In the past year, CCA programs aimed at reducing reliance on incarceration have produced significant results.

In Syracuse, our Parent Success Initiative has helped 210 noncustodial parents, many with criminal history records, to prepare for or secure jobs. Participants have paid over $100,000 in child support. As a result of no longer being delinquent with child support payments, many have reestablished relationships with their children.

In New York City, our Crossroads program helped 53 men and 48 women who have criminal justice involvement achieve success in overcoming substance abuse addiction, as evidenced by their graduation from the program. 90% of all Crossroads participants return for follow-up services.

In Brooklyn’s high-poverty communities of East New York, Bushwick, and Cypress Hills, we are working with young adults who have dropped out of school and are at risk of drifting into illegal activity. With CCA’s assistance, participants have worked on community beautification projects, passed their GED exams, completed OSHA training, and obtained part- and full-time jobs.

In the national arena, our work to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline attracted renewed attention. New data released by the U.S. Department of Education show that more than 70% of suspended students are African American and Latino—a figure that far exceeds their proportion in the population. CCA is partnering with the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officials to research the impact of these suspensions on the college admissions process. This research is targeting discrimination against youth of color in higher education to assure that they are not discouraged or deterred from going on to higher education.

We also work with families and youth to support their ability to tell their stories about how school suspension and the “school-to-prison pipeline” undermine their right to an education. In April, our staff and youth were keynote presenters at a statewide conference on school-justice partnerships, bringing the first hand experiences of youth who are suspended from school to an audience of policy makers.

In June, our youth services staff began receiving cutting-edge training from staff at Beth Israel/St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City to help us infuse trauma-informed treatment into our approach. This summer, we joined with Long Island University in Brooklyn to host 14 juvenile-justice-involved girls in a two-week summer program on a college campus.

Through a new Pinkerton Graduate Research Fellowship award, we will strengthen our ability to generate meaningful data about our program successes. A team of graduate students from John Jay College will be involved with CCA for the next two years, helping to improve our data collection and analysis.

While we strive to produce quantifiable results, much of what we do cannot be measured in numbers. The renewed hope of a
The Parent Success Initiative (PSI) operated by the CCA/Syracuse office has helped 210 non-custodial parents on the path to unsubsidized employment since the program was launched in July 2011. Two participants are now permanently employed by the Syracuse Housing Authority. Others have been hired by such employers in Syracuse as Byrne Dairy, Armstrong Molding, TOPS, and Price Rite.

PSI, a research project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, gives participants job training and job placement together with supportive services, including case management, family life skills workshops, and legal services. Most participants are male, all are parents, and almost all have past criminal justice system involvement.

A total of 418 participants have enrolled since the program began in July 2011. 327 participants completed CCA’s curriculum in work readiness, LEADERS. LEADERS graduates were employed by CCA in transitional jobs at the project’s partner agencies—the Syracuse Housing Authority, Catholic Charities of Onondaga County or the Downtown Committee of Syracuse. Another 223 participated in family life skills classes, with 75% completing those classes.

All together, participants paid over $100,000 in child support since the program began. Before enrolling in PSI, they were not able to make these child support payments. PSI staff have recently introduced retention workshops focused on helping participants keep their new jobs. Mike Pasquale, Director of Reintegration Services, said, “We know that participants are looking to improve their job retention—44 people showed up at our first workshop, and 55 at the next one. We expect that the new workshops will lead to improved retention in employment.”

MDRC, a national research organization, is conducting an evaluation that will compare the long term outcomes of participants with a matched group of individuals who did not receive PSI services.

Christine Abaté, Deputy Director at CCA/Syracuse added, “The successful employment of program participants is due to their dedication to self-development and the recognition by employers of this valuable workforce. We thank the local companies for their commitment to building a strong community through their employment of our job-ready workforce.”

Michelle Neugebauer, Director of the Cypress Hills Community Development Corporation, said, “I found CCAs staff and participants to be incredibly helpful and hard-working. The staff have a great rapport with the young people and seem truly engaged in the work of giving back to the community.”

One resident was pleased enough to treat the group to a pizza lunch. Another, Jason Anderson, who has lived in Cypress Hills for 15 years, said, “This is a beautiful thing these kids are doing for the community.”

Justice Corps, another CCA initiative in East New York, Brooklyn, focuses on older participants, ages 18–24. Participants have not completed high school, are neither in school nor employed, and have a current or past involvement with the criminal justice system. They are required to commit to 35 hours a week for six months, followed by six months of aftercare and follow-up services.

To date, Justice Corps members have completed space renovations at United Methodist Church in East New York and at the Women’s Prison Association. Several participants also completed an OSHA 10-hour construction health and safety training course and a New York City Department of Building four-hour supported scaffolding course. Some have obtained licenses, full-time unsubsidized employment, and begun college applications or training programs. All alumni of the program continue to receive educational and career support services.

From July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2013, the Crossroads program of CCA/NYC successfully graduated 53 women and 48 men, while 133 women and 188 men were enrolled in services.

Crossroads is a pioneering program in substance use disorder treatment for men and women who have criminal justice involvement. Recognizing that intimate personal relationships are often at the core of substance use, Crossroads holds separate groups for men and women to facilitate open discussion and gender-specific responses to treatment needs.

An OASAS-licensed provider, Crossroads works closely with the Departments of Probation and Parole. Staff are in frequent contact with probation and parole officers, make court reports, and visit court and parole offices.

The recent success of one participant, Ms. C.W., is an example of what Crossroads has been able to achieve. Ms. C.W. is a 40-year-old African-American woman who formerly was in the throes of cocaine and crack cocaine addiction and alcohol abuse. After 11 months of participation in Crossroads and Crossroads after-care services, with a record of daily negative toxicology reports, she achieved the milestones of discharge by her case manager and an award as “Ms. Congeniality” from the Crossroads for Women Community. She also overcame her nicotine dependence, continues to communicate and interact with her peers for sobriety support, and attends community groups to maintain her sobriety. Ms. C.W. has received a New York State Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) award and will soon begin training to become an alcohol/substance abuse counselor.

Over $100,000 In Child Support

210 Get Job Help, Contribute

Justice Community and Justice Corps Programs

Improve Communities

103 Graduate from Crossroads Treatment Programs
“Soul Sisters” Build Skills, Confidence

In a health sciences classroom on the bucolic campus of Long Island University (LIU), a dozen adolescent girls worked intently on self-portraits meant to reflect their histories and emotional lives. Tanisha Douglas, CCA Clinical Director of Youth Services, paced the room, addressing the young women in an emphatic voice. “Think about your short young lives. What were the most important events? What terrible things happened to you? What good things? There are things in life we don’t want to think about but we need to be able to acknowledge them and look at them.”

It was the fourth day of CCA’s two-week long mid-summer “Soul Sisters” program, designed to challenge and stoke the ambitions of young women who have been involved in the juvenile justice system. Later in the day, the girls participated in a class called “Power, Identity and Privilege,” where they discussed the recent court decision to strike down New York City stop-and-frisk policies; a particularly resonant event for them. They also resolved to improve their study habits and ability to advocate for themselves—behaviors that would be necessary to their future success.

The next weekend featured a two-day retreat at the Princeton Blairstown Retreat Center. “We had them on ropes courses, canoes, night walks through the forest,” said Ms. Douglas. “It really challenged them! We used conflict resolution skills to get through difficult issues. They learned how they had to depend on each other.”

At the end of the two weeks, participants completed an evaluation that showed striking results. 100% either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they had improved in these areas: leadership, working with others, perseverance, writing, listening skills, problem-solving, handling stress; conflict resolution; confidence; knowledge of potential careers; community-building. 90% “strongly agreed” and 10% “agreed” that they were more inspired to attend college, felt more positive about their futures.

One 17-year-old participant remarked with wonder, “I’d never been on a college campus before. Being here, I see how college students represent themselves.”

The graduation ceremony in August was attended by probation officers, family members and representatives of LIU. Each young woman made an individual presentation about the challenges she overcame. They described the action groups they had formed to oppose violence against LGBTQQ people, end sexual violence, and prevent teen pregnancy.

“It was a great experience for these young women,” said Rukia Lumumba, Director of Youth Services, “We had terrific outcomes, and we plan to keep bringing them together so we can reinforce the positive results.”

CCA GETS RESULTS

CCA staff and youth led off a New York State Permanent Judicial Commission summit conference on School-Justice partnerships held at Hofstra University in April 2013. Marsha Weissman gave the keynote address and Rukia Lumumba, Director of Youth Services, moderated a panel of youth speakers. The remarks by both staff and youth highlighted the real-life experiences of youth who had been suspended and arrested.

Dr. Weissman quoted from interviews that revealed the confusion and isolation youth experienced when suspension led to banishment from mainstream schools. Sent to “alternative” schools that felt like prison, they fell even further behind. They spoke of classrooms where no teaching or learning took place and the humiliation of invasive searches. Yet the young people continued to place a high value on education and felt it was key to improving their circumstances. Dr. Weissman recommended replacing harsh disciplinary practices with interventions rooted in the concept of “restorative justice” that address the whole school environment. One such intervention, called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), has been introduced in 9,000 schools around the country and is proving effective in reducing discipline problems. Other best-practices and evidence-based approaches have successfully been adopted by many schools.

At the summit conference on School-Justice resolutions rooted in the concept of CCA has joined the call by DSC to bring about a national moratorium on school suspensions.

The three members of the youth panel were Malik Gardner, Tatiana Nelson and Devin Wallace; CCA program graduates who were formerly in trouble with the law and are now on track to complete their educations. The youth spectacularly engaged the audience made up of state policymakers and officials, including former Chief Judge Judith Kaye, Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and Dr. Merryl Tisch, Chancellor of the State University of New York.

“Ban the Box” Gathers Support

CCA/Syracuse staffed a table at a June Fatherhood event to gather support for “banning the box” in Syracuse. “Banning the box” means removing a question about past convictions from an initial job application and deferring inquiry until later in the employment application process—usually after a conditional job offer. New York City has already “banned the box” for city employers and contractors, while Buffalo has “banned the box” for most employers. At right in the photo, Melissa Castor, Reintegration Specialist, offers a petition to a participant, while Patricia Warth, Co-Director of Justice Strategies, looks on.
Staff Get Specialized Training to Respond to Trauma

A 16-year-old girl in CCA’s youth program seems bright and motivated but can’t stop getting into fights at school. A 15-year-old male keeps jeopardizing his probationary status by using abusive language to teachers and classmates.

CCA/NYC youth staff are participating in a cutting-edge program to help them recognize how past traumatic experiences may be at the root of these behaviors, with the goal of providing more knowledgeable counseling and referrals for youth. Recent findings in neuroscience have localized the impact of trauma, such as sexual violence or loss of a parent, in specific areas of the brain. These changes may induce trauma survivors to respond to slight or imagined provocations with verbal or physical aggression or to withdraw into a self-protective shell. Substance use is also a frequent co-occurring disorder with trauma.

Evidence-based treatment options can help to heal young trauma survivors, according to Dr. Jacob Ham and Dr. Christopher Branson, psychologists at a program called Healing Emotions and Achieving Resilience to Traumatic Stress at Beth Israel Medical Center and St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center (Bi-SLR HEARTS). The program, which is supported by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), serves children, youth and families impacted by trauma through direct service and training of other community agencies.

“We are holding regular groups with CCA staff to train them in trauma treatment. When training is complete, we will establish on-site groups for youth who have experienced trauma and co-occurring substance abuse—one for males and one for females.”

Research shows that 90% of all juvenile justice-involved youth have experienced at least one traumatic event in childhood. The Bi-SLR HEARTS training is teaching CCA staff to understand the pathway that leads from childhood trauma to delinquency.

Dr. Branson said, “We are holding regular groups with CCA staff to train them in trauma treatment. When training is complete, we will establish on-site groups for youth who have experienced trauma and co-occurring substance abuse—one for males and one for females. Finally, we will support CCA to become a trauma-informed service provider, able to sustain the work after the one-year grant from SAMHSA is over.”

The program is teaching staff practical skills to help traumatized youth ‘de-escalate’ and strengthen their own resilience. Without this training, staff are at high risk of suffering what psychologists call “vicarious trauma,” which in turn leads to high burnout and staff turnover.

Dr. Ham said, “CCA is perfect for this project. They have a rapport with the kids and a baseline knowledge of a trauma-informed perspective. In a focus group with staff we did at the outset, they unanimously agreed that trauma was an issue and it was hard to find treatment in the community.”

Staff have responded enthusiastically. Tanisha Douglas, Clinical Director of Youth Services, said, “The staff has been able to look at maps of the brain and see how the actual impact of trauma can be located. They’re really interested and excited by that.”

Dr. Branson said, “Front-line staff at CCA are the gatekeepers to treatment for these youth. They have more contact with youth than we do in our clinical settings. The kids will never get to our office if front-line staff is not involved. We need to help the staff at CCA thrive so they can do good work.”

C E N T E R  F O R  C O M M U N I T Y  A L T E R N A T I V E S

Financial Statements

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:
- Cash and cash equivalents $74,007 $97,031
- Grants and contracts receivable 1,716,535 1,879,483
- Client specific planning receivables 87,867 79,876
- Prepaid expenses and other current assets 51,096 87,739
- Total current assets 1,929,505 2,144,129

PROPERTY:
- Furniture and equipment 160,076 161,076
- Less accumulated depreciation 160,100 159,120
- Property—net 976 1,956

SECURITY DEPOSITS

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:
- Short-term bank borrowings $232,511 $751,415
- Current portion of long-term debt 20,000 —
- Accounts payable 302,120 121,455
- Accrued payroll and payroll taxes 329,242 242,499
- Deferred revenue 85,733 119,722
- Total current liabilities 969,606 1,235,091

LONG-TERM DEBT, net of current portion

Total liabilities 1,499,606 1,235,091

NET ASSETS—UNRESTRICTED

TOTAL NET ASSETS

$2,053,444 $2,257,206

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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NET ASSETS—UNRESTRICTED

TOTAL NET ASSETS

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Financial Statements
## Statements of Activities for the Years Ended December 31, 2012 and 2011

### Support and Revenue

#### Public Grants and Contract Support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of New York</td>
<td>$1,709,499</td>
<td>$1,828,197</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse &amp; Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Labor</td>
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<td>New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services</td>
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<td>New York State Department of Health</td>
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<td>New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision</td>
<td>$41,235</td>
<td>$22,272</td>
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<td>New York City Department of Probation</td>
<td>$250,346</td>
<td>$—</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York State Department of Labor</td>
<td>$26,800</td>
<td>$—</td>
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<td>Syracuse City School District (SCSD)</td>
<td>$26,800</td>
<td>$—</td>
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<td>New York State Office of Court Administration–CASA Programming</td>
<td>$12,348</td>
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<td>Public Health Solutions (PHS)/MHRA, Inc.</td>
<td>$311,258</td>
<td>$378,260</td>
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<td>New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS)</td>
<td>$257,502</td>
<td>$264,229</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York State Office of Children and Family Services</td>
<td>$57,999</td>
<td>$53,547</td>
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<tr>
<td>Onondaga County Department of Social Services</td>
<td>$142,542</td>
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<tr>
<td>Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES</td>
<td>$57,999</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total public grants and contract support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,105,847</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,774,929</strong></td>
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#### Foundation:

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<tr>
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<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Society Foundations</td>
<td>$210,385</td>
<td>$166,569</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinkerton Foundation</td>
<td>$13,318</td>
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<td>Public Interest Project—Fulfilling the Dream</td>
<td>$48,219</td>
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<td>Hazen Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central New York Community Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total foundation</strong></td>
<td><strong>$258,604</strong></td>
<td><strong>$258,848</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,364,451</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,033,777</strong></td>
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### Expenses

#### Program Services:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York State Demonstration/Client Specific Planning</td>
<td>$146,090</td>
<td>$175,846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crossroads</td>
<td>$619,009</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAMHSA Programs</td>
<td>$411,048</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Advocacy Program–Syracuse</td>
<td>$354,475</td>
<td>$232,533</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syracuse City School District</td>
<td>$39,697</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Advocacy Program–New York City</td>
<td>$829,696</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York City–After School/ATD–Community Monitoring</td>
<td>$354,475</td>
<td>$232,533</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Adult Services–New York City</td>
<td>$29,697</td>
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<td>New York State Department of Health</td>
<td>$496,004</td>
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<td>Family Court Client Specific Planning</td>
<td>$160,877</td>
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<td>Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)</td>
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<td>Public Health Solutions–Co-Factors/EIP</td>
<td>$65,685</td>
<td>$89,896</td>
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<td>Public Health Solution–Positive Choices</td>
<td>$199,275</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Labor–Parent Success Initiative</td>
<td>$1,575,058</td>
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<td>NYS OASAS/Medicaid</td>
<td>$369,809</td>
<td>$159,466</td>
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<td>Re-entry Related Services</td>
<td>$185,348</td>
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<td>Rochester Recovery Community</td>
<td>$224,173</td>
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<td>Disproportionate Minority Contract</td>
<td>$18,297</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Society Foundations</td>
<td>$185,348</td>
<td>$666,532</td>
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<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,179,801</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,555,770</strong></td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
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### Change in Net Assets

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<tr>
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<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets—beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>$1,022,115</td>
<td>$1,283,553</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets—end of year</strong></td>
<td>$553,838</td>
<td>$1,022,115</td>
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### Other Revenue and Contracts:

- **Client specific planning:** $69,702 (2012), $167,146 (2011)
- **National CASA Association:** $30,869 (2012), $14,131 (2011)
- **Frank H. Hisscock Legal Aid Society:** $12,000 (2012), $15,000 (2011)
- **CNY Works Funding:** $107,929 (2012), $255,593 (2011)
- **John Jay College of Criminal Justice–CUNY:** $290,288 (2012), $— (2011)
- **Fortune Society–Castle Replication Project:** $10,000 (2012), $— (2011)
- **Drug Policy Alliance:** $— (2012), $8,398 (2011)
- **Syracuse Housing Authority:** $— (2012), $19,595 (2011)
- **Miscellaneous revenue:** $30,512 (2012), $62,690 (2011)
- **Contributions:** $49,317 (2012), $54,468 (2011)
- **Interest income:** $51,213 (2012), $— (2011)

### New Computer Lab

A new computer lab is making it possible for CCA youth to do homework and learn how to use the latest technology, essential skills for their education and future working lives. Lab equipment was purchased through a generous gift from the Tin Man Fund.
This Honor Roll acknowledges all contributions received by CCA from January 1–December 31, 2012.

CCA is grateful to all its private and public supporters.

Your belief in our work does vital to the struggle for reintegration justice.

Government
U.S. Department of Labor
Drug-Free SubSTANCE Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

Department of Health
Department of Labor
Department of Probation
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
Onondaga County

Public Health Solutions (PHS)/MHR, Inc.
Syracuse City School District

Foundations, Corporations and Organizations

Over $100,000
CUNY Works
John Jay College of Criminal Justice-CUNY
Open Society Foundations
United Way of Central New York

$20,000–$99,999
National CASA Association
Public Interest Project-Fulfilling the Dream

$10,000–$24,999
Fortune Society–Castle Replication Project
Frank H. Hickey Legal Aid Society

Tini Man Fund

$500–$999
2634-2640 Atlantic Ave.
Realty Corp
Kappa Delta Theta Cornell University
Kappa Alpha Theta Syracuse University

Prince Charitable Trusts

$50–$99
Northrup Fund
Rosamond A. Gifford Foundation
The Edward W. Hazen Foundation

$500–$999
Charles and Christine Abate
Daniel Arshack
Leonard Berman
Alyse Bezahez
Lisa Bezahez
Deborah Greeman
El Kellin and Linda Trapkin
Robert Rubinstein
and Sandy Lane
Kimberly Scott
Edward and Helen Stabler
Karen Widder
Patricia Worth and Bill Quinlisk

Marcia Weissman

$250–$499
Anonymous
Jane Alpert
Steven Belenki
Barbara Benedict
Harvey and Debbie Bezahez
Bonnie Catanese
Larry Constenesse
Susan Hory
Merrill and Jeane Kranes
Eric and Judy Mower
Wendy Powers
and John Sophak
Barbara Quinlisk
Alan Rosenthal
Oto Rothermel
Sheila Rule

Delta Sigma Theta Omega Chapter
Sisters Phi Epsilon
Testa Smith Marshall
& Discenza, LLP
 Theta Chi Fraternity

Individuals
$1,000–$4,999
Richard and Betty Carroll
April Stone
Sara Stuart
Robert and Gary Wuth
Alan Blum
and Christine

Joanna Wicky

$1,000–$2,499
Charles and Lois Abate
Anonymous (2)
Lisa Bailey
M. Calvin and Sandra Barret
Derrick Carr
Charles Codocini
Lisa Desrochers and Kimberly Kinions
Joan Durant
Carole Eady
Andrew Erickson
Marian and Linda Erwin
Monique Fletcher
Paula Freedman
Janet Friedman
Sara Friedman
Kim Fugels
John and
Deborah Gardner
Lee Gatta and Joseph Redick
Joseph and MaryAnn Giacona
Richard Greenberg
Julie Hammer
Kevin Harrigan
Mary Lou Hartenstein
Michelle Henry
James Holihan
Linda Jackson
Jean Marie Baptiste
Kwosie Akin
Michael and
Lynette Jozefczyk
Andrew John Knauser
Ben Kranes
Andrea Latchen
Mary Lou Lord
and Ellen Leibowitz
Lolly Levy
Janice Liddle
Barb Lulow
David Michel
Francisco Murillo
Fried and Diane Murphy
Dawn O’Polka
Anzoni and Regina Peterson
William and Rosemary Pooler
LuPresto and
Sara Baughan
Gretchen Pursen
James and Diane Quinlisk
James and
Geraldine Regan
Labe Richman
Lyle and Mary Rogers
Tom Ryan
Gregory and
Joanne Sawmiller
Elizabeth Schenck
Jerome Taladay
Suzanne Tynghoff
Cindy VanDienbosch and
Andrew Gustafson
Daniel Wada
Tom and Maureen Walsh
Cale Warren
Deborah Weissman and
Lou Perez
Fed Zeina

$500–$999
Anonymous (5)
Anonymous (3)
Muirad and Elizabeth Abate
Casiie Abrams
Thomas Angelier
Laurie Ankersten
Petie Ashworth
Juanita Baker
Lashonda Bell
Rhottie Berliner
Kand Bregman and
Theodore R. Gottreich
Jared Brink
Mina Busk
Heather Carroll
Steven Carter
and Phyllis Thompson
Michelle Case
Patricia Casy
Ethel Castro
Peter and Cathy Coch
Charlie Chappell, Jr.
Darla Chase
Alcia Clifford
Rich Colagioia
Annette Colston
Leo and Helen Cosgrove

Susan Dates
Cathleen De Marzo
Richard and Enid Dembo
Regina Deperman
Margrit Dietl
Steve Downe
and Susan Cahn
William Ellsworth
Kenneth Endle and
Laura Sheppard
Fred Fisk and
M. Christine Schultz
Renee Gouda
Walter and
Elizabeth Schenck
Denise Garrett
Thomas and
Mary Gigliotti
Terri Goedey
Brian and Rebecca Gray
Annette Guisbond
Michael Halle
Randal and Kisha Henry
John and Lisa Herold
Philip Hurweitz
Michael and
Deborah Irwin
Wendy Carol Isome
Francisco Tezen
Murna and Jeanne Jackson
Elizabeth McKee
Leo and Helen Cosgrove
Elizabeth McLean
Wendy Carol Isome
Gretchen Regan
Kenneth Endle and
Laurel Susch
Lester and Mary Lewand

* Board Member
* CASA supporter
* CASA/CCA supporter

** Tom Moran and
Pamela Guinac
Ted and Betty
Murphy Stark
John and Nancy Murray
Diane Nagy
Maureen Nolan
Edward Nowak
Donna O’Mahony Rohde
Holly Ounsik
John Peterson
Alston and Joan Peterson
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Michael and Kathleen Ryan
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Antoinette Singleton
David and Joyce Steinberg
Charles Stevens
Edward Stevens
Harriet Stollman
Joan Taladay
Francisco Tezin
William Mouton and
Theresa Pettman
Stephanie Threet
Anthony Traha
Thomas Valerno
Marc and
Wendy Waldburger
Margaret Webb
Usie Weiss
Lynn Whitlister
Amy Wiggins
John and Nancy Wolfe
Lorna Woodham
Joy Yoita
Larry and Rosalie Young

CCA’s Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program is part of a national program that recruits, trains and supervises volunteer advocates to assist courts in protecting the best interests of children. Since 1998, the CCA/CASA program has trained 159 volunteers and served 608 children and their families. It currently is able to advocate for 30% of children in placement in Onondaga County. This year, CASA presented its Light of Hope award to two dedicated advocates, Karen Dyghter, a pediatric nurse with ENHANCE, and Karen Docter, J.D., a lawyer who represents children in legal proceedings.

From left, Genn Regan, Volunteer Supervisor; Karen Dyghter, Karen Docter, Betty Carroll, Program Coordinator

The Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) is a leader in the field of community-based alternatives to incarceration. Our mission is to promote reintegration justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights.
With the support of a two-year grant from the Open Society Foundations, CCA is contributing to the campaign against “school pushout” by investigating the use of questions about school suspension and school discipline in the college application process. The research project builds on CCA’s 2010 groundbreaking report that looked at the use of criminal history records screening in college admissions. Alan Rosenthal, Co-Director of CCA Justice Strategies, explained, “In the course of our work on the use of criminal history records, we found that colleges were also requiring applicants to disclose if they were subject to disciplinary action any time between 9th and 12th grade—including school suspensions.”

The number of school suspensions nationally has now reached 3 million a year, according to data recently released by the U.S. Department of Education. The use of school discipline records in college admissions is problematic, according to Executive Director Marsha Weissman, for several reasons. “It undermines futures for young people who may have made mistakes at a very young age. Also, data show that school suspensions are very subjective in nature, with black young males disproportionately more likely to be suspended than any other group.”

In fact, 70% of all suspensions are levied against black and Latino males, far exceeding their proportion of the school population.

CCA is partnering with the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) to conduct a survey of the use of questions about school discipline in the application process. Findings from the survey will provide information to college admissions officials on the workings of the ‘school-to-prison pipeline’ and will form the basis for recommendations on fair and appropriate admissions practices. Findings will also be shared with parent and student groups, such as Dignity in Schools, who are campaigning for a moratorium on school suspensions and other limits on harsh school discipline.