



Volunteers for Youth Justice

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2021 Volunteers for Youth Justice reached a milestone as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our organization serving children, youth, and families in crisis. Our

commemorative forty year mark unveiled a dynamic new logo which embodies our core values and speaks strongly to the compassion we strive to show each individual we serve.

Let's look back to 1981, several women from First Presbyterian Church attended the annual women's conference in Montreat, North Carolina where they learned about a juvenile justice program that might meet some pressing needs in Shreveport. Upon their return, church leaders were asked to start the Shreveport Juvenile Justice Program, which grew to become Volunteers for Youth Justice. In those early years, the organization had a part-time staff of one, assisted by several dedicated volunteers. Today, VYJ has a staff of 49 and relies on over 400 volunteers. The generational impact of that bold step in 1981 forever changed lives for thousands of our at-risk families.

As we fast-forward to 2021, VYJ's expertise in understanding the challenges faced by youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system has grown significantly. The basis of our work today encompasses 6 major programs: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates, Youth Programs, FINS (Families in Need of Services), TASC (Truancy Assessment Service Center), MRC (Misdemeanor Referral Center), and TBRI® (Trust-Based Relational Intervention) trauma focused services. In 2021, our

FINS Program expanded, by request of the judicial system, to include Bossier and Webster Parishes. Our families now have a greater opportunity to receive much needed resources.

A key component to VYJ's longevity is our willingness to step forward to address a community need. In August 2021, we collaborated with University Elementary School through a partnership with the Women's Philanthropy Network to establish a unique and proactive model of on-site intervention. A Calming Studio on campus provides a sensory rich room for children to have a quiet space to regulate and prepare to join the learning experience in the classroom.

A VYJ TASC officer is now on campus to address attendance, tardies, and academic issues on a daily basis. We also created a preventative Conflict Resolution curriculum and started a Leadership Academy on campus. This innovative model has already proven itself as we continue to write success stories for this diverse campus of over 900 children.

We are grateful to our volunteers, donors, and community stakeholders, along with the unwavering support of Judges and court staff who join us as we continue to expand our services to further our impact on the community. We look forward to our next 40 years with optimism and confidence as we change the trajectory of the lives of those we serve.

Embracing the future,
Kelli Todd
Executive Director

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

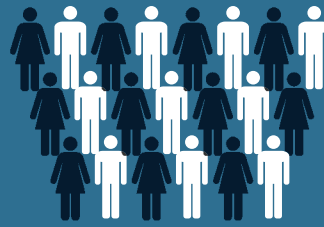
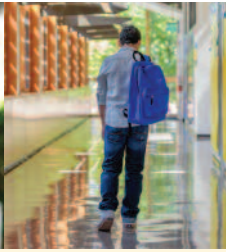


JUVENILE COURT



CADDO PARISH DISTRICT ATTORNEY

W. ROSS FOOTE, LLC



350 Volunteers for Youth Justice

350 volunteers assisted VYJ in carrying out our mission of providing a community caring for children, youth, and families in crisis.

4,500



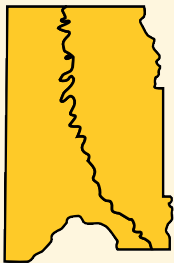
VYJ provided services for over 4,500 children in 2021.



22,700

CASA recruited and trained 40 new advocates and volunteers logged over **22,700** miles checking on and advocating for children in foster care.

Covid-related school enrollment options continued to challenge the accurate tracking and enforcing of attendance. Over **160 students** were provided uniforms and school supplies. This removed one of the largest barriers to school attendance and success for those families.



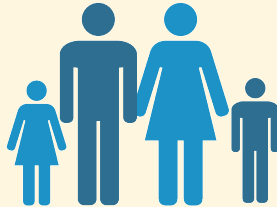
183

The **Jumpstart** program in Caddo and Bossier parishes provided diversion classes for **183** youth and their guardians.



The **Teen Court** program utilized **437** volunteer hours. Teens completed 320 hours and adults completed 117 hours.

500%



VYJ's **FINS/Tuancy program** expanded to include Bossier and Webster Parishes. These new parishes saw an over **500% increase** in the number of families receiving FINS services.

147

The school-based and community-based Mentoring programs served **147** students utilizing **46** mentors.



The **Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®)** program saw the addition of on-site services at University Elementary. A total of **344 TBRI®** trainings and interventions were provided to 66 teachers and administrative staff providing tools to manage interruptions to the learning environment.

344

348



The **Conflict Resolution** program served **348** youth in Caddo Parish. Intervention services were provided on-site at 6 schools.

Through a generous grant from the **Women's Philanthropy Network**, VYJ was able to bring multiple programs on-site at University Elementary School. Services ranging from **Conflict Resolution, Leadership, TASC, and TBRI®** impacted **928** children.



928



2021 By The Numbers

Administrative Costs

4% Administrative costs make up only 4% of organizational expenditures.



Volunteers for Youth Justice

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES...

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates):

Contact - phillip.martinez@vyjla.org

Specially trained volunteers serve as officers of the court and “friends” to children in need. These volunteer advocates are assigned by judges to speak on behalf of children who have been placed in foster care due to abuse or neglect. Their primary objective is to ensure that each child is placed in a safe, permanent home.

TBRI® (Trust Based Relational Intervention):

Contact - lucinda.miles@vyjla.org

TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connection Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors.

MISDEMEANOR REFERRAL CENTER:

Contact - kristin.stubbs@vyjla.org

The Misdemeanor Referral Center assists law enforcement officers in dealing with juveniles charged for delinquent offenses. Offenders are brought to the referral center by law enforcement officers where they receive a comprehensive assessment and are referred to community based resources for needed services and kept out of the Juvenile Detention Center.

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

Contact - shonda.houston@vyjla.org

JumpStart (Power of Choice & Stamp Out Shoplifting) –

A diversion program providing educational workshops in a support group setting with volunteer facilitators trained to address the needs of at risk youth.

Teen Court – A program designed to offer non-violent, first-time juvenile offenders the opportunity to be judged by a jury of their peers, accept responsibility for their actions, and make restitution for their offenses.

GEMS & GENTS Mentoring – A program that brings together young people with trained facilitators and adult mentors who assist with their educational, relational, and emotional development through group sessions, recreational activities, community service, and one-on-one mentoring.

Leadership Academy – A program of GEMS & GENTS that provides a safe and supportive environment whereby students are encouraged to improve their academic achievement, develop life skills, and embrace the servant leadership model for giving back to their school and community. Students are paired with one-on-one mentors who serve as leadership role models.

Conflict Resolution – A collaborative program between VYJ and the Caddo Parish School Board, designed to address the dynamics that lead to violent behavior, with the goal of preventing future school fight violations.

FINS (Families in Need of Services):

Contact - leanna.criswell@vyjla.org

Programs for families on the verge of crisis due to the ungovernable behavior of a child. The primary goal of FINS is to secure appropriate services to remedy the family's dysfunction.

TASC (Truancy Assessment Service Center):

Contact - shannon.wyche@vyjla.org

The purpose of TASC is to provide early identification and assessment of truant children in grades K-5 and the prompt delivery of coordinated interventions to prevent continued unexcused school absences.

2020-2021 Financial Report

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Individual and Corporate Contributions	140,355	4%
Grants	2,354,289	59%
Program Support	853,851	22%
Fundraising	42,320	1%
In-Kind Rent	118,682	3%
Unrealized Gains	70,533	2%
Miscellaneous	386,512	10%
Total Support and Revenues	3,966,542	

EXPENSE

Program Expense	3,144,219	96%
Administrative Expense	141,256	4%
Total Expenses	3,285,542	
Change in Net Assets	681,067	
Net assets, beginning of year	626,974	
Net assets, end of year	1,308,041	



Volunteers for Youth Justice

MISSION

The mission of Volunteers for Youth Justice is to provide a community caring for children, youth, and families in crisis.

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Logan Schroeder, President
Deanna Beaubouef, Vice President
Felicia Hamilton, Secretary
Joel Fair, Treasurer
Diane Atkins
Brian Crawford
Sarah Garrett
Senae Hall
Betty Henderson
Laurie Lyons
Tim McDearmont
Laurie McGehee
Kathy Mitton
Steve Prator
Lizbeth Rosado
Laura Seabaugh
Jason Sunderland
Clifton Tate
Angie White
Kelli Todd - Executive Director

GUMBO GLADIATORS



Battle of the
GUMBO GLADIATORS
2022

GUMBO SPONSORS:

Ross Foote
Thrifty Liquor
Gumbeaux Event Productions
Horseshoe
Rose-Neath
Down Home Meats
Glazer Beer & Beverage
Betty Henderson
LeafFilter North, LLC
MOCO
Super 1
Unite Us
Merrill Lynch- Terry Moore
Randy & Julie Nix
Carter Credit Union
Free Coalition
Nelson & Hammons
Caddo Parish Sheriff Office
Laurie McGehee
Business 1st Bank
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
SOBO Promotional Products
Mickey Walker- State Farm
Service to Sawmills
Dr. Michael Haydel
Amie Mitchell Consulting
Laura & Alan Seabaugh

THE 9TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE GUMBO GLADIATORS

March 12, 2022

Festival Plaza - Downtown Shreveport



GET INVOLVED

- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**
Become a CASA volunteer – advocate for children in the foster care system
Become a TBRI® Advocate – educate caregivers in relational trauma intervention
Become a Mentor – provide support and guidance to youth in our community
Guest Speaker – present life skills to youth in our court diversion classes
Board of Directors – serve as a volunteer Board member to help guide our organization

Battle of the Gumbo Gladiators – join the planning committee or volunteer the day of the event

- **DONATE** – VYJ will use these funds to support and expand our programs and services.
- **ADVOCATE** – support VYJ's mission by encouraging someone to donate or volunteer, shopping through AmazonSmile.org or the Kroger Community Rewards program.

- **FIND US** -   @volunteersforyouthjustice

CONTACT INFORMATION: 318-425-4413 www.vyjla.org