

The Voices of our youth...  
...from behind the walls...  
Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention  
Youth Services Center



The Voices from the '505',  
Publication of Writing and Art-work from inside the  
Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention & Youth Services Center

This publication is dedicated to "The Beat Within", Residents of the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention & Youth Services Center (JDYSC) who have spoken out for all to hear their story, and to the staff who have dedicated their time and efforts in keeping the public and residents safe.

This project has come to life from the inspiration of David Inocencio, Co-founder to the Publication "The Beat Within". A year after working with "The Beat Within", I felt it was necessary for the staff, friends, and family of the residents, here in the Land of Enchantment, to be heard. Many residents have volunteered their time to write about their lives, either in short stories, poems, or art-work. All-in- all, the Residents of The Center want their voice to be heard; they want people to know that life is not always a fairy tale. They are doing their best to live the life they were given; a life none of them ever expected to have, yet, here they are. While doing the writing workshops for "The Beat Within", many residents have expressed to me that more often than not, people only see the bad they have done in their lives. No one hears about the abuse they go through, both physically and mentally. Most people simply turn a blind's eye because of the wrongs they have done. These same people want to lock them up and throw away the key, but do not want to hear about the countless days of going hungry or being beat, because their parents were on drugs. I have seen kids get arrested for stealing food from the store to feed themselves and their siblings, only to find themselves, as they say, "trapped in the Juvenile Court System", while their parents are getting high or are locked up themselves.

It's easy to place blame on someone else, but the question to me has always been, "What brought these individuals into the Juvenile Court System?" We all know it didn't happen overnight. For some, it was the gang life; while others, had no parents for one reason or another, for support, guidance and simple love. As a father of teenagers, I know it's not easy keeping them on a straight and narrow path, but we all do what we can and can only hope for the best for our children.

While working on the units, I've seen kids as young as ten up to the age of eighteen come into the D-home. They are from all walks of life: rich, poor, and everything in-between. No one is exempt when the law is broken. However, in New Mexico, our main population is Hispanic. While conducting the writing workshops, the kids that participated were given specific topics from "The Beat Within" to write on, and each were asked to be truthful in what they write. Numerous kids asked if they could put another name in place of their true name, because they didn't want their loved ones or friends upset for the words they wrote, so most used their street names rather than their birth names. The topics they were given range from: Feeling Helpless, Education in the Hall, Can Money Buy Happiness, Guns, and Cheating Death, just to name a few. The words that you read within these pages will be quite eye opening, not just for you as a reader, but also for the kids that put the words on paper.

I have also included, throughout these pages, statistics provided by Dr. Nicol Moreland-Torres and Mr. Daniel Torres, Programs that are provided by The Center, Probation and the Juvenile Justice Center, whether its court appointed or by request of the family.

**Steve T. Serna**  
**Youth Program Officer I**  
**Representative from the Land of Enchantment for the Beat Within**  
**<http://www.thebeatwithin.org>**



Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention and Youth Services Center continues to receive accolades for our innovative approaches to serving youth brought to us by local law enforcement agencies. It is always a pleasure when visitors to our facility provide us with positive comments about the condition of our facility, the professionalism and dedication of our staff, and how our youth are treated. When peers from other jurisdictions compliment us, it is truly a credit to staff for all their efforts. This literary booklet is no exception.

Because of the sincere efforts of Youth Program Officer I Steve Serna, our youth have had another opportunity to express themselves in such a positive and talented way. The writings and art work within the following pages reflects the pain, anger, sadness, suffering, and at times, joy that the youth we serve are experiencing in their short lives. It reflects the purpose for our work and the continued need to provide support and treatment programs that will help them to better their futures. This is not a short term effort, nor can it be such. I hope, as you read through their writings and admire their art work, that you ponder for a moment what their experiences have been, particularly when they are compared to our own.

I wish to thank Steve and the youth involved in this project, and hope those who wonder through these pages reflect on how necessary it is to care for our youth today... for they are indeed our future.

Sincerely,

Tom Swisstack  
Director

## Feeling Helpless

I am Freedom, that is my name  
When the door shuts, it's not a game  
Play with yours and be behind closed doors  
I regret playing with mine

I sit here and miss the ones I love  
And at the same time, sit here and think of the man from up above  
Thank him for letting me breathe this air  
And for giving me the chance to tell these stories of mine I have to share

These stories are stories of broken hearts and all the pain I've caused  
Oh, how at times I wish I can just put my life on pause  
Just long enough to make up for lost time  
And a chance to let my inner-self shine

All I ask for is time to replace the pain that I've caused with happiness  
And just for one more chance  
One more chance to show the world I've changed and how I sit here and hate how I'm  
The one to always be blamed  
It seems like people want to put me to shame.

**Debra**

## **A voice of thanks to Unit D staff**

Hey, how are you all doing? I'm getting used to not being at the D-home. I just wanted to tell you all that my stay there gave me time to figure out what I want in life, and all of you guy's words had an impact on my life. You all made me look at what's real, and what I needed to do. The advice you gave me, I will carry with me forever. The talks of your past and how you all grew up was a lot like mine. The only thing different is you all were leaders of yourself and not followers of others. You all managed to see things and yet be the kind of good people you are, that you can have fun in life without having to use violence. All your wise words made me think of what I need to change and how to make my life better. I would just like to say, "thank you all". You all were like my other family. You gave me so much to use, but left it up to me to decide what I needed to do. The wise things you gave me, I'm going to use, because I have not just myself to worry about, but my child and my own family needs me. You taught me to think of others and not just myself, how to show the world who I really am without violence and with brains, the smarts to use, how to use them, and that you can only make it so far when you cheat. You can make it even farther when you do it the honest way. I have everything I need in life, but I had to open my eyes and see it. There's more to life, and like you all said, the gang 'homies' are there for you when you're free, but when you end up in a jam they don't know you. You know when you said that if I got another chance, "to take it and not mess it up"? Well I'm getting that chance and I'm not going to mess it up. I want more than a rap of being a bad-ass. I want to be known as a success, and you were all right, I'm still young enough to fix where the mess-up's are and change them. So thank you all for your help, the blunt, and true keys to life. You gave me another chance by believing in me and help pushing me to do what's right.

Thank you Brian, Miguel, and Jason. I'm going to carry your words with me forever. Thank you for showing me....

**The voice of a resident on Unit 'D'**

## Day Dreaming in my room

I sit in my room looking out the window  
But everything in my mind is just like a black widow  
Just reminiscing about all the good times I had on the outs  
Without leaving any doubt that my girl just might be out on the  
block  
But where I live there's nothin' but rocks stuffed in your socks  
Looking for better days while I'm in here eating these nasty-ass  
trays  
Thinking of those better days

**Jose**

## Education in the hall

Working here,  
drawing their  
influences everywhere  
Teachers help, as they can,  
Students do get out of hand.  
Others sit and do their work  
watching Staff hard at work.  
Some act-out because they can,  
never realizing it's a helping hand.  
Do what you can to get ahead,  
It's better then being on O.P.  
And staying in bed.

**Adam "Clever Crusade"**

## A BIG HIT

Esto me paso hace 11 anos. Desde que tenia 7 anos, de la forma que esto paso, fue de la siguiente manera, era en 30 de abril ,1997. Mi primo Javier abuso de mi y empezo tocandome en mis partes intimas. No hice nada hasta que cumpli los 8 anos. Yo trataba de decirle a mi mama pero el me tenia amenazada, me decia que si mencionaba algo a mi mama me iba hacer mucho dano y que yo no lo iba olvidar. No dije nada hasta que tenia los 13 o 14 anos cuando me propuse a decircelo a mi mama pero me dio miedo cuando supe que mi primo se entero. Hasta ahorita lo sigue haciendo como si esto no me lastimara o lastimara a los demas. Esto fue lo que me cambio la vida cuando el empezo a abuser de mi.

**ISABEL**

## Hope

Everyday being behind locked doors  
Makes you feel so much more  
Watching mommy at court crying  
Drenched in her tears  
While she's standing there hoping you don't get  
locked up for years  
All she hears towards the end  
Are the words 'held'  
You go back to the unit  
Not feeling so well  
Right deep in your heart  
You wish you and her were never apart  
Crying just as she was  
In your freezing cell  
All you can do is hope she'll accept your call  
And hope at your next court date  
All will be well.

**Kaelyncia**

## Why?

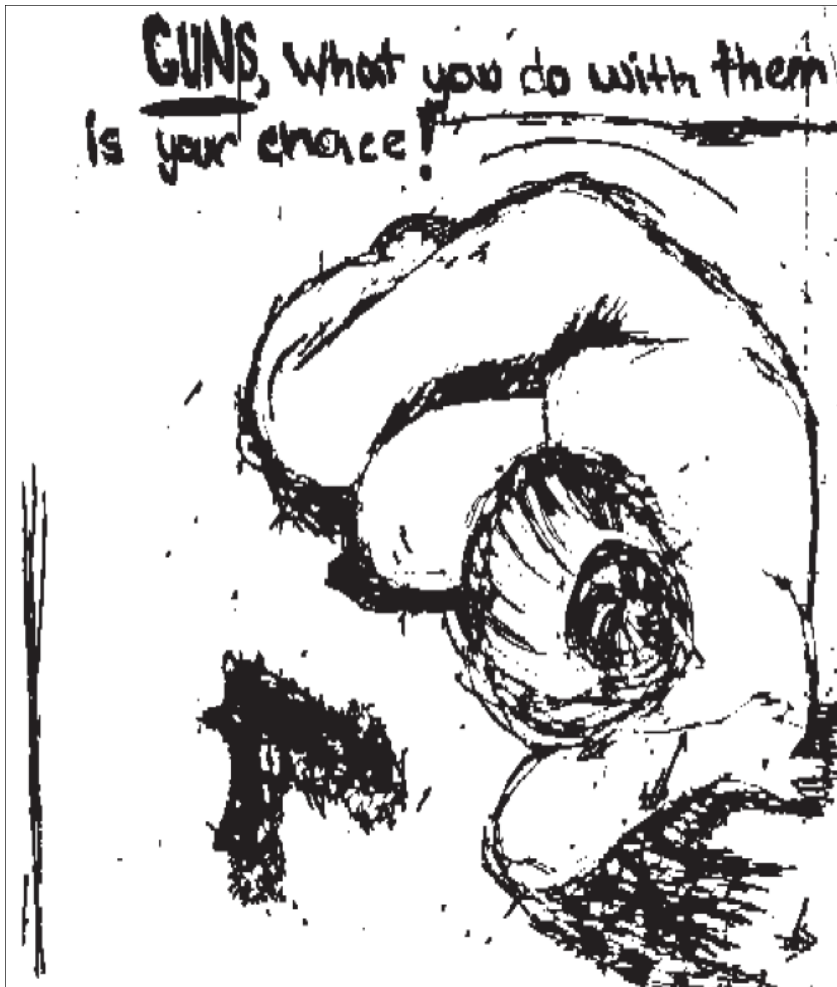
If I would of remembered what I was taught as a kid, I wouldn't have lived the life that I did. I didn't listen when they said, "don't do wrong", but I did when my homies said, "just come along". I should of listened to what I was told, but now I sit in this box, ice cold, now I'm dead, I should of listened to what mama said. Ever since I remember, mama, I could never please you, I could never walk the path you wanted me to, and I refused to listen. Every time I watch you scream at the top of your lungs, until you cry, even though I hated it, I think back now to myself. I never changed it, thuggin was my main hobby. I bought a 3-8-0 just incase somebody robbed me. Momma's mad now cause I got heat, pocket full of money, new shoes on my feet, picked up by the cops every time I leave the house and I wonder why you're drunk, passed-out on the couch.

**Codi**

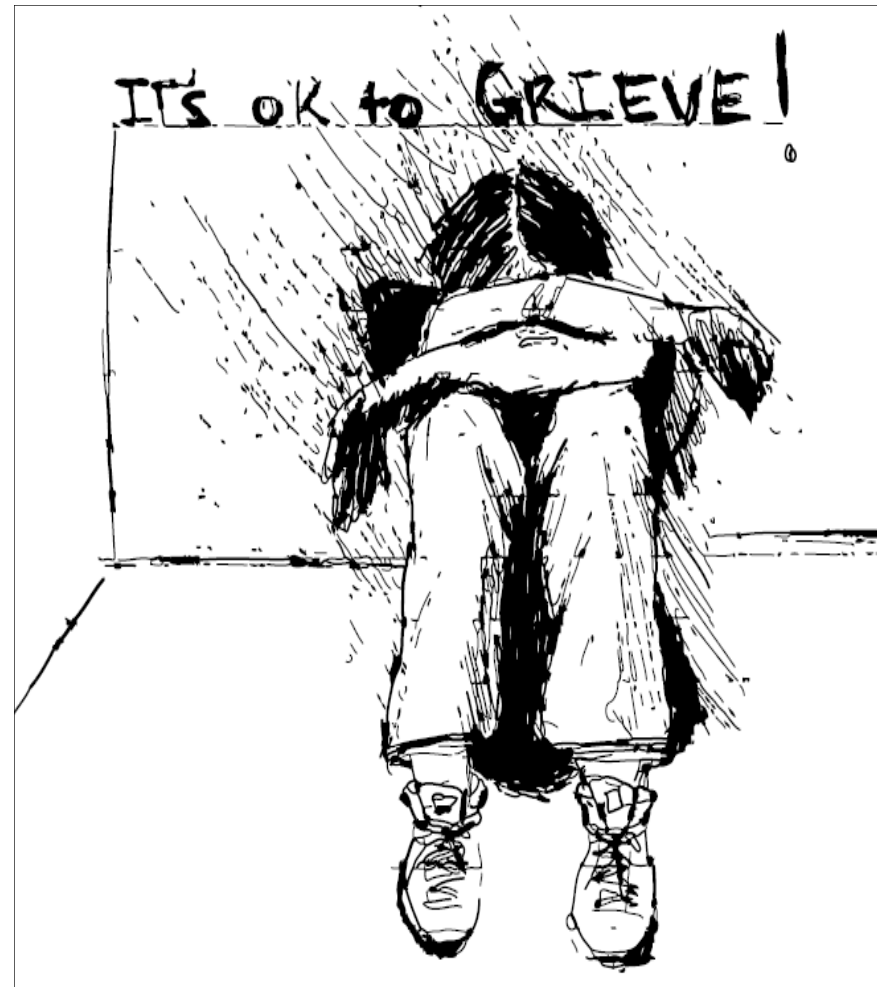


Art work by Navella

It's all about choices



Its ok to Grieve



## **This morning**

I woke up to the sound of the guard, “get up and make your bed”, at 6:30am. “We will pop the doors, stand on your line, get up!” I slowly wipe my eyes and make sure my bed is tight with no wrinkles, then ‘click’, the door pops open and the day starts. Arms behind me, still half asleep, on my way to breakfast, then the words can’t ever describe the food. It’s the first thing you want, 1<sup>st</sup> thing in the morning. Afterwards, back in our cold, scratch that, freezing room.

**Big D**

## **My Dad**

My Dad was strong  
My Dad quit school, yet was very smart  
My Dad had a bad childhood and was homeless  
My Dad came up and started a business  
My Dad lost it, due to drugs  
My Dad cleaned up and did his best  
My Dad fell-back into using drugs and died.

**Bugs**

## **“Put it to sleep”**

Let’s put to sleep  
A word felt deep  
A word that makes  
Some people weep  
This word brings tears  
Nobody hears  
With all the pain  
And all the fears  
Where is the love?  
Can’t people see?  
Let’s bring the peace  
For you and me  
Won’t that be great  
So on this date  
Let’s put to rest  
The word called “Hate”

**Danielle**



Forgive us for our  
Sins ♡

The Best Victim <sup>Paul</sup>  
Sancho <sub>aka</sub>

## The price of happiness

Money was never an important thing in my family. At least it didn't seem like it until my dad left when I was 13 and the money seemed to go with him. He left me, my mom, and my sister with nothing but a house mortgage and bills to pay. At first my family didn't seem to change, but when my mom started working 13 hours a day just to keep the house, I knew I had to do something to change that. When I first started selling drugs, I only thought of the money that would make my family happy, but not of the freedom I could lose. Less than a year after, I started slangin. I was arrested for my first distribution charge, for this I was put on probation and didn't have to spend time in jail because I was caught with bud instead of something else. Three years later, here I am and am now realizing that my family was happier when I was out of trouble than when I was in and out of jail. So for me, money did NOT bring happiness.

**Nathan**



## Who cares? Who cares?

Besides my family, I really don't know who does. My girlfriend? Maybe she's a fake, she says she does, but so did everyone else. My dad said he cared, but then he killed himself, so did he really care? He left my world with a quick goodbye, so I will never know. My mom and my sister say they care, but there's constant fighting. How do I prove who really cares and who's a fake? I guess I never will.

**Codi**

## In my mind

I sit in a room that smell's of dissolution and hate flows in the air. This is a room of darkness where no light will ever appear, shadows run deep in the walls but never roam the halls. I call this place a place of affliction where no man wants to go. Evil thoughts run rapidly threw my mind, forever tormenting my soul. Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide, these voices won't refrain from speaking to my mind. I don't know what to do with all this pain inside. I'm stuck in a place where there's no living life, yet suicide is the only thought running through my mind. I have great abhorrence toward those who keep me trapped inside.

**Malachi**

## Money

I'm common but yet so valuable, my color is green. I have so many friends, people kill for me. I get kidnapped all the time. I roll with any clique. I don't care about your health, don't trust me cause I'll just betray you. You think you know me, but you're wrong. I'll kill you, but you can't kill me. Don't get used to the happiness that I pass, cause deep down, you know it will never last.

**Bugz**

## Through my mind

Confusion, hurt, anger, addiction... That's what your g'na find in my mind, never knowing what's g'na happen... The more I think, the more I hurt... The more I cry... When the day ends, I sit in my room and think, why do I do what I do...? Do I do it for attention...? Or do I do it for fun...? Day and night, I think about it... My addiction is never-ending... I leave, I come home, then go see my P.O... I fail a drug test, almost every one... For weed, coke, pills... My addiction is never-ending... Don't do drugs, they ruin your life... They make your life harder... Keep clean and live good... Go down the right path, not the wrong...

**Kristen**

## A camcorder through my mind

Madness, addiction, violence, drama is what you'll see in my mind. Every single day and every single night, living on the streets is wrong. Smoking crack, meth, drinking all day long. Waking up in parks and behind buildings. Being a witness to shoot-outs, overdoses, and killings. Selling drugs and being away from home. Selling drugs with a group of 13 or just all alone. In and out of jail at the age of 13, I feel guilty you see, because the penitentiary was destined for me. In the gang-life, since I was a little Nina, screaming out the window with a gun in my hand, my hood - por vida!!!

**Nicole**

## **The Beat of my heart**

I listen to my breathing, trying to hold it in, listen to his footsteps as the room begins to spin. Hiding in the closet, hoping to stay hidden behind the closed door, full of all the secrets within. I see him closer now, I try to plead and pray, it's too late now, he drags me far away. Away into the well-lit room, where his face twists and turns, I feel his nails digging, feel how my arm burns. A slap across the face sends me flying to the ground, asking God, "Why? Why had I been found?" Once more his fists fly, that's when I hear a crack, suddenly I'm sleepy, sinking, all the memories flooding back. Memories of when we were whole, everything so happy and free, when no violence flooded, just hope. And then he slowly took me. Took me where I couldn't leave, a cliff that was too steep, slowly he pushed me over the edge until I was in too deep. Now I lay here all alone, the depression coming now. I want to get out, but I just don't know how.

**Jessie**

## **The Monster**

The monster is out to get me. It's the justice system that wants me, they think I can't see and it's my first crime. They want me to do mad time, and I wished I had never sold those dimes. They don't want to give me another chance, I'm a show them I have a stronger stance. They think being in here puts me down, but I'm the one with the crown. I'm a show them I can beat the system, so forget all of them cause when I get out, I'm a show them what I'm about.

King Henry

## Thinking outside the box

As I sit here in my cell, I wonder, “Why do I think its bad-ass to get drunk and get high? Why do I think its bad-ass to gang bang? Why do I think its bad-ass trying to be a bad-ass?” I don’t run anything, in here, on the streets, a gang, nothing. I walk around thinking life and everything is cherry, but it’s not. I’m scared knowing I’m gonna’ get out and run into the same old thing. I know hurting my family has hurt me, and it sucks! I’m 17 and I need to grow up and move on with life. Get my treatment done with, come home, get my probation done, get out of the system, stay out, get my GED, a driver’s license, get a job, and a car. Live-it up and leg it. Instead of living awful on the street, and wondering where I’d go to sleep. Some nights not sleep at all, not eating, but smoking rock, glass, heroin, and drinking. On missions for drugs, money, guns, and just dumb shit. Yeah, when I was out partying, I didn’t think about the ugly things. I never sat down and wondered what’s going on at home, school, in the clean world. Dam, I sit in my room at night looking out the window, crying and just on my knees begging for forgiveness, but I know our dear Lord forgives all of his children. I mean, I’m still young and I have a long life ahead of me. Now it’s my time to be happy again, and to have harmony with my family again. Get back on my feet, because I never, ever want to find myself living in the “monkey hole” (prison), oh hell no, when I can be living a good life. I never used to believe that there would be any fun without a crack pipe or a 40oz. Now I really do believe it all. Jail can change some people’s thoughts about their life, because it has mine. Thanks “Beat” for letting me think outside the box.

**Tweety**



## What I deserve

What I deserve is a better life because my life is all messed-up. I had a mom and dad who were bad on drugs and didn't care about me or my sisters. They just cared about getting high and that's why I believe I deserved better when I was little. I had to go out and steal, get money to feed me and my sisters. If I had a better life, I don't think I would be in here right now writing about my life. I did what I had to do for me and my sisters to survive. That's why I deserve a better life.

**Vincent**

## When we are young

When we are young we didn't know  
Until we learned something our  
Mom's and Dad's taught us, right from wrong  
it's not like we'll grow up over-night  
They tell us not to drink or do drugs  
Our parents tell us so much, sometimes it bugs  
As we grow up, some of us become little thugs  
We drink alcohol and some do drugs  
Believe it or not, if you listen to your Mom and Dad  
You'll have a great life, guaranteed to be rad  
I forgot a lot about my past, if I remembered I'd  
have a blast

**Gringo Joe**

## Cheating Death

I always wondered why someone would take their own life. I've always known its against the word of the Lord, yet people do it all the time. At fifteen, I hated life and everything it stood for. I felt my parents didn't care for me, and I was always in trouble. At the end of one day, I simply couldn't take it anymore. After the fight with my mother, I went out back, behind the garage. I picked up a coke bottle off the ground and broke it in half on the metal trash can. I looked around and knew it was over. Not hesitating I rammed the broken end off the bottle in my left wrist. I dropped the bottle, staggered back hitting a tree behind me sliding down on my ass. I sat there looking at my wrist as the blood steadily hit the dirt and ground at my feet. I awoke several hours later in a hospital bed. The Doctor told me I was one lucky kid. That's how I cheated death.

**"The Lost Soul"**

## Second Judicial District Juvenile DWI / Drug Court Intensive Track

The Juvenile DWI/Drug Court program is an intensive supervision program consisting of juveniles between the ages of 13 to 17. They are offenders who have demonstrated their drug dependency by their involvement in the juvenile justice system, sometimes for non-drug offenses, which are directly related to their drug use. The program lasts a minimum of 28 weeks and is aimed at eliminating drug use among the participants. The Juvenile DWI/Drug Court provides frequent random urinalysis and treatment, along with quick consequences for negative behavior, and rewards and incentives for positive behavior and success. The Drug Court Team consists of the Drug Court program manager, probation officer(s), treatment counselor(s), public defender, a district attorney, and a representative from CYFD probation. The team meets weekly with the Drug Court Judge to discuss each Drug Court participant's progress or any problems that the child or the family is experiencing. The team makes recommendations to the Drug Court Judge in response to each child's situation. Participant's are required to attend individual, group, and family counseling, as well as attending NA/AA meetings, while parent(s) are required to attend Alanon meetings each month while in Drug Court.

The aftercare phase lasts for a minimum of four weeks. Each participant will be expected to complete and implement a Relapse Prevention Plan. The participant will attend a weekly aftercare group, as well as individual and family therapy sessions, as required by the counselor. The goal of aftercare is to practice the skills necessary to develop and use a positive support network, in order to strengthen recovery before and after graduation from the program.



Judge M. Monica Zamora  
Honorable Juvenile Drug Court Judge

The role of the Drug Court Judge is to supervise and reinforce the therapeutic treatment of each child participating in the Drug Court rehabilitative process. The Judge's role and extensive time commitment in the process deviates somewhat from the traditional judicial involvement in juvenile court. The Drug Court Judge has created a therapeutic environment consisting of traditional and non-traditional interventions. For example, the Judge provides incentives and swift graduated sanctions for positive and negative behaviors, compared to lengthy delays in judicial review in a typical probationary program. This is made possible through frequent meetings with team members and weekly face-to-face contact with the child and the child's parents. The Drug Court Team assists the Drug Court Judge by identifying available resources in the community and making recommendations to the Judge as to incentives, sanctions and other solutions concerning the child's behavior and situation.

## Calling out to all volunteers

A new voice started here for “The Beat Within” in the Land of Enchantment. As a staff for the Bernalillo County Detention Center, it’s not easy to find programs for our teens behind bars. This may be only the third week “The Beat Within” has had a voice here in the Land of Enchantment; yet now, I’m hearing that funding for this great project is becoming scarce. I often wonder how people can spend money for materialistic items, yet no one seems to want to spend a few coins on our youth. If we could put a little time and a little money in our youth, just maybe more of our youth would stay out of our cities’ Detention Centers. After talking to many teens behind bars, I’ve found that they got into trouble simply because there was nothing else to do. Yes, that is a cop-out to some, but it happens more often than not. Every time a teen dance or a water park opens, something happens and they end up closing just a short time later. This is my voice, from the Land of Enchantment, shouting out to all the adults out there to help out in this project. If you read “The Beat Within”, you’ll see that there is a great amount of talent in our youth, our future. Let’s not turn a blind eye to our future, but embrace it.

**Steve Serna**

# Detention Data Report Fiscal Year 2006/2007

Prepare by Dr. Nicol Moreland-Torres and Mr. Daniel Torres

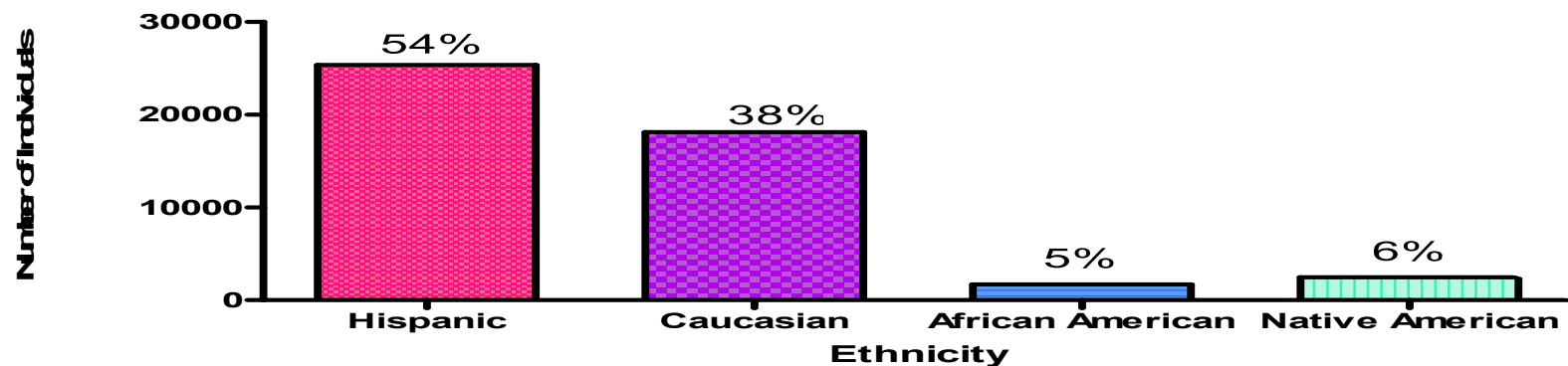
## Detention Fiscal Year 2007 Bernalillo County Detention Report

This past fiscal year's report focuses on disproportionate contact/confinement and gender data. You will find all of the data presented before you to be disaggregated by ethnicity and gender.

### Community Statistics

Bernalillo County's estimated 2006 population size was 615,099 (US Census, 2007). Actual Bernalillo count in 2000 was 556,678, about a 9% increase estimated for 2006. If one assumes a 1.5% increase in the population every year thereafter Bernalillo's population for 06/07 would be about 581,728. The Albuquerque Public School District is made of 54% Hispanic, 34% Caucasian, 5.10% Native American, and 3.9% African American Youth (05/06). For the 05/06 school year, school ages relative to detention (6<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) consisted of **50% Hispanic** (21,826), **41% Caucasian** (18,122), **5% African American** (1,956), and **6% Native American** (2,536; Department of Education, 2007). For our disproportionate minority contact assessment the present report will compare community numbers reported by OJJDP as of 2005 (see below). This was the most recent year we could find reported by a reliable source.

**OJJDP's Juvenile Population Report: Bernalillo County 2005**



## **Program For The Empowerment Of Girls**

### **Children's Court Division**

The mission of P.E.G. is to intervene in the cycle of abuse and empower girls by providing the tools necessary to recognize and change self-defeating behaviors and realize their potential. The Program is an intensive juvenile probation program serving girls between the ages of 13 and 18 who have some type of violence in their history, either as a victim, a witness, or as an offender. The program lasts a minimum of 16 to 20 weeks with a minimum of four weeks of after-care. Each child must successfully participate in and complete the program before consideration for certificate of achievement and release from probation. In addition, parents shall attend a minimum of six scheduled parent groups.

#### **The participants are to be:**

- \* Violence free
- \* Drug free
- \* Attending an education program regularly or otherwise productively engaged

The program includes mandatory parent participation. Siblings may be included when appropriate. The program provides treatment, intensive supervision, support for the family as a unit, and for the members individually. Once a child has been referred for consideration for the program, the screening committee considers factors such as, the child's history, background, and the likelihood that the child's family will be able to provide the structure and support needed for the child to succeed in the program.



**Judge John J. Romero, Jr**  
**Honorable Juvenile P.E.G Court Judge**

The P.E.G team has created a program which provides quick rewards and consequences for positive or negative behavior. The team consists of a Judge, Hearing Officer, Juvenile Probation Officers, Treatment Counselors, a Public Defender and an Assistant District Attorney. The team meets weekly prior to the court session to discuss each young lady's progress or any problems she or the family have been experiencing. The team collaborates on an appropriate response to each young lady's situation.

## **My tree will look like**

At the age of sixteen, my tree was three feet tall with only a few yellow leaves left. Life for me had hit rock-bottom. My father didn't know me, my mother abused me mentally, my older sister moved away, and my younger sister was too young to know what I was going through. Food and water could no longer sustain me. My tree was only fed by hate, anger, and the evil building up inside. I longed to have my tree grow, but no matter what I did, I could not bring it to life, until the day I faced death in the face. The hate and anger I felt started to leave with the voice of promise and death. Now my tree is twenty feet tall, lush with green leaves, and roots unmoving to the bad elements of life. My only problem is the evil that still lingers by the memories of my past that I can't seem to let go.

**"The Lost Soul"**

## **It could have been me....**

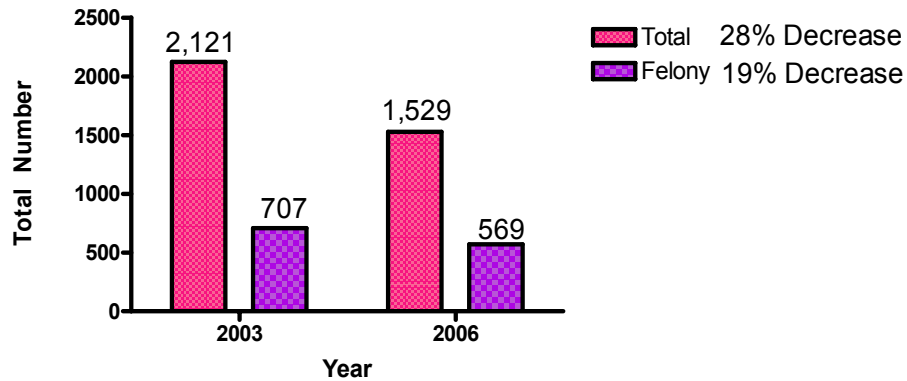
I was twelve years old. The day started like any other. Woke-up, ate breakfast, and went to school. The usual right? The day went by smoothly, 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> period, and lunch through 6<sup>th</sup>. The day ended. It was me, my friend, Jennifer, and my sister. We were all walking up the street to the Tramway Bridge, and like usual, my sister was dragging behind, so Jennifer said we should just skip the bridge and just cross the street. I said, "Ok, but let me get my sister first, go ahead without me". I turned around to get her, but turned back around because I heard a quick scream and saw my friend get hit by a car. The paramedics said she died instantly. If it wasn't for my sister being slow, it could've been me.

**Bugs**



### Crime Statistics

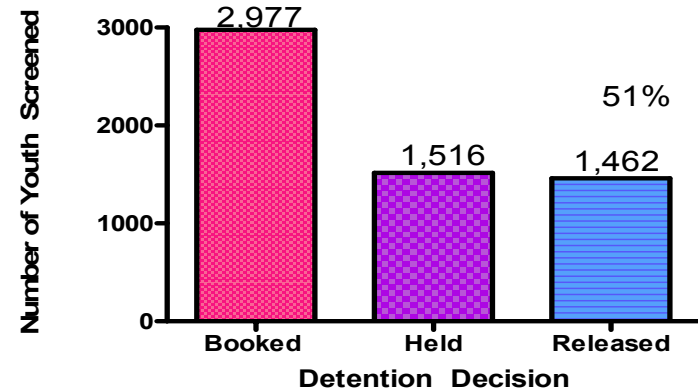
Crime Statistics for Bernalillo County



We have observed an overall decrease in crime rates for Bernalillo County (Albuquerque Police Department, 2007).

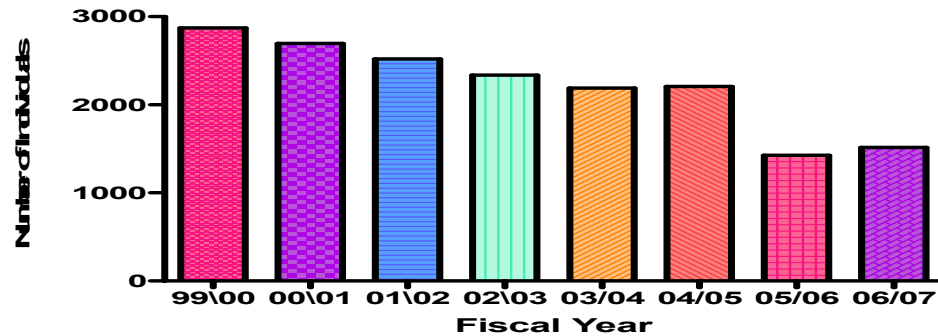
### Detention Statistics

Detention Activity



A slight increase is observed with the number held as compared to last fiscal year, see below

Total Number Booked and Held by Fiscal Year



99/00 = 2, 872  
 00/01 = 2, 697  
 01/02 = 2, 521  
 02/03 = 2, 336  
 03/04 = 2, 191  
 04/05 = 2, 208  
 05/06 = 1, 428  
 06/07 = 1, 516

## **My seed of life**

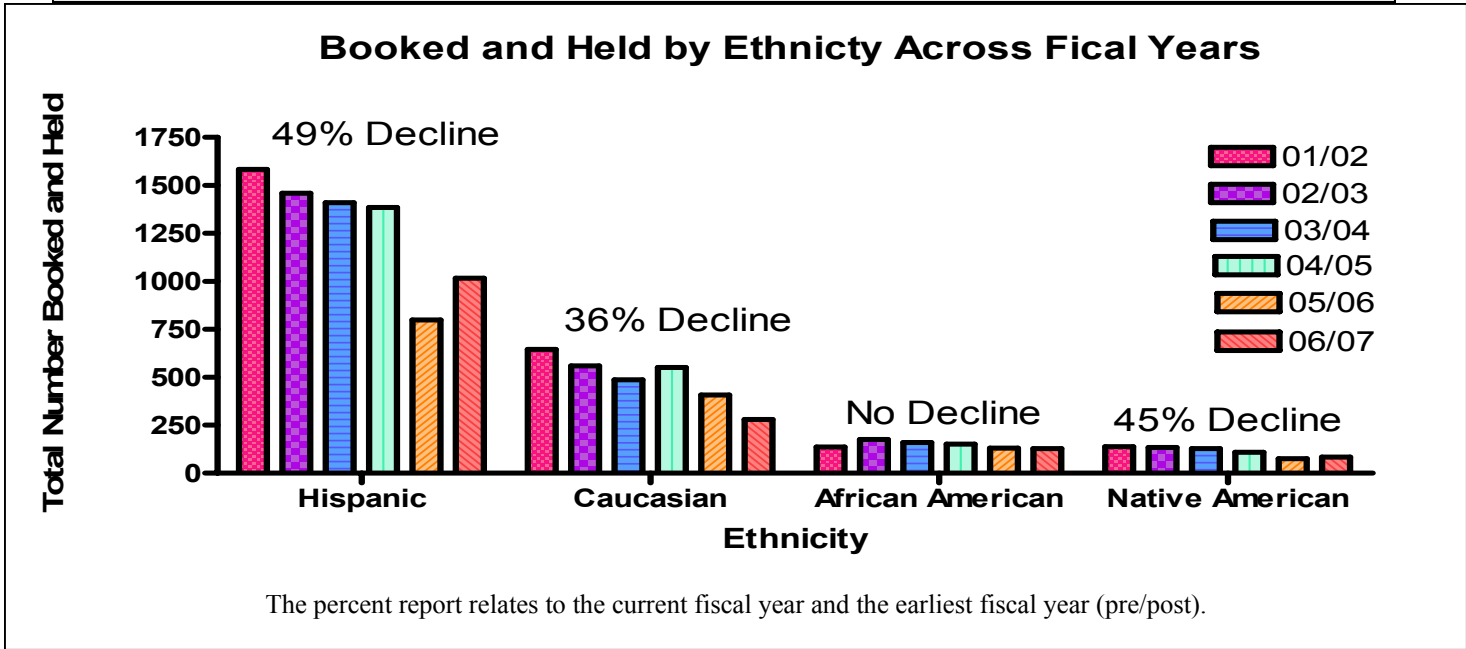
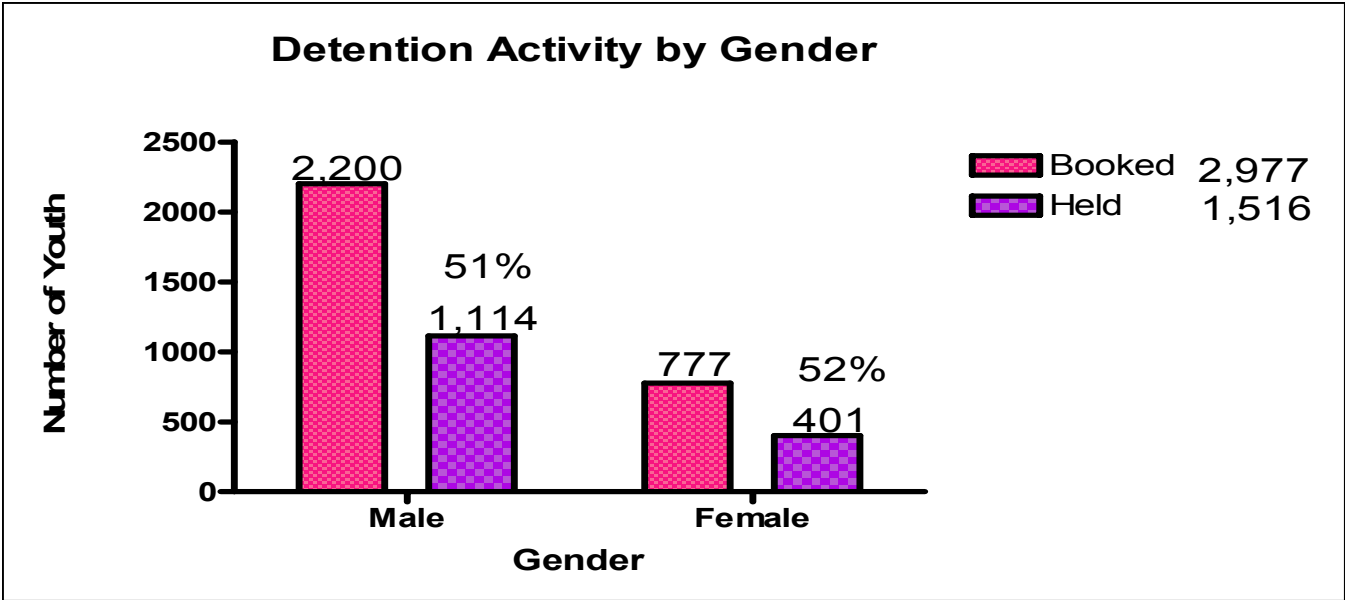
I guess it is safe to say that the seed to my tree was planted a long time ago. For as long as I can remember, things haven't changed. Growing up, I've seen gangs, drugs, and violence, so that's what I've planted. Now I am locked-up, again, getting ready to do my 2<sup>nd</sup> bid. I see things different; though it's a lil' too late. A lot of brothers go through this, is it destined to be. The root is too deep. Can I still turn back? I guess my future and time will only tell. It's hard knowing I have to wake up tomorrow to the same jacked-up life. I have pain for my father, he died long ago. Mom was on dope, so my pride's what I have and it's hard to swallow, from beginning to now, my life's full of sorrow.

**MAC DRE**

## **Cheating Death**

In 2004, I was a hard-core partyer. I smoked weed, drank, popped pills, I just didn't care. But one night my mind changed, it was a normal party for me, just drinking and smoking but then one thing led to another and I bought 20 valium. I handed some out and kept 7 or 8 to myself. I remember taking 7 and drinking like 20 beers. I was fine for a while then I was puking and being tossed into a shower. When I woke up I was in a hospital bed, then I overheard the Doctor saying I was an inch away from losing my life. That is how I feel I've cheated death.

**Bugs**

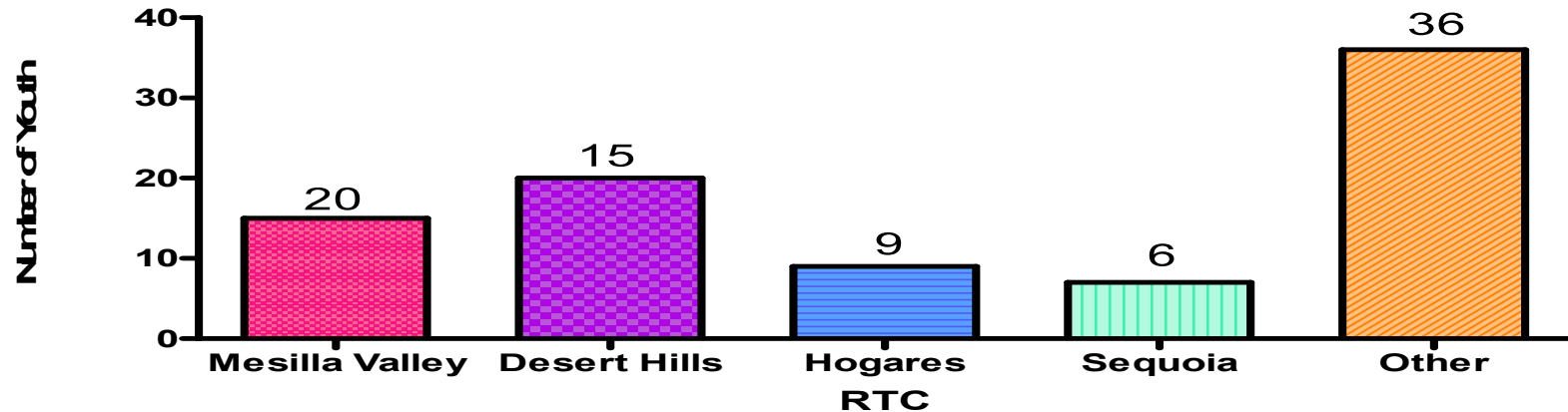


## Feeling Helpless

There's times when I feel helpless and feel like a total mess.  
All I want to do is get back up on my feet and make something of my life.  
And hopefully one day become a mom or a wonderful, beautiful wife  
I want to show my brother and sister, this isn't the life.  
In this life there is so much to gain.  
At times, all I feel is that the only thing I'm good for is to cause people pain.  
There's times when I feel that everyone is against me  
When I feel that, all I want to do is flee  
Sitting here looking at these white walls just makes me want to fall  
I know I need to be tough and keep my head up  
I'm not the type to let my feelings show  
But being in here, I thought you might like to know  
Know how I feel  
I want to make more of my life  
I want to cause happiness and untangle this mess.  
I have a family that loves me and wants me to do right  
But at the same time, I cause such a fight, and laying here, being lonely at night.  
And fantasizing what my life could be if I would only be me  
The me, who doesn't want to impress anyone,  
And if she wanted to, she could soak up the sun  
So here goes a fresh start and I mean this from the bottom of my heart  
So let's hope and pray I make it far.

**Debra**

### Agencies Where Youth are Awaiting Treatment



Above you will find the frequency of where youth are referred to residential treatment. Below, please find the outcome for those who received residential treatment versus being released to a family member and receiving out-patient care. Researchers tracked outcomes for both of those groups of youth who were either released to a residential treatment facility or those released to a family member and compared that rate of return to detention.

Here “outcome” was defined, or measured, by who returns to detention. The time period was 6 months after the survey period ended. Therefore, the graph below shows that 38% of those youth who were released to a residential treatment program was returned to detention within 6-months as compared to only 18% of those youth who were released to a family member. A discussion should ensue regarding criteria for being held and waiting for a treatment bed. Our results first show that 45% of those who were initially held for treatment were later released to a family member anyway. In addition, researchers are also able to say that those who do go to residential treatment facilities tend to be brought back to detention at a higher rate than those who are released to a family member and receive out-patient treatment. The reason for this should be investigated. These results coincide with earlier reports that recommended high level monitoring while receiving treatment works best for detention youth (05/06 Fiscal Report).

## Daydreaming in my room

Day dreaming in my room... for me, all things are possible, for others, there's nothing. I think about a lot of things, me in the Juvenile Detention Center. The most my life has been is a pretty bad one and I'm in the room thinking how really messed up my life is. It's miserable, me looking up at the ceiling, wondering why I'm so alone, then I realize my life is over. There's nothing I can do that can change the past. If I could just rewind life, I'd restart my life over. Then it hits me, if I didn't mess up, I wouldn't be daydreaming in my 4 by 8 room.

**Kevin**

## I love you

I can't remember the last time I told my dad "I love you." I just remember him being mad at me, and then I got locked up. I was locked up when he died. I tried to see him or go to his funeral but I was never able to see him. I can't remember when I told him "I love you."

**LIL Man**

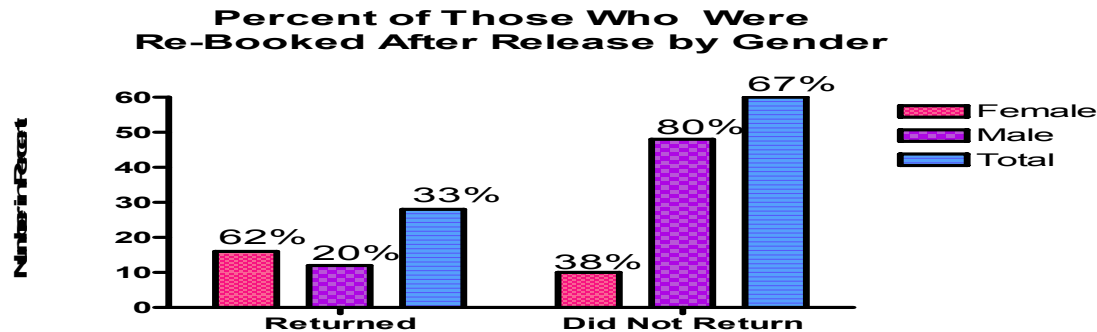
## The Game

On a clever crusade,  
trying not to play  
looking down at the grave  
as I slowly pray.  
Why is life so grand  
and then fades away?  
Chaos and confusion,  
when one dies and goes away,  
but try to keep the faith  
and pray everyday,  
cuz life's not about playing  
just live life day to day.  
Try not to go crazy  
and get put-away,  
cuz your loved ones will hurt and pray,  
so try not to play,  
when it's your life  
at the cost of the game

**"Clever Crusade"**

Let us review for a moment, in more detail, the outcomes found throughout this study. First, recall that “outcome” is measured by the youth’s probability of returning to detention. We are, therefore, most concerned with the question of why youth are returning to detention if their mental health needs are being met? This statement assumes that one’s placement in detention is highly correlated with their mental health. This is not a local or county assumption. It has nationally been found that a high correlation between detention stays and mental health exist. This study does not refute that assumption or finding. Our findings do however call into question if those awaiting residential treatment should be awaiting residential treatment. Researchers were unable to support the correlation with the current sample of youth. There was no significant variation, (positive or negative), of detention stays and current diagnoses. The best that researchers could do was finding a significant correlation ( $r=.05$ ) between number of previous referrals and being re-booked. In other words, as the number of previous referrals increased for any youth, so did the probability of re-offense increase. Other variables such as school status, zip code, ethnicity, number of previous referrals (when grouped; more than 1, more than 3, etc), gender, and previous placements. Previous placements were also highly correlated with number of previous referrals, as one would hypothesize. Researchers were able to support national results observing that first contact highly predicts future contact with JJS.

Although researchers had a difficulty in supporting reasons for re-book as a function of mental health status, researchers were able to support the contention, or correlation, of many variables with those youth who are held waiting residential treatment. In other words, although the outcome initially measured was found to be null existent, there were many variables that youth had in common, as outlined above.



In the graph please observe the comparison of that portion of recidivating youth. Females are at a far greater risk (62%) of being returned to custody than males (20%), regardless of ethnicity. Reasons for this should be investigated.

## **Being Misunderstood**

Sometimes people just don't understand me. They don't understand the things that have happened and what I have been through. Sometimes they even say they do understand, but they don't. I ask them if it's happened to them and they say, "No!" When people look at me, they don't know me, they judge me or they see a happy seventeen year-old, who's had a perfect life and that nothing has ever happened to me. If you look at me, you will see the same. When I go out in public, I put on a mask so no one will see my pain. The Judge and the DA think I'm a bad kid because they don't understand me and I guess they're just not willing to understand what I've been through. It's hard to hide, hide all my hurt and pain everyday. I wish people could understand what I have been through so people could stop judging me.

**Sara**

## **The Big Hit**

The first day I took the big hit was during hurricane Katrina. It was hell, I felt there's nothing I could do and I can't change what's already done. I just felt miserable. My family and friends were all scattered around cities. President George Bush was on vacation when we got hit. The most devastating thing in my life was that day, when I lost my little sister to a thing called hurricane Katrina.

**Kevin**



## **Youth and Family Counseling Program**

- YFCP is staffed by 5 full-time counselors and clinical director
- The mission of the agency is to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles who enter the court system
- Referrals are accepted primarily through the Children's Court Judges and Special Master and, CYFD Juvenile Probation and Parole Officers
- Last year, nearly 600 new families/juveniles were referred to YFCP through the juvenile justice system and referrals continue to increase annually.
- Family counseling services are free of charge
- Delinquent behavior, family violence, substance abuse, severed family relationships, communication, bereavement, and social and economic stressors are common issues addressed through counseling
- YFCP has been in existence for over 20 years and served thousands of juveniles and their families involved in the Children's Court system in Bernalillo County.
- Graduate students from local universities participate in providing services through YFCP to complete their clinical internships and earn their degree.

## **Second Judicial District Court Juvenile Justice Center**

## Why do people hate?

People hate other people cuz all they see is the criminal side of you and they don't see the good side. Like for instance, my Social worker and my JPO only see my bad side. They don't see how I tried to do good, all they see is that I messed-up. I try to tell them that it's hard, but all they want is for me to be in lock-down. They don't see the anger and the pain I'm going through right now, but my actions will have to speak louder than words.

**Iesha**

## Them Days

February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007, I woke up, normal day, ate a little bit of breakfast, chill'in, watch'in T.V., then I got the call....It was my dad, he was crying, telling me how much he loved me, saying "he was sorry". I asked him what was going on and he said he was "trying to get the balls to do it," and I said, "Do what?" He said he loved me, he asked to talk to my mom, he talked to her and my sister, they started crying, then I got back on the phone, and he told me he wanted me to straighten up, and start acting right. He said he loved me again. I knew what was going on so I told him to get some sense and to think about what he's doing. I told him I loved him. He said something then I heard the phone drop, at that moment my dad intentionally overdosed on heroin. The very next day, police called and said they found him at a motel on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. That officially made February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE.

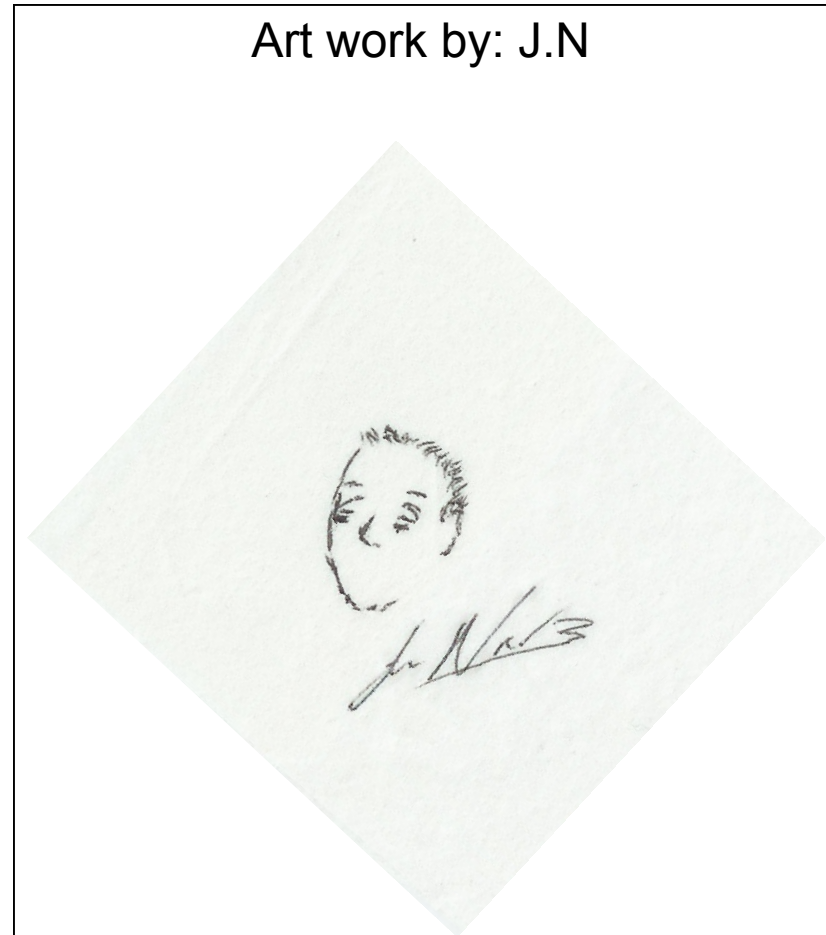
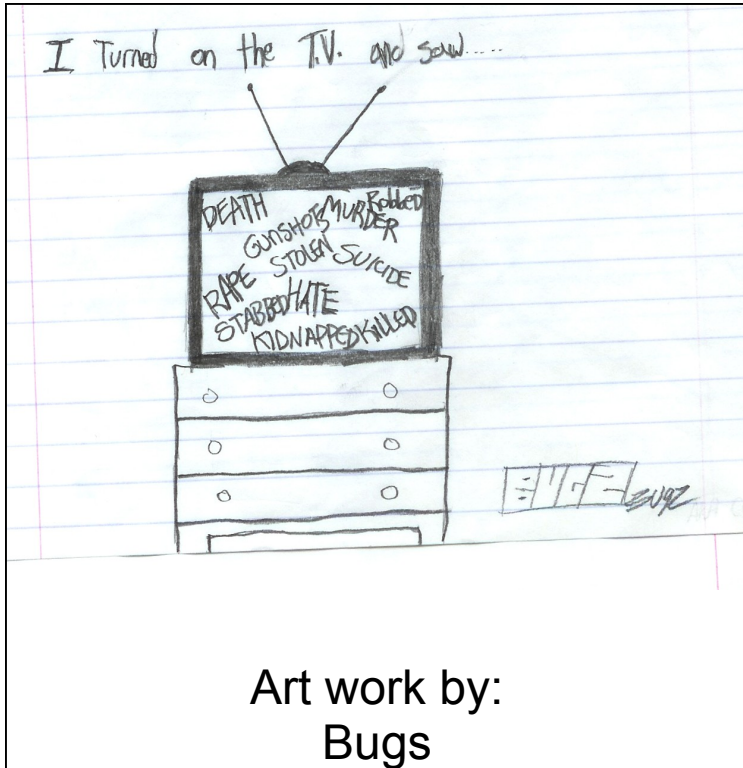
**Codi**

## **The Best and Worst day of my life**

The best day of my life was when my son was born. It was on December 5, 2005. I was so happy but scared at the same time. I was only going to be 15 years old. I really didn't know how to act or what to do. I just had a really good feeling in my heart. When he was finally born, I felt so scared to hold him. He was so little, I named him Isiac. Everyday after that was a great day. I had my girlfriend and my son with me all the time. This day was the best day of my life.

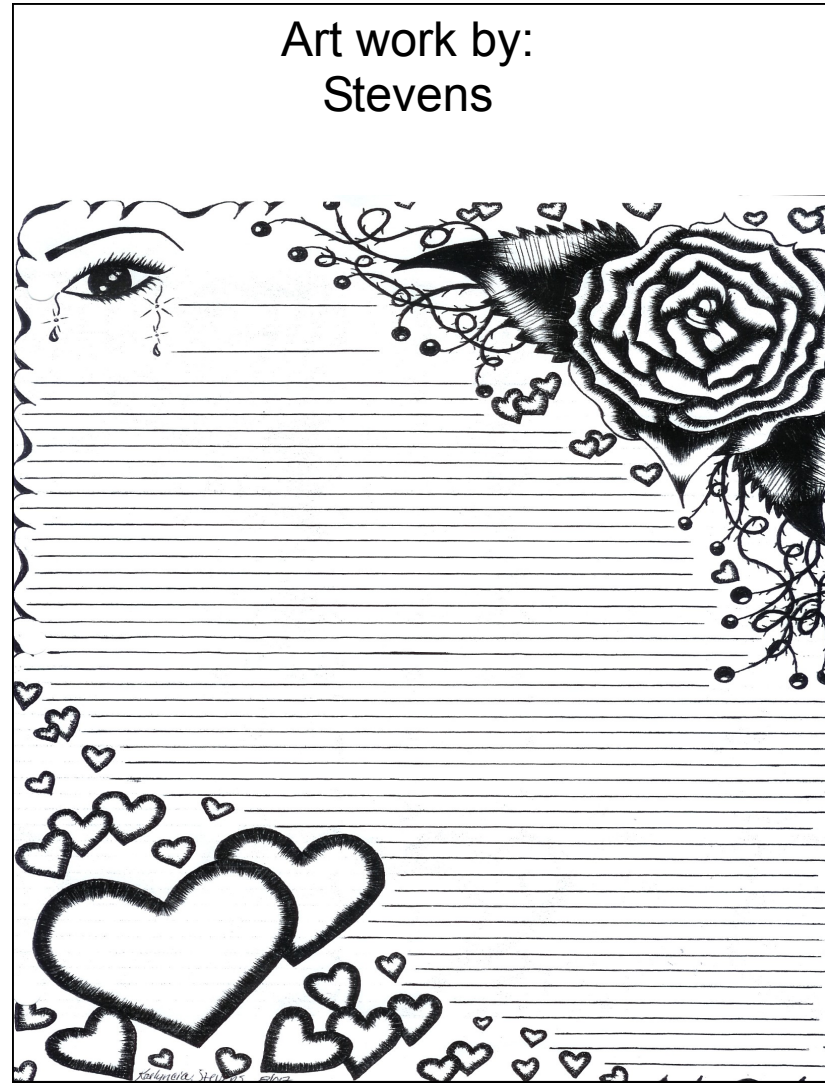
The worst day of my life was when my father died. It was Father's Day and I was driving to the store. My girlfriend and I got a call on her phone. It was my dad's brother, my uncle. He told us my dad had just blown-up his house and 86% of his body was burnt. He told me they took him to UNM Hospital. I was in so much shock, I didn't know how to react. I got out the driver's seat and told my girlfriend, Monique, to take me by his house to see if it was true. Before we even got to the road, I could see all kinds of cops, ambulances, and the fire department. They were blocking the road. Once I saw that, I told Monique to take me to the hospital. It was nothing I would ever imagine or for anyone to see or feel. I was in so much shock, I couldn't handle it. Five days later, he died. The only thing I could do was talk to him, but with no response. This was the worst day of my life.

**Fabian**





Art work by:  
Stevens



Art work by:  
Stevens

## What I would do

Wadd'up beat? One of the topics this week made me think a lil' bit. There is a big problem going on these days. I think one of our biggest problems is that there are too many people living in poverty. A lot of the young ones are losing their lives cuz they're trying to make it out of the struggle. Schools are failing us youngsters because we are being held responsible for being behind shit. We can only learn what we are taught, and for the most part, people are getting pushed out by raising the rent. The government are savages. Nowadays, public housing is getting worse. What are we supposed to go? That shit is faulty...

**Lil Kuruptone**

## What's in a look?

La vida solo es un sueno. A veces que no la intiendo, siento que no hay remedio. La vida solo es un sueno. A veces que la entiendo, busco la puerta pero no la encuentro o todo en peso en el sur. Fue donde yo me crei. Mi madre me decia que en esta vida no hay vida sin disciplina. Me dio una chinga. Este dia no se me olvida. Sali corriendo de la casa en mis calsetines. Me persigio con una mangera de jardines. Yo le decia que cai mal porque me pegas, que demonios te dijieron. Mi padre le decia, "ya dejalo en paz!" Yo en posicion le conteste, "ya no lo vuelvo hacer!" Estos son casos de la vida real pero no estoy hablando del video mensual porque esto es igual. La vida solo es un sueno y a veces que no la entiendo. Siento que no hay remedio, busco la puerta, pero no la encuentro!

**Sancho**

## The words "I love you"

I haven't said in awhile  
Unless silent as I go to sleep  
Always going out to my love  
He knows I'm forever his to keep  
Vaughn is his name  
I just hope he's still the same  
And hasn't gone back to his old ways  
I remember when I was last with him  
I wasn't overwhelmed  
But was leaving to my mom's  
Said I love you, gave hugs and kisses  
Then I was gone  
That's the day everything went so wrong  
Ended up behind locked doors  
So to the one I love, we will always have  
Our special bond  
I'll be there til' the end of time  
I promise to never be gone again  
So we will never end

**Kaelyncia**

## Stranded / forgotten

I come back home and everybody sees me  
They say nothing, and do nothing to displease me  
I've seen this look many times before  
I'm wondering if I should just walk back out the door  
They say or do nothing bad so why do I still feel hurt?  
Looks, so cold, so cold I amount to dirt  
It's a lot of people, yet I'm still alone  
I'm sixteen but they say I'm all grown  
What's going on, what has happened here?  
Drugs, alcohol, is this the end of my teen year?  
Somebody speaks up but the words hit my heart  
We were once close  
Now U wanna' be apart  
I turn in, go now, dead inside,  
Now I have nothing, but me and my pride  
The world is so big, but nowhere to go  
You're grown, you're sixteen, and I still don't know  
Hate  
Hate comes and restores my mind  
Maybe I am grown cause hate is my crime  
I have nothing so evil I do  
I feel that's the only way my points get through  
Stranded, no, not stranded  
Just forgotten

**Reggie**



## She's on my mind

When I'm in my room, I think about a lot of stuff. Mainly about my daughter. I always think about how big she is getting and sometimes I think that by the time I get out, she won't remember me. Last night I talked to her and it made me really think a lot, she asked me when I was coming home. That shit killed me because I don't even have an answer for her, so basically I'm always thinking about her. Once in a while, I think about what I can do when I get out. Like what kind of job I want while I'm out...

**Kurupt1**

## My People

Todo el tiempo pienso en mi raza  
Soy un mejicano, no mas tratando de vivir una Buena vida  
Algunos otros lo tienen peor que yo.  
Estar en el otro lado es duro para vivir,  
No mas por que es Mejico, no piensen en las drogas,  
Piensen en mi gente que esta tratando de vivir una buena vida.  
Hay mucha jente crusando y vendiendo drogas,  
Por eso casi en todos los prisiones hay puros mejicanos,  
Pero te aseguro, nosotros somos Buenos,  
Buenos para trabajar, no nomas piensen en lo malo que hamos echo.

**Enrique**

## Various programs for the residents while inside the Center

The programs offered to the residents, while they are in the Detention Center range from Anger Management to Art group. The programs are provided by Staff of JDC, Social Worker(s), AYUDA, APS, PB&J, Program Manager(s), representatives from Calvary Chapel, and for the Catholic Service.

- |                                     |                         |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| • Managing Anger                    | once a week             | Instructor Diane Wagner                       |
| • Choices - Girls group only -      | once a week             | Instructor Diane Wagner                       |
| • Young Fathers Group               | once a week             | Instructor Manuel Reese / Kathey Gallegos     |
| • The Beat Within (writing group)   | once a week             | Instructor Steve Serna / Lisa Santoyo         |
| • Pet Therapy                       | once a week             | Instructor Cookie Norris                      |
| • Recovery Skills (boys then girls) | once a week             | Instructor Jamie Taylor (AYUDA)               |
| • Art Therapy (boys then girls)     | once a week             | Instructor Kris Sly-Linton / Jamie Taylor     |
| • Ropes Course                      | twice a week            | Instructor Jesse Mendoza PHD/Jamie Taylor     |
| • YOGA                              | once a week             | Instructor Lisa through JDC's APS             |
| • Regular Albuquerque Public School | M-F                     | Instructor APS                                |
| • Special Events                    | various dates and times | Instructors very by event / Gilbert Romero    |
| • Religious Event                   | once a week             | Instructor Pastors/Clergy by Calvary Chapel   |
| • Religious Event                   | once a week             | Instructor Pastors/Clergy by Catholic Service |

When APS is out and there is no school the Unit Staff will conduct a program on each unit for that day, also on the evening shift each unit does a daily program for the residents. Each program is logged and accounted for on the topic, how many participated, as well as the outcome of the program for each unit.

The Juvenile Probation Department has an array of programs for the youth and their families. Once the youth is released from detention, they, as well as their families, are asked by either Probation or the Courts, to participate in various programs. Listed throughout these pages are Programs offered by the Probation Department.

## **INFORMAL SERVICES**

### **Walk-in guidance**

**Held Monday through Friday 8am-5pm**

#### **DAILY - WALK-IN**

JPO staff counsel parents on effective ways of parenting and offer support through counseling referral or other services for the family.

### **Assistance with Sealing of records/School Enrollment Monday through Friday 8am - 5pm**

#### **DAILY - WALK-IN**

A sealing of records packet may be picked up from the Bernalillo County Court Clerk. Paralegal advice is available through Angela Valdez, Lori Sanchez, and Truancy Liaison who assist students reentering APS or transitioning at a Charter School. JPPO personnel can walk you through this process and make referrals for personal assistance.

### **Counseling Service Referrals**

**Monday through Friday 8am - 5pm**

#### **DAILY - WALK-IN**

Through a referral services, families may participate in Youth & Family Counseling, Functional Family Therapy, MST, the Adolescent Intervention Program, Prevention & Intervention Class, Non-Violent Communication, Alternatives to Violence Class or parenting groups.

### **Literacy Program**

**Tuesday 4pm to 6pm**

**\*ON HOLD UNTIL END OF DOCUMENTARY - LOOK FOR LITERACY DAY 2008!\***

Marge Johnson, Special Education teacher and Martha Todd, JPO/Prevention & Intervention Unit study reading, vocabulary, and debating. (Free snacks provided)

## **INFORMAL SERVICES CONTINUED**

### **Life Skills**

**Monday 2:30 to 4:30pm**

Weekly - Call Martha Todd or e-mail @ Martha.Todd@state.nm.us 841-7337

Martha Todd, JPO/Prevention & Intervention Unit offers weekly classes teaching youth about cultural diversity, ecology, environment, community, job readiness, literacy, respect, self-esteem, vocabulary, debating, and grooming. (snacks provided-free)

### **Documentary**

**\*IN PROGRESS\***

**Jimmy Santiago Baca** partners with Juvenile Probation to bring our literacy program to another level. Juveniles will benefit from a team of writers assisting them in literacy, videotaping their lives as they get to know each other. (free)

### **Read to Feed Program**

**ONGOING**

Call Martha Todd or e-mail @ Martha.Todd@state.nm.us 841-7337

Heifer Foundation partners with Juvenile Probation and private sponsors to purchase livestock for families in third world countries - Juveniles earn .50 for each book read to be spent towards the purchase of livestock. Juvenile often receive credit for community services for their participation. (Free)

### **Prevention & Intervention Class**

**4:30 to 6:30pm**

Classes Scheduled: Call Probation for dates

Use Referral Form - WALK- IN'S ACCEPTED

Juvenile Justice building 5100 2nd street /conference room A & B (downstairs)

JPO staff facilitate a 2 hour class devoted to educating families about delinquency law, consequences in New Mexico, drug/alcohol awareness, using films, role-playing, exercises to help families communicate, and information to connect with our other resources. Families take a survey to complete the class.

## **INFORMAL SERVICES CONTINUED**

### **Community Outreach**

**PER REQUEST**

E-MAIL: Valerie.Lopez1@state.nm.us or call 288-1657

Prevention Program in any School. Ideal as an assembly or after school program through the PTSA.

Topics include shoplifting, Alcohol (Party Patrol) or Truancy.

### **Alternatives to violence classes (5 weeks)**

**6:30 - 7:30pm**

Cycles Begin: Call for dates

Use Referral Form

OUTCOMES - 1503 University Blvd. NE ABQ 243- 2551

Outcomes, Inc. partners with Juvenile Probation to provide a restorative justice approach for youth referred for assault/battery in Bernalillo County, through community circles and mediation. Through a 4-week class (Thursday nights) they focus on bullying, being bullied in our schools, talk about the issues facing youth today (gangs, gun violence), and allows kids to learn and support each other. A great tool for youth, and serves as a sanction for clients on probation. Completion of this program offers youth a chance to be supported by a community circle in their neighborhood.

## **INFORMAL SERVICES CONTINUED**

### **Non-Violent Communication**

**Wednesday 4pm - 6pm**

Cycles Begin: Call Martha Todd or e-mail her for dates @ Martha.Todd@state.nm.us

Juvenile Justice building 5100 2nd street / Multipurpose Room (Up-stairs)

Youth Pastor Steven Michael Tumolo and JPO Martha Todd facilitate a 6-week class teaching juveniles how to communicate more effectively. (Free)

### **Yoga**

**Friday 9:00am to 10:00am**

Weekly - following the APS calendar **Just show up**

Mats provided or bring your own. Capacity: 10. Dress comfortably

Juvenile Justice building 5100 2nd street /conference room A & B (downstairs)

Certified Yoga Instructor Lisa Kech partners with Juvenile Probation to offer weekly yoga classes for juveniles. (Free)

### **Adolescent Intervention Program (6 weeks)**

**5pm - 6:30pm**

Cycles Begin: Call probation for dates

Use Referral Form

2403 San Mateo NE (Conference Center off San Mateo) ABQ 830-6500

Albuquerque Behavioral Health partners with Juvenile Probation to create a diversion program that allows juveniles and their families to complete a 6-week counseling program (held on Saturday 10am-12) instead of going to court. Open to anyone seeking assistance for their family. Most insurances accepted. There is a \$200 fee, without insurance.

## **To my Mom**

I don't know why she's with me when she could be free. She is the one who has cared for me. She has given me chances - try seven through eleven, times them by fifty would get you nowhere, but only because that would be unfair. Through kisses and hugs, through all my blue moods, she is the one that has always been true...

Isaiah

## **Addiction**

I've wasted a lot of my life. My choices have made me an addict. I now know that it is only because of God that I'm still alive. Let me tell you that no drug, no drink, no amount of money or power can compare to the love and power of my parents and God. Now I know some people reading this are saying, "What do you know? That doesn't float with me". Don't get me wrong, I don't blame my wrong-doings and choices on anyone else. I knew right from wrong, but I chose to steal, rob, do drugs and do other things that led me to three places: Jail, institutions, death. I only have God to thank for letting me write this. The strange thing is that even as I write this, I find my mind wondering towards things that promise me death. That is how powerful addiction is. It is minute by minute, but Jesus still gives me hope and I want to do what is best for me with the help of people and the Lord. I have been forgiven in the eyes of most people.

**Jesus Jr.**

## **My Birthday**

Today I am spending my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday locked-up for a murder. Long before I was in here, my son's mother tried and tried to tell me about the people I was hanging with, but I acted like I never heard her. Now I'm sitting here for a murder I didn't even commit. All for a man that I cared for, like he was my brother, who would never thought this were to happen to me, eighteen years ago, when I as being born by my mother. This is truly not a way to spend a birthday. Watch yourselves and watch the people who you think are your friends. Then you can live the right way. God is the only friend you need. With him in your life, you will always be able to succeed. Then you won't have to spend your 18th birthday locked- up like me, sitting here, praying, and wishing you were free.

**Curtis**

## **Only if you knew**

Only if U knew where I came from, and how I lived  
Many people say they know, but they really don't know how it is out there.  
Life is hectic where we live, so most people live in fear.  
Only if you knew how hard it was to make money and keep bread on the table.  
Running around the hood, hustling, getting shot at every other day,  
Just to keep things in my house stable.  
But now, if you only knew what God has done for me.  
He has set me free, so I can live in eternity.

**Curtis**



## **A plan to change**

Sixteen years, running the streets and you can learn a lot. But all the wrong things, not the things you want to learn. Sixteen years running the streets and you see a lot. But all the wrong things, not the sights you want to see. Years of living in Meadow Lake teaches you to shut off your emotions. If you don't, you would explode. I've been jacked-up for awhile now. Learning to do things I know were wrong and that I didn't really want to learn how to do. Like gang-banging, robbing people, smoking meth, and many other bad things. I'm only 16 years old and already know how to manufacture methamphetamine. I've already had to bury two really close friends and see three people shot and killed. I've seen countless of other's shot, stabbed and beaten. I myself have stabbed people, shot at people and beaten people. And I've been stabbed, shot at, and beaten. I realize now that that's not the kind of life I want to lead. I don't want to be looking over my shoulder, wondering if I'm going to be killed or not. That is why I have turned my life over to Christ and plan on completely changing my ways when I get out.

**Julian**

## **Reap what you sow**

Let retribution come to all who don't believe  
Let them atone to all their evil deeds  
For no man nor woman  
Shall sin against what God has written  
For it is said, seven plagues  
Will descend upon who thinks they can deceive  
Let them be taken down  
With the sword of the righteous king  
Let them be tormented for all eternity

**Malachi**

## Emotions

Emotions have made me a caged animal

Emotions

Caused me to lose my freedom

Emotions

Are like drugs that you can't inhale or drink

Emotions

Are 3 dimension and my emotions are mostly bad for me

My emotions

Landed me in a place I don't wanna' be

I'm strong but my emotions are stronger

When bad emotions build up, I erupt like a

Volcano

Emotions are really the only thing that U can't Make go or stay

I've grown up

I realize emotions are the most powerful thing in the world

They make you, break you, describe you, and influence you

Emotions

Landed me in jail so it's safe to say

Emotions control you

Reggie

## Why I am here

Who got me in here? My decisions and myself. I had no fear for my position. I took the choice to take a sip of the bottle, and take a hit of the green. I am supposed to be a role model; I can't explain what I've seen. It had to do with my alcohol problem and hang'in with the wrong crew. I thought I was different from them, it feels like I have the flu. Never listened to my family, I thought I was cool, sporting the blue. I could die in the streets instantly. I never cared about the law, just worried about partying. My father crying cause of what he saw, used to think of killing, boxing all the haters and out there selling. Now that I think about it, it hurts my feelings.

King Henry

## I see no light

I twist my middle fingers, tuck in my thumb. To throw up the dub, got to watch my back on the streets. Dam its ruff, death around my corner. Can't you see the look in my eyes? Nothing but darkness surrounding me. I see no light, I don't want to see my family burying me six feet deep. Facing the consequences at work I put on streets, only seventeen that's too young to go, but 'puck' the world. I've lost my heart a long time ago, no one gives a dam or lends you a helping hand, wanted to give up, but to me, that's not a man. To the haters trying to touch me, I show no remorse, you'll never take me alive. I'm making my own course. Growing up I had no father-figure, guess that's why I chose to put my hands on a trigger.

Mario

## A Man

Every day I watched my mom hurt  
I try to fight for her but when the cops came, she turns and fights me  
I'm only trying to protect her from

A man

But by me doing what's right, I get punished

By a man

I cry and go on about my business but my mom can't seem to escape;

A man

I grow up, she kicks me out, now I can't talk to her like I used to

Finally she just gives up and turns her back on me

I love her but she can't show me her love because of

A man

Now I'm a young man with a child she hasn't seen

I get in trouble, can't think, don't know how to do right

People say I'm bad, crazy, but don't know it's because of

A man

I will always love her, because even though she's getting the hurting, I feel her beating by a man

Mom I love you, from your child, now a young man

Reggie

## **DIVERSION CLASSES**

## **1 NIGHT CLASSES**

### **Prevention & Intervention Class**

**4:30-6:30pm**

CLASSES SCHEDULED: Call probation for dates

USE REFERRAL FORM

JUVENILE JUSTICE BLDG./5100 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET/CONFERENCE ROOM A&B (downstairs)

JPO staff facilitate a 2 hour class devoted to educating families about delinquency law, consequences in New Mexico, drug/alcohol awareness, using films, role-playing, exercises to help families communicate, and information to connect with our other resources. Families take a survey to complete the class. First or second offender clients who are referred for Park Curfew, Littering, Careless Driving, Telephone Harassment, No Drivers License, Criminal Trespassing, Speeding, Disorderly Conduct, Offenses by Minors, Runaway, Truancy, Incurrigible, and Interference with School Personnel are eligible to attend this class. It is also open as a sanction for a technical violation for clients on probation or as a deterrent for at-risk youth.

### **Shoplifting Awareness Class**

**4:30-6:30pm**

CLASSES SCHEDULED: Call probation for dates

USE REFERRAL FORM

JUVENILE JUSTICE BLDG./5100 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET/CONFERENCE ROOM A&B (downstairs)

JPO staff facilitates a 2 hour class devoted to educating families about delinquency law, consequences and the impact of shoplifting in New Mexico, through role-playing, discussion and films. Parents complete a survey. Juveniles take a test/survey to complete the class. First or second offender clients who are referred for shoplifting, larceny (misdemeanor) are eligible to attend this class. It is also open as a sanction for a technical violation for clients on probation or as a deterrent for at-risk youth.

## DIVERSION CLASSES

## 1 NIGHT CLASSES

### Minor in Possession of Alcohol Class

**4:30-6:30pm**

CLASSES SCHEDULED: Call Probation for dates

USE REFERRAL FORM

JUVENILE JUSTICE BLDG./5100 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET/CONF RM A&B (downstairs)

JPO staff facilitates a 2 hour class devoted to educating families about delinquency law, consequences and the impact of alcohol use in New Mexico, focusing on the prevention of a DWI through guest speakers, role-playing, discussion and films. Parents complete a survey. Juveniles take a test/survey to complete the class. First or second offender clients who are referred for possession of alcohol or offenses by minors are eligible to attend this class. It is also open as a sanction for a technical violation for clients on probation or as a deterrent for at-risk youth.

### Drug Awareness Class

**4:30-6:30pm**

CLASSES SCHEDULED: Call Probation for dates

USE REFERRAL FORM

JUVENILE JUSTICE BLDG./5100 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET/CONF RM A&B (downstairs)

JPO staff facilitates a 2 hour class devoted to educating families about delinquency law, consequences and the impact of teen drug use in New Mexico, focusing on a commitment to stay clean through guest speakers, role-playing, discussion and films. Parents complete a survey. Juveniles take a test/survey to complete the class. First or second offender clients who are referred for possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia (misdemeanors only) are eligible to attend this class. It is also open as a sanction for a technical violation for clients on probation or as a deterrent for at-risk youth.

## **Disappointment**

I've disappointed many loved ones by being here. Saying sorry wasn't enough, so now I'm sitting in jail, yeah, it makes that clear. I've disappointed myself, man, I never imagined that. I hardly thought about all the consequences out there, acting badly. I thought it was all fun and games, till you're messed-up in the end. Something that you thought, but nah, they aren't friends. They got me disappointing all my family and have them hurting, crying, sad, and weeping. I disappointed them by running to the streets, smoking, drinking, partying, while they're sleeping. I'm tired of hurting them, also, myself. I have to quit living crazy, go home, and live right. I'd rather make them laugh and smile and make them happy. I need someone to shake some sense into me, wait, better yet, please slap me! Disappointment is an awful feeling, trust me, I know. I need to get up, back on my feet, let the craziness go, go back home, live clean and sober. I never want to be in prison, being a loner, or becoming messy again and being a lousy stoner. I want to spread the word to the people like me. Just walk with our Lord, he'll change your life, you'll see. You might think he's a fib, a lie, a fake, a dream, but please, obey Him, he'll turn you around and you'll know what I mean. Don't disappoint all the people you love, they got your back, homie, believe me, just don't slip and slack!

Tweety

## **Better Days**

I was born in Albuquerque, this life was destined for me. Nothing but confusion in my mind. R.I.P. to the "boys", traps set on the streets, ready for me to fail. I don't want to see mamma crying for me being in jail, pain filled up in my heart. I pray for better days, picture me on top, when it comes time for my life to change.

The Duke City Boy

## **Tweety's up front and center**

Hey Beat, let me rap to all the ones locked-up, in their rooms, crying, whining, don't take it the wrong way. I know how it feels. But I just want to say, "hey, don't' you want to change? Aren't you tired of coming back over and over again? Going out there, and going back to the same thing? Aren't you?" You can't say that you like it there, all day, everyday. Nobody does, the ones who are my age, 17, get out of the system already! You don't have long before you go to the big house, that mean concrete jungle!! The monkey hole! Do you want to stay in there, drive yourself insane, and stand in a bucket of water with cords cut in half, stick them in water and kill yourself over dumb decisions and bad choices you made. Nope, don't think so, no, if you want to, no ones stopping you. Don't be crying if your facing 25 to life for thinking "Its down", "Badass homies", "Simon ese", hehehehe. Soon you'll hit rock bottom and realize its time to grow up, move on, get up, get out, and do something! Don't think wrong all the time. It will bring you down. Go get that job at the fancy of- fice, drive that Escalade, and have that nice apartment! You can do it. Don't go to prison, go to church, words of Jesus, he will save you, hold you, and bring you up. Keep your head up, my motto, "Do it right."

Tweety



## The highest temptation in the street

My highest temptation in the street is alcohol / drugs. Violence and gang bang'in are alright, but these two are the most fun. Money is a temptation, but not all the time. All that I want there is that cheap 10 minute high. It's wrong, I know, but temptation is out to get me. I want temptation to have that good life, yeah, that sounds sweet. I'm tired of all these crazy temptations. Thoughts going through my mind, tired of running to them each day and night, day and night. I need to stomp, stab, and kill all of the negative temptations around me. I need to get back on my feet, dear Lord Jesus, can't you see? I want the temptation to wake-up each morning and go to school to get that good-ass job. Now won't that be cool? Temptation is a good or bad temptation, just get it through your mind that you can't escape it.

Tweety

## Mountains

You can see them from a distance  
Standing high and strong  
When you are there it seems like nothing is wrong  
You may see a rabbit or even a bear  
Everything is beautiful up there  
You can take a walk through the trees  
Be careful so you don't fall and scrape your knee  
They are beautiful after a snow, when they are white  
Or when you see them on a starry night  
But, whether you see them in winter, summer, fall or spring  
The mountains are one of New Mexico's most beautiful things

Masin

## **\*My Loss of Innocence\***

As I remember, when I was a little girl, I was smart and went to school and didn't do bad things, but as I got older, things changed. When I turned about 10 years old, my mom was a big, old, crack-head. My sister and I would sit in our rooms and cry and cry while my mom was in her room smoking crack. So finally I turned 11 years old, she was still messed-up on crack, but then I started smoking bud with my sister, so I started on drugs. Then finally I was the age of 12, I was running away, getting high and doing what I wanted to do. But then I was finally 13 years of age and was still running away and getting high, and started snorting lines of cocaine, coming in and out of the D-home. Then I turned the age of 14 and was still doing my shit. Then I got hooked on meth, which is my drug that I'm hooked on now, and is the reason why I'm in this shitty-ass D-home.

Antonette

## **When I Die (a rap)**

When I die Im'a die like a G  
Lay'in in a coffin with a grill on my teeth  
When I die, they gon'na remember me  
All the way from Burque, all the way to Cali  
When I die, I'm gon'na be look'in fly  
Got's ta look good on my way to the sky  
When I die, don't even trip  
Still do what you do, still stack'in the chips  
When I die, remember my name  
It's that girl in Burque, always rapp'in the Bay  
When I die, jus nev'a forget  
I live my life to the fullest, with no regret

Akiah

## Loss of innocence

When I was about 10 years old, it was the first time I had seen my mom smoke meth. She did not know that I was hiding in her closet. I looked out of the crack of the closet, and saw my mom hit that pipe. At first I didn't know what it was she was smoking, then I asked my brother what it was. He told me it was meth, and it scared me. So one day, I saw some weed on the table and a little pipe, I packed it, and that was the first time I got blazed. I thought it was alright to do because I saw a lot of people do it so I figured it was ok. I hit it at about 13, that's when everything started popping off, like I started doing "soft". I was already getting high, and I started to drink and have sex. Now that I'm 14, I know more than I should. I have changed and when I get out of this bullshit D-home. I'm not going back to the stuff I was doing because now my whole family is doing good and I want to do good so that we stay together and never get separated again. Well, weno late, to the Beat Within.

Mz. Crazy1

## Life

Life is beautiful, life is a blessing. I am a mother of a 21-month-old child. The day that I gave birth to my daughter was the greatest experience in my life. I couldn't explain in words how good of a feeling it is to deliver a newborn child, a child of God into this world. It hurts because this world is so 'jacked' up these days, so full of drugs and violence. It hurts me the most because I am addicted to drugs, I can't care for a child when I can't even care for myself. I pray for a better life, for less drugs, less violence, strength within myself to quit using, hope that the future will be better, and my daughter won't have to go through what I have.

Desiree



## CCMHC Write Up

CCMHC was established and licensed as a children's community mental health clinic, as well as certified as a case management agency in the fall of 2001. The clinic was established to assist and support children/adolescents and their families, who had been placed in the detention center and would be released to the community, as well as children/adolescents and their families, who had been referred to the juvenile court system and juvenile probation/parole offices.

CCMHC provides an array of behavioral health services, including psychiatric care, psychological testing, counseling/therapy, and case management. Providers at CCMHC offer years of experiencing in working with children/adolescents/families that have been involved in the juvenile justice system, ranging from referrals to the system through incarceration at juvenile correctional facilities. In addition, providers at CCMHC offer experience in working with children/adolescents/families who have experienced psychiatric, emotional, cognitive and behavioral difficulties since a young age. CCMHC offers services to young children, adolescents, and young adults up to the age of 21.

In addition to providing behavioral health services to children/adolescents/families who are involved with the juvenile justice system, CCMHC provides services to children/adolescents/families who have no involvement with the legal system. Referrals to CCMHC are accepted from Juvenile Probation/parole, the Courts, Attorneys, BCJDYSC, self and family, schools, community providers, and insurance agencies.

CCMHC may be contacted by calling 342-3799 to schedule an appointment.

## **DIVERSION PROGRAMS**

**4-8 WEEK CLASSES**

### **Alternatives to Violence Program**

NEXT CYCLE BEGINS: Call for dates and times

USE REFERRAL FORM

OUTCOMES - 1503 University Blvd. NE ABQ 243-2551

Outcomes, Inc. partners with Juvenile Probation to provide a restorative justice approach for youth referred for assault/battery in Bernalillo County, as an alternative to going to court, through community circles and mediation. They focus on bullying and being bullied in our schools. First or second offender clients who are referred for assault, battery, disorderly conduct, public affray, telephone harassment, (misdemeanors only) are eligible to attend this class. It is also open as a sanction for a technical violation for clients on probation or as a deterrent for at-risk youth.

### **Alcohol & Drug Education Program**

NEXT CYCLE BEGINS:

USE REFERRAL FORM

JUVENILE JUSTICE BLDG./5100 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET/CONF RM A&B (downstairs)

JPO staff facilitates a 6-week class on drugs and alcohol designed to offer information, education and guidance, as an alternative to going to court. Clients who are referred for possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia (misdemeanors only) or possession of alcohol, and have already attended a substance abuse related diversion class must attend this class or proceed to court for a court ordered assessment. It is also open as a sanction for a technical violation for clients on probation or as a deterrent for at-risk youth.

## **DIVERSION PROGRAMS**

## **4-8 WEEK CLASSES**

**(Continued)**

### **Adolescent Intervention Program**

NEXT CYCLE BEGINS: Call for dates and times

COUNSELING ON SATURDAYS

USE REFERRAL FORM

2403 San Mateo NE (CONFERENCE CENTER off San Mateo) ABQ 830-6500

Albuquerque Behavioral Health partner with Juvenile Probation to create a diversion program that allows juveniles and their families to complete a 6-week counseling program instead of going to court. Clients who are referred for a third misdemeanor and have already attended a diversion class must attend this class or an alternative, or proceed to court for a court ordered assessment/recommendations. It is also open as a sanction for a technical violation for clients on probation or as a deterrent for at-risk youth.

### **Juvenile Early Intervention Program**

JUVENILE JUSTICE BLDG./5100 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET/CONF RM A&B (downstairs)

JPO staff Theresa Di-Matteo-Brown facilitates an 8–week social skills class for juveniles under the age of 12. Clients who are referred for a misdemeanor offense must attend this class or proceed to court.

Updated: 11/6/07

## **CCP / YRC**

Community Custody Program is a pre-adjudication alternative to detention offered by the Juvenile Detention Center. The staff supervises higher risk youth in the community while keeping the community safe. The staff directs the youth to stay in school, work, and/or other positive activities, as opposed to being in detention. In addition to CCP, the Youth Reporting Center is designed to be a pre-adjudication program that provides curriculum for the youth that have been released from detention. This service provides families the extra support until the youth is returned back to a school setting, and/or have constant supervision at home. The YRC program is open from 8am to 8pm, and the following activities are included, while the youth is in the program. These programs change from week to week and are supervised by the BCJD&YS Staff/JPPO officer: Health workshops , APS schooling / Reading Lab, information on how the Court System works, visits to the Natural History Museum, Explorer Center, Cultural Center, and Life Skills courses (work force solutions, VSA, health care services, etc.)

On a more entertaining level, the youth also participate in activities such as: Art Project Contests, volleyball, outings to movie theaters, UNM football games, Isotopes ballgames, outings to parks, and Yoga.

Throughout the day, the youth are also provided with Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner, at no cost to the family. The youth return to their homes at night, where their families provide supervision of the youth.



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Front and back cover photograph by Steve Serna.

Steve Serna  
Youth Program Officer I

Representative from the Land of Enchantment for the Beat Within

