliminating most mandatory sentences and giving judges discretion to place people in drug treatment programs.

Our staff, clients and communities have steadfastly worked together to bring about these changes. We have organized to reform the drug laws, change New York’s penal law to recognize reintegration as a sentencing goal, and realign New York’s juvenile justice system so that more youth are placed in programs in their home communities, rather than detention or incarceration. Our programs provide evidence that alternatives-to-incarceration can work. People who come to CCA leave better prepared to resume healthy, law abiding, family-focused lives in their communities. They become living examples of what we call “reintegrative justice.”

Despite these accomplishments, the consequences of mass incarceration are not quickly undone. In many communities, incarceration remains almost a normative experience. Tragic racial disparities persist at every stage of the criminal justice system, from arrest to incarceration. People with criminal records continue to face lifelong barriers to employment, housing, higher education and civic participation.

Our history sets a pathway for our future. To fully realize the vision of reintegrative justice, CCA will continue to work to remove stereotypes and stigma that perpetuate irrational sentences and unending punishment. We will oppose such new tools of mass incarceration as initiatives that increase the numbers of young people arrested in school. We will continue to operate stellar alternatives-to-incarceration and reentry programs, demonstrating that these approaches are more humane and cost effective than imprisonment. We will advocate strongly for sentencing reform that views incarceration as a last resort and for policy reform to end discrimination by employers, landlords and colleges against people with criminal records.

With your support, we will continue to make a real difference in the lives of the people we serve and criminal justice system reform.

*Marsha Weissman*

Marsha Weissman, Ph.D.

left A CCA participant and her daughter.



## Letter From the Board President



**“I needed help and encouragement. By coming to CCA, I was able to find that.”**

Those words were spoken by Jonathan Simmons, a young New Yorker whose life got back on track after he sought help from CCA at the completion of a prison term.

I have been touched to meet and hear from many CCA participants over the years – men and women from adolescents to grandparents – who have had experiences similar to Jonathan’s. The compassion and understanding they find in CCA staff is a recurring theme in their stories.

As Mike Petty, another successful client, put it, “I have the highest respect for the CCA staff. They didn’t give up on me. They’re role models for me.”

My personal contact with CCA staff inspires in me the same esteem that clients express. They are a remarkable group of people with extraordinary professionalism and commitment. It seems some staff member is always going the extra mile to talk a youth out of trouble, help a client remain safe in the community, or bring a family back together.

The effectiveness of their work is evident in these pages – both in the stories of individual participants and in the data. More than 90% of youth who enroll in CCA’s programs are not re-arrested within one year of their enrollment. Eighty to 85% of participants in CCA’s drug treatment programs become abstinent or significantly reduce their drug use. 75,000 prison days are saved each year by CCA’s sentencing advocacy work. The savings to taxpayers amounts to \$5.3 million.

With all these accomplishments, CCA continues to maintain a firm gaze on its larger mission: achieving reintegrative justice. It clearly recognizes the failures of our current criminal justice system.

During these times of great economic stress, CCA and its staff have shown that its mission is reachable and is the right thing to do for society and for the individuals it serves.

I am proud and humble to serve as President of the Board of an organization that achieves so much for individuals while working toward such great and important goals. I welcome your support as we move forward.

*Bonnie M. Catone*

Bonnie Catone

left CCA staff greet each other at a street fair

# WE ADVOCATE

## FOR REINTEGRATIVE JUSTICE

The “reintegrative justice” movement calls for an understanding of the challenges a person faces once enmeshed in the criminal justice system – whether at the time of arrest, the end of a long prison term or even years following the completion of a sentence.

Reintegrative justice strives to see that these barriers are understood and addressed from the very beginning of a person’s contact with criminal justice institutions. Reintegrative justice is rooted in the notion that individuals and communities share responsibility for maintaining a law-abiding society. A just society begins in the earliest environment a child encounters – in families, in housing, and in schools – and it continues through adulthood as youth graduate high school, go on to jobs or college and begin to build families of their own. Reintegrative justice is premised in the idea that this pathway is best directed by strong family and social institutions rather than law enforcement or the criminal justice system.

In the U.S. today, however, the core responsibility of individuals and communities to practice reintegrative justice has been shifted over to the police, the courts, and the prison system. We have strayed so far from the ideal of shared responsibility that it is now more likely that a young African-American male will serve time in prison than attend college.

By highlighting the challenges of reintegration even before a person has become caught up in the criminal justice system, our movement seeks to strengthen the capacity of communities to support its families and educate its youth. At the same time, reintegrative justice works to build the will and determination of citizens who have committed crimes to give back to their communities in recognition for the support they have received. Through this mutual recognition of our interdependence, we can address the root causes of the great majority of criminal acts, help individuals achieve their potential, and build communities in which youth and families will thrive.



*left* Shown here in Geneva, Switzerland are Janiese Flagg and Jaquia Bolds of Syracuse, NY, two of four CCA youth who traveled with staff in 2008 to testify before a U.N. panel on race and human rights about their experiences in the juvenile justice system. The Concluding Observations issued by the Committee reflected the testimony of the CCA youth, charging the U.S. to do more to remedy the effects of racial discrimination.

*above* In March 2011, thirteen CCA youth traveled from Harlem, Brooklyn, and Syracuse to the state capitol, where they joined members of the Juvenile Justice Coalition from every part of the state to advocate for more humane and effective juvenile justice policies. They spoke out in particular for sustaining social programs that help keep youth out of the juvenile justice system.

*below* Judge Michael Corriero (l.) with Alando Fletcher, a youth formerly in trouble with the law who became an outstanding graduate of CCA’s youth programs after the judge allowed him to enroll in CCA as an alternative-to-incarceration.

## 2.3

**million people are incarcerated in the United States. 92 million people in the U.S. have criminal records. African American men are incarcerated at nearly 7 times the rate of white men.**

# 2,550

people are assisted by CCA every year to obtain alternatives to incarceration, remain in or return to their communities, continue their educations, secure employment, and reunite with their families.

# Realizing the Possible

Jonathan Simmons (second from right) came to CCA after serving a prison term and obtained a job as assistant manager at a retail store. He is shown here with his family at a gathering of CCA supporters at the Nathan Cummings Foundation in New York City in October 2008. In his remarks to the crowd, Simmons described his struggles to remake his life after serving a sentence. He said, “After I got out of prison, I needed help and encouragement – someone to relate to me and let me know that anything is possible. By coming to CCA, I was able to find that.”



“ I needed help and encouragement.  
By coming to CCA, I was able to  
find that.

— Jonathan Simmons

# WE ARE

## COMMUNITY BASED

CCA was founded in the belief that the solution to crime rests in communities, not imprisonment. We operate in communities in upstate New York and in New York City.

In all our locations, we foster healthy, mutually satisfying relationships among participants, family members, staff, volunteers and other citizens. Our programs are based on the concept that when young people and their families have access to such essential resources as decent housing, health care, education, and jobs, they will more readily avoid dangerous and illegal activity. We believe that when people do fall into crime, the most effective response is to provide counseling, support, and programs that help them find their way to becoming law-abiding, responsible members of their communities.

In Syracuse and New York City, CCA operates an extensive array of programs for people with criminal justice involvement. In Rochester, New York, our Recovery Network uses peer support to help people struggling with substance use overcome addiction. In Buffalo, New York, our client specific planning program works with people who have been charged with crimes or are facing sentencing to present a full picture to the court that will lead to the most appropriate and fitting disposition and sentence.

Wherever we work, we aim to help men, women and youth who have become caught up in the criminal justice system live safely and peacefully in their communities, rather than being sent to harsh and unfamiliar prison environments located far from their homes.



*above* On a sunny Sunday in June 2011, CCA clients, staff and volunteers gathered in a park in Harlem with representatives of other community institutions and local residents to enjoy family-friendly activities while providing HIV testing and education. The occasion was a community fair sponsored by the New Mount Zion Baptist Church on National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

*left* Adrian Fanus, owner of a male grooming salon in Brooklyn, donated a day of services to CCA youth clients in a spirit of community. He has continued to welcome youth at the salon so they can maintain their appearances for school and other life obligations.

# 60

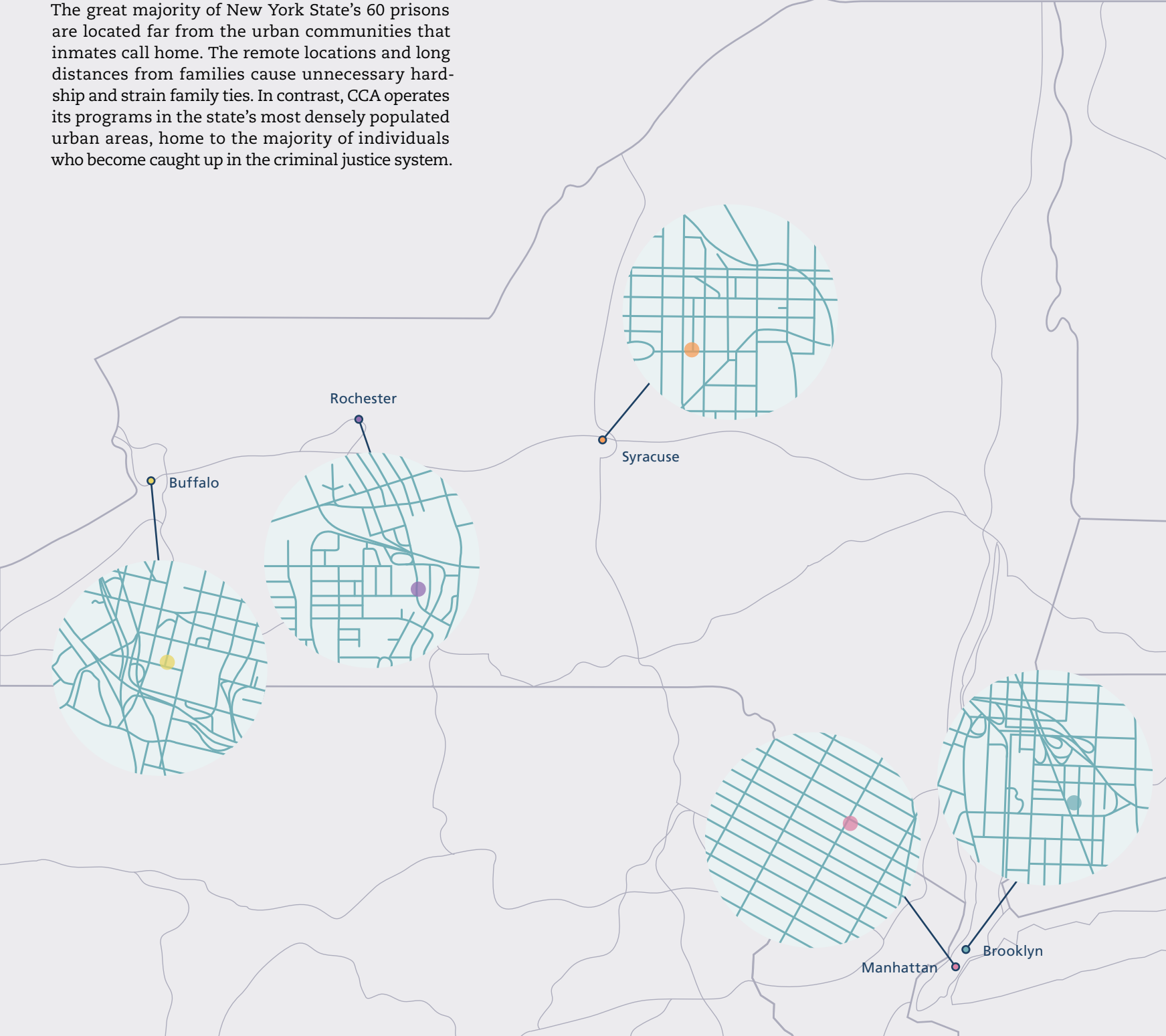
prisons are operated by New York State. Nearly all are located in scarcely populated rural areas, at great distances from urban centers.

# 5

urban communities in New York State – Manhattan, Brooklyn, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo – are home to CCA programs.

# Where We Are

The great majority of New York State's 60 prisons are located far from the urban communities that inmates call home. The remote locations and long distances from families cause unnecessary hardship and strain family ties. In contrast, CCA operates its programs in the state's most densely populated urban areas, home to the majority of individuals who become caught up in the criminal justice system.





# WE PROVIDE

## ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

CCA's court advocates go directly into the courts to identify and advocate at hearings for youth and adults in trouble with the law.

Often the court advocate is able to make a connection with a youth or an adult parolee at the critical moment when the judge is about to make a disposition. The court advocate's willingness to speak up on behalf of the client and agree to accept him or her into CCA custody can make the difference in the judge's decision to send a person to jail. If the judge agrees, the individual may be assigned to an "alternative-to-incarceration" (ATI), "alternative-to-detention" (ATD), or "alternative-to-placement" program at CCA. While enrolled in CCA programs, the youth or adult continues to live at home with their families and in their own communities.

They are required to observe curfews, participate in individual and group counseling, attend school if they are of school age, and perform community service. Youth enrolled in CCA may also participate in structured programs that help them get along in groups, express their creativity, improve their school performance, and develop better decision-making behaviors so they can stay away from violent or illegal activities. For adults, ATI programs include substance abuse treatment, family reunification, health education, and vocational education and assistance with job searches and job placement. ATI programs are far less costly than incarceration and have an excellent track record for protecting public safety, as fewer than 10% of participants in CCA's ATI programs are rearrested within one year of enrollment.



*above* A CCA court advocate, Poopeh Banksy-Paksima, discusses the case of a 16-year-old in trouble with the law with Judge Sheryl Parker of New York State Supreme Court. A strong advocate for CCA's programs, Judge Parker often places young defendants in CCA programs to help them keep their lives on a positive track while they are awaiting trial or sentencing.

*left* Hermann Walz, a New York defense attorney, has represented several indigent young defendants assigned by the state courts who were eventually released to CCA. He said, "CCA is a great way for the kid to solve their problems after they've made a mistake. I tell my client about the possibility of CCA, the judge makes the decision to send them there, and CCA does the rest."

# 90%

or more of participants in CCA's alternative-to-incarceration programs were not rearrested for at least one year after their enrollment.

# 44%

of prisoners in the U.S. are rearrested within one year of release.

# Youth Give Back

Along with attending school regularly, remaining drug-free, observing curfews, and participating in counseling, youth who are assigned to CCA's programs are required to perform community service. The photo shows New York City youth volunteering at Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen.

“CCA is an excellent program. It doesn't make sense to send a young person to prison if there's a better option like this.

— NYS Supreme Court Judge Sheryl Parker



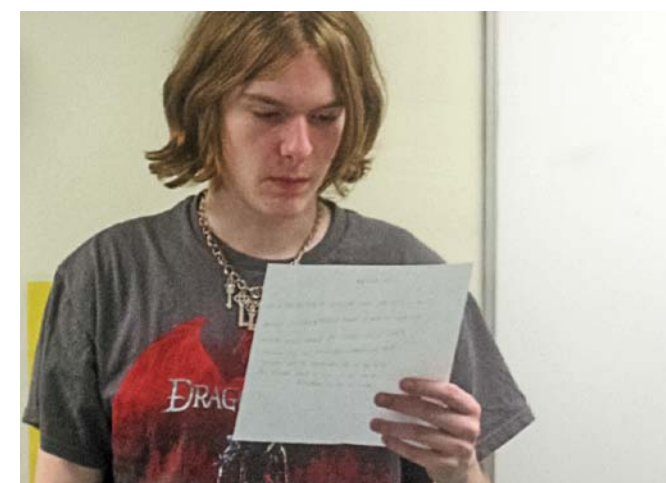
# WE SERVE

## YOUTH AT RISK

For many urban youth today, the first exposure to a discriminatory, punitive system occurs in childhood.

In their own neighborhoods, they are routinely stopped and frisked by police simply for looking and acting like adolescents. Their schools seem modeled more on institutions of criminal justice than places of learning. While youth from affluent communities who engage in rebellious behavior – such as fighting or smoking marijuana – are treated with concern and professional counseling, youth from poor communities are suspended from school and sent to prison for the identical actions.

CCA seeks to identify these youth at the point when they are first suspended from school or arrested on the street, before they have been sentenced to long prison terms. With support from lawyers, court advocates and youth counselors, and with the consent and cooperation of the courts and prosecutors, we seek to have them assigned to our “alternative-to-incarceration,” “alternative-to-detention,” or “alternative-to-placement” programs. Instead of going to jail or prison, they continue to live with their families. While at CCA, they participate in after-school group and individual counseling, abide by curfews, and take part in activities that build their self-esteem, judgment, social, and decision-making skills so that they can get their lives back on track.



*left* A participant shows off a T-shirt she designed together with other members of her family. The joint art project was led by Doing Art Together, a nonprofit organization that has worked with CCA to encourage positive communication within families.

*above* Creative writing is a constructive way for youth to express their feelings, gain command over language and literacy, and articulate a world-view they can share with others. Here a young CCA-Syracuse participant reads a poem he has written in a workshop.

*below* As youth in CCA work to get their lives back on track after a brush with the law, tutoring is a helpful contribution to improving their school performance and earning that coveted high school diploma.

## 3.3

**million students are suspended from school each year. Students suspended from school are three times more likely to drop out of school than students who are not suspended. 68% of state prisoners are high school dropouts.**

# 63%

**reduction in school suspensions was shown by students enrolled in CCA's Strategies for Success program.**

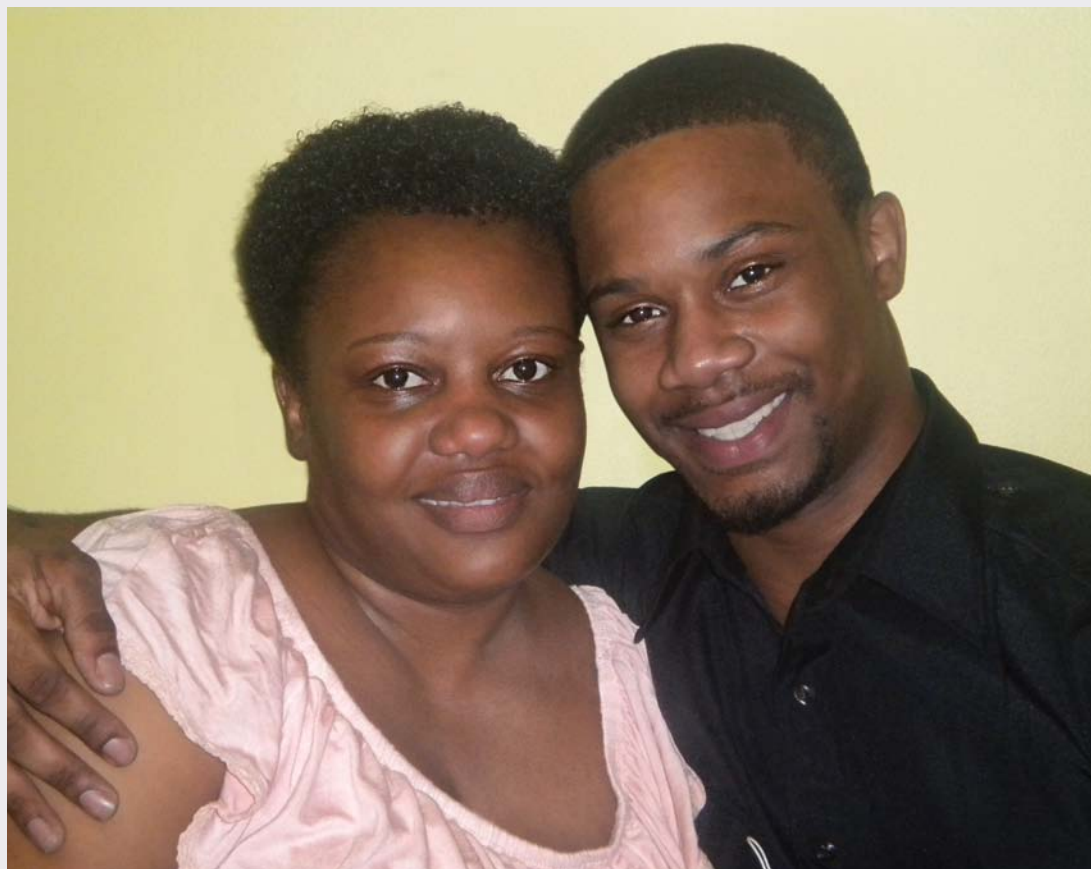
# A Son Grows Up

Conrad Williams's mother, Venice, recalled that when her son first appeared in court at age 16, she begged the authorities to keep him because she couldn't cope with an "unruly child." Instead, the court mandated Conrad to CCA. Looking back three years later on his first encounter with CCA, Conrad said, "I was so bent on not coming. I was still going through adolescent rebellion. It took a few months. But then I started enjoying it. It's so loving. Everyone wants you to succeed. I began to get confidence and the ability to communicate."

Venice said, "I always tried to be a good parent. But in my country, Jamaica, if a child didn't behave, he would get torn up! When I came to CCA and saw the love and understanding they showed my child, I realized there was a different way."

Conrad: "I was always talkative but I didn't talk to my parents. I wanted my mom there but I felt I was going home to the same bad situation every day. Then CCA told my mom that they thought I was going to be great and successful. I saw the look on her face when she heard that and it changed everything."

Now finishing high school, Conrad plans to go on to college and study criminal law, sociology and theology.



“ When I saw the love and understanding CCA showed my child, I realized there was a different way.

— Venice Grant

# WE HELP

## DEFEAT SUBSTANCE USE AND HIV/AIDS

When young people and adults end up on the wrong side of law enforcement, substance use is often a major factor.

For youth, education and individual and group counseling on drug use is an integral component of CCA services. For adults, CCA provides Crossroads, a pioneering gender-specific drug treatment and recovery program established in 1991 that led the way for an effective new approach to working with women substance users who were incarcerated. Since then, the program has expanded to men, retaining the gender-specific approach through separate groups for men and women. Crossroads helps participants find a greater level of understanding among their peers and encourages them to address the underlying issues that may complicate recovery.

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS is far higher among substance users and people who are incarcerated than the general population. CCA has been involved since the early days of the epidemic in education, prevention, and testing for the disease. CCA youth and adult participants learn how to prevent and protect themselves and others from HIV/AIDS. They may also take part in training that teaches them to become peer educators and role models in their schools and communities. CCA staff conduct HIV testing in prisons and jails and other venues where people from affected communities are likely to be found. CCA support groups help people living with HIV to maintain safe and healthy lives.

Recovery from substance use is an ongoing process that involves different challenges at different stages. CCA's Crossroads programs help participants address their overall physical and health needs with interventions such as nutritional counseling and yoga. They also provide help with such issues as parenting, family reunification, housing, and assistance in finding employment. In Syracuse and Rochester, CCA organizes Recovery Networks, peer-led support groups that engage participants in community activities and promote personal and community health as well as a lifelong commitment to recovery.



*left* Women in Crossroads/NYC enjoy an outing at Yankee Stadium.

*above* In Rochester, NY, CCA operates a Recovery Network, a peer group led by men and women in recovery that conducts education and advocacy to reduce the stigma associated with addiction and incarceration.

*below* CCA-NYC staff practice demonstrating an HIV test to clients.

# 85%

**of the prison population needs substance abuse treatment. The rate of AIDS among prisoners in the U.S. is more than twice the rate in the general population.**

# 80-85%

**of participants in CCA's drug treatment programs become abstinent or significantly reduce their drug use.**

# 1,600

**people receive HIV counseling and testing services through CCA programs.**

# A Life Re-imagined



Tamica Lockwood is studying business technology while holding down two jobs and raising four-year-old twins. A CCA client since 2005, she has maintained her determination and made progress through many of her life's struggles. She says, "CCA helped me deal with issues I didn't even realize I had. I got help with my schooling, tutoring, getting clothes so I could apply for job, and finding work. It's hard going to school and working and raising my kids. At CCA, there are other women with the same struggles and we give each other support. I spent years doing the wrong thing, and now I'm doing something right. If it weren't for CCA, I couldn't have gotten here."

“ I spent years doing the wrong thing,  
and now I'm doing something right.

— Tamica Lockwood

# WE STRIVE

## TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO REINTEGRATION

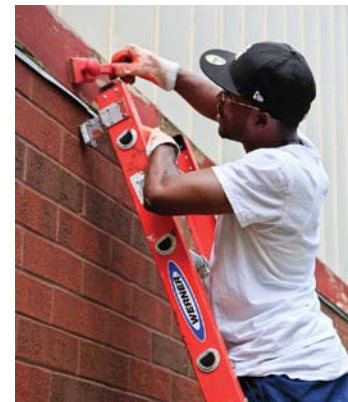
People with criminal histories struggle against odds to resume their lives as parents, complete their education, find jobs and housing, and maintain their determination to live safe, law-abiding lives.

CCA works with men and women before, during and after their incarceration to help lessen these barriers.

Obtaining a job is a major hurdle that confronts nearly every individual with a criminal record. At CCA, participants learn how to prepare for work, apply for jobs, and conduct themselves on job interviews. CCA job developers identify openings in the local job market that may be of interest to participants. They work with employers to explain the law pertaining to hiring people with criminal records and make sure that participants have every opportunity to enter the workforce.

Many people with criminal records lack high school diplomas, adding to their difficulty in obtaining jobs that pay living wages. CCA helps participants obtain their equivalency diplomas and also apply to college and obtain financial aid.

Incarceration is extremely hard on families, producing enormous stress, economic deprivation for families, and often leading to parents' losing custody of their children. CCA works with participants to reestablish family ties, manage their child support obligations, and regain custody of their children.



*above* Men's Wearhouse has generously selected CCA/Syracuse for three years in a row as a beneficiary of its national men's clothing drive. CCA clients find their confidence gets a lift when they can wear tailored, well-fitted business attire on their job interviews. Here Ray Barnes (r), a case manager who is a former CCA client himself, helps Calvin Jones, a current client, select an outfit.

*left* Kimblee Robinson came to CCA in 2009 after completing a prison term and eventually became a counselor. She said, "The hardest thing about prison was the separation from my children. Now each day is a struggle but it gets better. I'm part of a network of women who help each other. I've got a lot of determination and I'm not giving up."

*right* A CCA client works on a repair project at a Syracuse Housing Authority site. This paid position was created in partnership with the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO), a nonprofit organization that hires CCA clients to work on transitional crews on short-term jobs. A CEO supervisor oversees the work at the job site, while CCA staff help prepare clients for employment and assist them to secure permanent positions.

# 65%

of people under parole supervision in New York State are unemployed.

# 47%

of participants in CCA employment programs secure non-subsidized jobs.

# 100%

of women regain custody of their children.

# Full Steam Ahead

José Vasquez, a cook at a popular Syracuse, NY, restaurant, has been a CCA client since his release from prison. He came to CCA with many needs: help in finding employment, continuing his education, managing his child support issues, and having his criminal record reviewed with the aim of reducing potential barriers in the future. With help from CCA, he obtained an interview at the restaurant where he has now worked for over a year. He started as a maintenance worker but was soon promoted to kitchen aide and then to preparatory cook. Vasquez was counseled by CCA staff regarding his eligibility and the steps needed to obtain a Certificate of Relief from Disabilities, which will make it easier for him to obtain employment and educational opportunities.



“ Every day since I got out of prison is beautiful to me.

— Ray Barnes, CCA Staff



# WE ACT

## AS COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

CCA has operated the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) program in the Syracuse area since 1997.

CASA is a volunteer program of adults who speak up for children who have come to the attention of the courts. The child's needs may arise from suspected abuse or neglect, or because they have been removed from their homes, or are in danger of falling through the cracks of the foster care system.

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life. They complete 30 hours of classroom instruction in such issues as child development, family relations, cultural diversity, and family law, plus 3 hours of courtroom training. After completing the curriculum, they are inducted by the Court to uphold the interests of the child.

The CASA volunteer begins a case by comprehensively gathering information from all parties involved with the child — foster parents, natural parents, health care providers, teachers, and others. The CASA volunteer may be able to obtain more information than the child's county case worker, because, unlike the county worker, the volunteer typically has just one case. Once a case is established, a typical CASA volunteer assignment requires 8-10 hours a month of home visits, follow-up calls, and assistance and advocacy to the child and family to access needed services.

The CCA CASA program staff and volunteers organize an annual "Light of Hope" breakfast for supporters in Syracuse to recognize and honor volunteers and raise money for program operations.



*above* Betty Carroll (right) leads a training session for prospective CASA volunteers.

*right* Judge Michael Hanuszczak of Onondaga County Family Court swears in a CASA volunteer.



# 90%

of children in our CASA program are placed with their biological families or in adoptive, permanent families within two years.

# 100%

are no longer abused or neglected.

# 27%

of children in foster care remain in care for three or more years.

# A Family United

Betty Carroll, CASA Program Coordinator (second from left) and Richard Brown, Volunteer Supervisor (far left) show their love and approval to a baby girl assigned to the CASA program. The pleased father, holding the child at right, and the mother, next to him, are both participants in CCA's employment program. Betty Carroll says, "The CASA volunteer is there for the child. But I always tell parents, 'The best place for your child is with you.' That's true! Children always want to go home to their parents."

“ I always tell parents, 'The best place for your child is with you.' ”

— Betty Carroll, CASA Program Coordinator



# WE ADVOCATE

## FOR CLIENTS AT COURT PROCEDURES

CCA's Client Specific Planning (CSP), a pioneering program of CCA, is recognized today as one of the foremost defender-based sentencing programs in the country.

The CSP staff may be utilized to argue for alternative sentencing for clients as well as to advocate for pre-trial release, restoration to parole after a violation, and release from prison when eligible.

CSP staff prepare reports on behalf of individuals who are appearing before the courts, at the request of defense attorneys. Their reports set out a comprehensive picture of an individual's background and life history for a judge's review, before the judge makes a determination about sentencing or community release. They help the judge to understand the person's particular circumstances and the relevance of these circumstances to determining the most appropriate outcome for the individual and for society.

CSP services may support an alternative-to-incarceration disposition, when the law permits that, or a reduced length of incarceration. When the client goes to prison, the CSP report remains on file with the Department of Corrections, where it is an important reference tool for decisions about the client during the course of incarceration. Referral to the CSP report can help a convicted person obtain entry to a specialized program within the correctional system that may help the person recover from substance use and prepare to re-enter society at the end of the prison term.

In 1995, with the enactment of the death penalty law in New York State, CCA expanded its death penalty mitigation work. While New York State no longer has the death penalty, CCA staff continue to be assigned as capital mitigators in Federal Court and in other states. Clients have avoided the death penalty in over 90% of these cases.



*above* Ann Usborne, Director of Client Specific Planning, meets with a client in her Syracuse office. The CSP report, prepared at the request of the defense attorney, helps guide the judge in determining the most appropriate sentence.

*left* Katherine Leptokaropoulos, Director of Court Services, waits for a client facing sentencing at Manhattan Supreme Court.



# \$44,000

per year is the approximate cost of incarcerating a person in a New York State prison.

# \$5.3

million is the approximate amount saved by CCA's sentencing advocacy work, which eliminates an estimated 75,000 prison days.

# A Life Back on Track

Nikki Livingston, shown here with her case manager, Ernie Bullock, got in trouble with the law as a teenager, after her father died and she fell into drug use. She was in jail charged with a felony when a CCA staff person came to see her. A CSP memorandum written by CCA contributed to reducing her charge to a misdemeanor and winning her release, allowing her to go to work at a local shoe store and get her life back on track. At the time of her interview, Nikki was looking forward to getting her own apartment with her two young children and was planning to attend nursing school.



“ In the interest of public safety, all the facts related to a person should be considered at sentencing. An alternative-to-incarceration may not be permitted but a lengthy sentence may not be necessary either.

— Ann Usborne, CCA staff

# WE WORK

## FOR SYSTEMIC REFORM OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

To achieve the ideal of reintegrative justice demands doing more than providing services for individuals.

Our Justice Strategies Division engages in research and policy analysis that contributes to deeper knowledge and understanding about the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Our advocacy work seeks to disseminate this knowledge to a wider public and to improve the quality and responsiveness of the justice system and its services. CCA's dedicated legal staff have devoted their professional lives to fighting for individual clients and for systemic reform. They conduct empirical research, broaden the awareness of criminal justice professionals and the public about criminal and juvenile justice policies and practices, and create opportunities for traditionally underrepresented communities to have a stronger voice in the policy dialogue. CCA staff, clients, volunteers, and community members come together in public forums and meet with legislators and other decision-makers to urge constructive responses to criminal behavior, a reduced reliance on incarceration, and rehabilitation and reintegration in the community.

**CCA's reform work has achieved several notable accomplishments in recent years.:**

In 2006, as a result of strong advocacy by CCA and other criminal justice reform organizations, the New York State legislature adopted an amendment to the penal law that added "reentry and reintegration" as a goal of sentencing.

Since 2009, with support of the Dream Fund, CCA has partnered with the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) to analyze and reform college application and admissions processes that may deter persons with criminal records from applying.

Since spring 2009, when the New York State legislature passed a bill reforming the State's infamous "Rockefeller Drug Laws," CCA has been organizing and training attorneys and other advocates throughout the state to assure that the reforms are implemented.



This initiative, supported by a grant from Open Society Foundations, has delivered training and technical assistance in drug law reform to 938 lawyers, while another 160 attorneys have received technical assistance through contacting CCA directly.

## 2.3

million people are incarcerated in the U.S., the highest rate of imprisonment of any country in the world.



*left* CCA staff and clients joined other advocates for social justice in the state capitol to advocate for the reform of laws and practices that have led to mass incarceration of people of color.

*above* CCA Justice Strategies attorneys meet with lawyers from other organizations to strategize about full implementation of the 2009 reforms in New York State's Rockefeller Drug Laws.

*below* Youth from CCA/NYC met with Brooklyn Assemblywoman Annette Robinson at the State Legislature to share their concerns over the need to downsize New York's youth prison system, restore funding to preventive programs for children and families, and restore state funding for programs that assist runaway and homeless youth.

# 1,163

lawyers and other professionals have received training from CCA that helps them advocate for alternatives to incarceration and reduced sentences.

# Changing the Law



Alan Rosenthal, Co-Director of CCA's Justice Strategies Division, points to a section of the New York State Criminal Code that was recently rewritten to call for "reentry and reintegration" as explicit goals of sentencing. Rosenthal was one of the leaders of the movement that advocated with legislators for this change. The incorporation of the word "reintegration" into penal law potentially opens the door to thinking about reentry as a process that begins at arrest, not just at the conclusion of a prison sentence.

“ Reintegration into the community is now a recognized goal of sentencing in New York State.

— Alan Rosenthal

# FUNDING

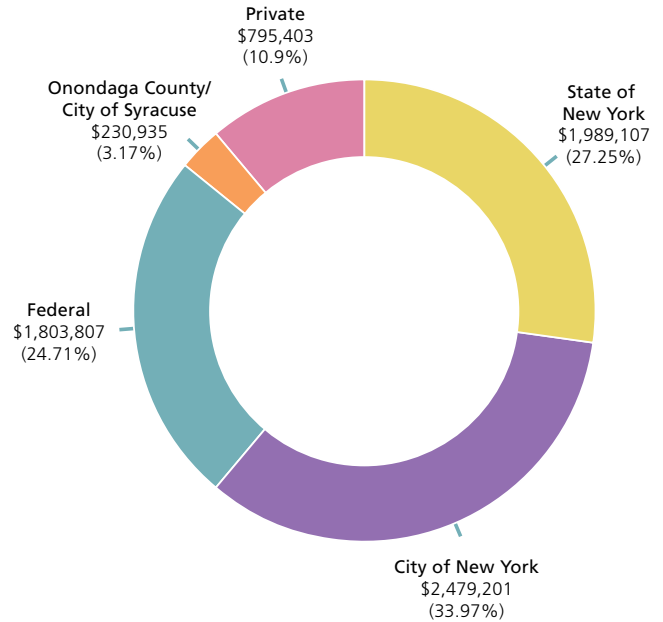
CCA began in 1981 with a single government contract to provide alternative-to-incarceration programs in New York State.

Thirty years later, our budget has grown to more than \$7 million. Our Justice Strategies Division works on national as well as state and local policy issues and our programs for criminal-justice-involved youth and adults reach people all over the state.

While most of our funding continues to come from public sources, we depend on private donors, both foundations and individuals, to carry on the full range of our policy work and services. We depend as well on the dedication of our staff and volunteers who devote many unpaid hours to the work for reintegrative justice.

## 2010 REVENUE

\$7,298,453 (100% of total)



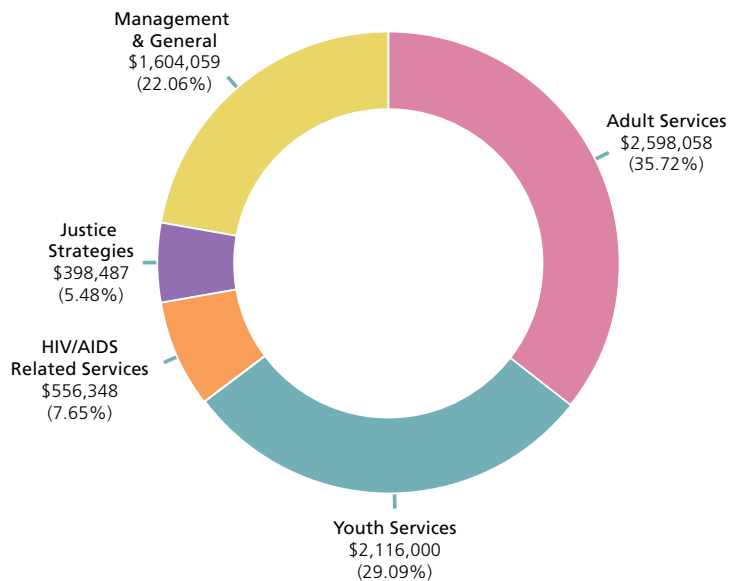
## CHANGES IN CCA REVENUES/EXPENDITURES

1992 to 2010  
(1992 First Year of Audited Statements)

YEAR	REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
1992	\$ 990,278	\$ 880,105
1993	1,595,023	1,513,177
1994	1,940,068	1,777,626
1995	2,149,728	2,114,252
1996	2,402,430	2,398,682
1997	2,524,185	2,384,970
1998	3,772,112	3,500,456
1999	4,551,660	4,359,550
2000	4,989,094	5,095,956
2001	5,700,868	5,791,096
2002	6,332,193	5,932,892
2003	6,352,172	6,304,040
2004	5,750,291	6,183,458
2005	6,227,467	6,381,050
2006	6,170,759	6,059,296
2007	6,701,580	6,629,503
2008	8,193,172	7,902,943
2009	8,288,471	8,164,452
2010	7,298,453	7,272,947

## 2010 EXPENDITURES

\$7,272,947 (100% of total)



Fundraising expense in 2010 was \$7,871, amounting to 0.1% of total expenditures.

# Donors and 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.

This page acknowledges public and private funds received by CCA from January 1-December 31, 2010.

## GOVERNMENT

### U.S.

DHHS/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

### New York State

Department of Correctional Services  
Department of Health  
Division of Criminal Justice Services  
Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives  
Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)  
Office of Court Administration

### City/County

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

## FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

### Over \$100,000

CNY Works  
United Way of Central New York

### \$50,000–\$99,999

Open Society Foundations  
Westcott Community Center

### \$25,000–\$49,999

The Pinkerton Foundation  
Syracuse Housing Authority

### \$10,000–\$24,999

Drug Policy Alliance  
Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society  
Greater Syracuse Works

### \$1,000–\$9,999

Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Central New York Infusion Services •  
Cornell University/School of Hotel Administration •  
Cultural Resources Council  
HIV Mac Global  
Kappa Alpha Theta •  
Rosamond A. Gifford Foundation •

### \$500–\$499

Duke s Root Control •  
The Baruch Fund •  
The Edward W. Hazen Foundation  
Meritain Health

### \$50–\$499

100 Black Men of Syracuse  
Aloha Foundation •  
Alexander & Catalano, LLC  
The John L. and Corrinne Alpert Foundation

American Refining Group  
Cannon Recreation Corp. •  
Delta Chi Fraternity •  
Delta Tau Delta •

The Clifford Ehrlich Trust  
Greeley s Auto and Tire, Inc. •  
Green & Siefert, Attorneys, PLLC •  
New York Anesthesiology Medical Specialties, PC •

Rochester Area Community Foundation

Sigma Phi Epsilon •  
Syracuse University Ski Racing Club •

Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity •  
Testone, Marshall & Discenza, LLP •  
Williams Restaurant •

## INDIVIDUALS

### \$1,000–\$4,900

Anonymous •  
Leonard Berman •  
Richard and Betty Carroll •

### \$500–\$999

Charles and Christine Abaté •  
Alysse Bezahler  
Lori Bezahler •  
Guthrie and Louise Birkhead  
Ed Klein and Linda Trapkin  
David and Sharon Northrup •  
Blaine Shull •  
Sara Stuart  
Tom Terrizzi  
Patricia Warth and Bill Quinlisk  
Marsha Weissman

### \$250–\$499

Jane Alpert  
Steven Belenko •  
Susan Horn •  
Eric and Judy Mower  
Fred and Diane Murphy  
Peter and Nancy Muserlian  
Lou Prieto and Sara Baughan  
Wendy Powers and John Sopchak  
Bob and Jan Shpiner  
Paul and Susan Weinberg

### \$100–\$249

Charles and Lois Abate  
Alejandro Amézcuca  
Bill and Gina Andrews •  
Anonymous (2 individuals)  
Ron Ashford  
David Bennett and Barbara Settel •  
M. Calvin and Sandra Barrett •  
Josefina Bastidas and Elaine Baszczewski

Barbara Benedict •  
Harvey and Deborah Bezahler  
John and Leslie Bowser •  
Phillip and Helen Buck •  
Larry Consenstein  
Michael Corriero  
Mary DaSilva •  
Marion and Linda Ervin •  
Paula Freedman •  
William Gefell  
Brian and Rebecca Gray  
Richard Greenberg  
Mary Lou Hartenstein •  
Maurie Heins  
Michelle Henry •

C. James and Cynthia Irvine  
Linda Jackson •  
Michele Jones Galvin •  
Michael and Lynette Jozefczyk  
Andrea Latchem  
Thomas Lazzaro •  
Thomas and Pamela LeBlanc  
Andrew London  
Louis Mannara •  
Elizabeth Marcotte and Lloyd Feinberg  
Marjorie Mellor •  
Aaron Miller  
Francisco Murillo  
Ted and Betty Murphy Stark •  
Steven Nevid and Pamela Weinberg  
Lawrence and Kathleen Palmieri  
Teri Parks  
Michael Paul •

Lyle and Mary Rogers  
Alan Rosenthal  
Claire Rudolph •  
JoAnne Salmonsén •  
Paul Samuels  
David Schopp  
Anthony and Mattia Scro

Deborah Weissman and Lou Perez  
Golda Zimmerman •  
Fred Zolna

### \$5–\$99

Murnal and Elizabeth Abaté  
Carol Aldrich •  
Patti Anderson •  
Anonymous (8 individuals) •  
Peter Ashworth •  
Lisa Bailey  
Juanita Baker  
Rosemary Barberet  
Xena Becher •  
Randi Bianco  
Bernard Bregman •  
Ona Bregman •  
Terry Butler  
Linda Campbell •  
Julie Cecile •  
Binaifer and Navroz Dabu •  
Mary Dailey  
Robert and Edwina Davies •  
Jackson Davis  
Regina Depperman •  
Wynetta Devore •  
John and Pamela Dooling •  
Helen Druce •  
Ned Duell  
Norma Feldman •  
Mark and Cynthia Ferguson •  
Michael and Marion Fish •  
Pauline Fitzpatrick •  
Alfred and Judy Fusco  
Renee Gadoua •  
Walter and Deborah Gardner •  
John and Deborah Gardner  
Barbara Gifford •  
Terri Gooley •  
Pennie Gorney •  
Annette Guisbond  
Jethier Hagler  
John and Lisa Herold  
Susan Hunter  
Martin Irwin •  
Ann Jamison  
Gregory Johnson •  
Richard and Dove Johnson  
Jamie and Karen Jones •  
Diane Keating  
Bonnie Kenney •  
Karen Kirkhart •  
Melissa Knapp •  
Kim Kozlowski •  
Chris Kratz •  
Vicki Krisak •  
Steve and Kathy Kuehner  
Michael Landauer  
Vincent and Christine Larkin •  
Don and Patty Larson  
Kenneth Ende and Laura Sheppeard  
Rebecca Livengood •  
Fred Fiske and M. Christine Shultz •  
Christopher and Tracey Marchese •  
Emma McDonald  
Brian and Elizabeth McKee •  
Elizabeth McLean •  
Melissa Miner •  
Roy Moore •  
Gary Muldoon  
John and Nancy Murray •  
Natasha Newbury •  
Edward Nowak  
MaggieOLON •  
John Peterson  
Alonzo and Joan Peterson  
Traci Pier •  
Edward Quick  
Florence Ramsey •  
Meg Raymond •  
Mary Richardson •  
Cindy Rider •

Renee Ridgeway •  
Delane Riley  
Tara Ruth  
Lynne Ryan  
Gregory and Joanne Sawmiller •  
Mary Schapley •  
Elizabeth Schenck  
Jill Scibilia  
Joseph and Iris Scro  
Subina Sharma  
Antionette Singleton •  
Beverly Smirni  
Carrie Smith •  
Edward Stevens  
Bethany Stewart •  
Steve Downs and Susan Cahn  
Randi Bregman and Theodore R. Gottbrecht  
William Moulton and Therese Putman  
Elizabeth Thoreck •  
Sandy Trento •  
Siegrid Tuttle •  
George Urist  
Jeffrey VanBuren  
Kevin Vandenberg •  
Marc and Marcy Waldauer •  
Mary Wallace •  
Francis Walter •  
David Warth  
Sara Wason •  
Susie Weiss  
Patricia Cridland and William Mangin •  
Benjamin Willmott  
Hirut Wogayehu  
Douglas and Elaine Wolf •  
Francis and Mary Woolever •  
Theresa Zimmer •



2.3 million people are incarcerated in the United States. 92 million people in the U.S. have criminal records. African American men are incarcerated at nearly 7 times the rate of white men. 2,550 people are assisted by CCA every year to obtain alternatives to incarceration, remain in or return to their communities, continue their educations, secure employment, and reunite with their families. 60 prisons are operated by New York State. Nearly all are located in scarcely populated rural areas, at great distances from urban centers. 5 urban communities in New York State – Manhattan, Brooklyn, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo – are home to CCA programs. 44% of prisoners in the U.S. are rearrested within one year of release. 90% or more participants in CCA's alternative-to-incarceration programs were not re-arrested for at least one year after their enrollment. 3.3 million students are suspended from school each year. Students suspended from school are three times more likely to drop out of school than students who are not suspended. 68% of state prisoners are high school dropouts. 63% reduction in school suspensions was shown by students enrolled in CCA's Strategies for Success program. 85% of the prison population needs substance abuse treatment. The rate of AIDS among prisoners in the U.S. is more than twice the rate in the general population. 80-85% of participants in CCA's drug treatment programs become abstinent or significantly reduce their drug use. 1,600 people receive HIV counseling and testing services through CCA programs. 65% of parolees in New York State are unemployed. 47% of participants in CCA employment programs secure non-subsidized jobs. 100% of women regain custody of their children. 27% of children in foster care remain in care for three or more years. 90% of children in our CASA program are placed with their biological families or in adoptive, permanent families within two years. 100% are no longer abused or neglected. \$44,000 per year is the approximate cost of incarcerating a person in a New York State prison. \$5.3 million is the approximate amount saved by CCA's sentencing advocacy work, which eliminates an estimated 75,000 prison days. 2.3 million people are incarcerated in the U.S., the highest rate of imprisonment of any country in the world. 1,163 lawyers and other professionals have received training from CCA that helps them advocate for alternatives to incarceration and reduced sentences.