



Volunteers for Youth Justice

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For over four decades, Volunteers for Youth Justice has been dedicated to meeting the needs of at-risk families. In 2022, great things were

accomplished by our organization and throughout our community. Yet, struggling families faced greater obstacles as poverty, rising costs, and transportation issues continued to be a problem. As the hardships outpaced our existing resources, VYJ took a quantum leap into what is to become one of our most historic accomplishments in meeting the needs of children and families. As early as 2016, VYJ envisioned a “one stop shop” that would provide resources for families under one roof. After several years of planning and listening to the voice of our families, this dream has become a reality. VYJ is poised to open **The Harbor**, an expansive 55,000 sq. ft. facility located at 3004 Knight Street in Shreveport. A project of this magnitude required collaborative efforts between Volunteers for Youth Justice and the Caddo Parish School Board (CPSB). No longer will parents have to navigate a complicated system of referrals and phone calls to access services. Instead of explaining their needs and repeating their story to multiple front desks, they can walk down a single hall to see providers who can dive straight into solutions.

VYJ believes **The Harbor** will make a significant impact on families, providing a beacon of hope and anchoring for these to succeed. A mural spanning 3 walls highlighting the services provided by VYJ will represent our history and mission to *provide a*

community caring for children, youth, and families in crisis. It is our desire that every person will feel welcomed to receive help and appropriate services.

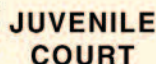
The purpose of The Harbor is for community partners to provide accessible, blended, and comprehensive services. A family will receive an assessment and have access to:

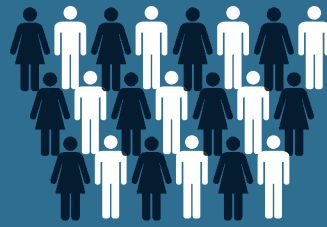
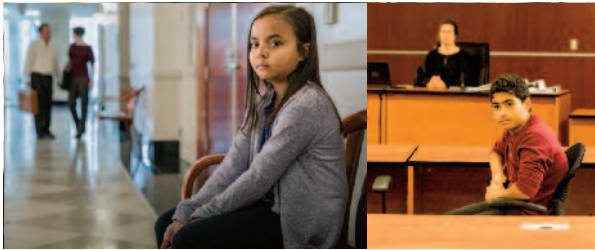
- Quality mental health services
- Domestic violence assistance
- Conflict resolution and diversion classes
- Child advocacy services
- Truancy prevention
- Literacy skills training
- Parenting resources
- PT, OT, Speech Therapy, and Art Therapy
- Workforce development
- Calming Studio, a sensory rich room for children
- TBRI®, Trust-Based Relational Intervention training

At VYJ, we know that Equipped Families = Thriving Children. We are grateful to our volunteers, donors, community stakeholders, along with CPSB for embracing the vision of VYJ and **The Harbor**. Thank you for joining us. Together we will bring generational change to Northwest Louisiana!

Embracing the future,
Kelli Todd
Executive Director

COMMUNITY PARTNERS





433  **Volunteers for Youth Justice**

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

5,300



VYJ provided services for over 5,300 children in 2022.



86%

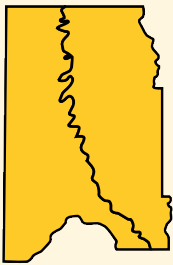
CASA recruited and trained **44** new advocates.

The 353 advocates helped **86%** of children served reach permanency through adoption, placement with a relative, and/or reunification with parents.



The **Teen Court** program utilized **424** volunteer

hours. Teens completed 339 hours and adults completed 85 hours.



206

The **Jumpstart** program in Caddo and Bossier parishes provided diversion classes for **206** youth and their guardians.



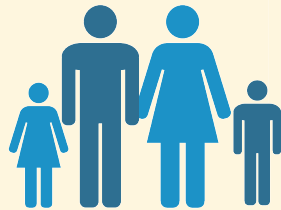
388

The Wildcat Problem Solvers is a branch of Conflict Resolution located on-site at University Elementary School. This series of 5 sessions was taught to students in grades 3-5 to provide them with skills to deal with conflict in and out of school. **388** students completed the program.

600

VYJ's **FINS/Truancy program** continued to

operate in Caddo, Bossier and Webster Parishes with expansions on the horizon. FINS officers worked with over **600** families to secure appropriate services.



100

The school-based and community-based Mentoring programs served over **100** students.



754

The **Conflict Resolution** program was made mandatory by Caddo Parish School Board for all school fights. This program saw a **116%** increase in the number of youth served with **754** students completing the program. Intervention services were provided on-site at 7 schools.



750

The **Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®)** program increased its reach to include inmates at the Caddo Correctional Center. This program served over **750** individuals including 51 female inmates and 107 male inmates.

Over 80% of referrals received by the TASC program were resolved without the need to escalate the case and involve the court. **268** students were provided uniforms and school supplies to set them up for success in school.



268



2022 By The Numbers

Administrative Costs 

5%

Administrative costs make up only 5% of organizational expenditures.



Volunteers for Youth Justice

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES...

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates):

Contact - patricia.alicea@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 - tim.mcdearmont@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.

2021-2022 Financial Report

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Individual and Corporate Contributions	179,461	6%
Grants	1,793,373	56%
Program Support	909,715	28%
Fundraising	141,045	4%
In-Kind Rent	119,964	3%
Unrealized Gains	(22,110)	-1%
Miscellaneous	92,378	3%
Total Support and Revenues	3,213,826	

EXPENSE

Program Expense	3,057,301	95%
Administrative Expense	152,847	5%
Total Expenses	3,210,148	
Change in Net Assets	3,668	
Net assets, beginning of year	1,308,041	
Net assets, end of year	1,311,709	



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.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deanna Beaubouef, President
Felicia Hamilton, Vice President
Laurie McGehee, Secretary
Joel Fair, Treasurer
Laura Alderman
Diane W. Atkins
Brian Crawford
Senae D. Hall
Betty Henderson
Laurie Lyons
Nathaniel Manning
Tim McDearmont
Kathy Mitton
D. Logan Schroeder
Andy Scoggins
Laura Seabaugh
Clifton Tate
Angie White
Kelli Todd - Executive Director

GUMBO GLADIATORS



THE 10TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE GUMBO GLADIATORS was a huge success. Thank you so much for your support. We are already looking forward to next year!



GUMBO SPONSORS

Glazer (\$1000 level)
Gumbeux Event Production
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Horseshoe Casino
Rose-Neath
Melanie Massey PT
Down Home Meats

Merrill Lynch
SuperOne/Brookshires
LeafFilter North
Benee Irwin State Farm
Commissioner Steven Jackson
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Randy and Julie Nix
The Law Offices of Felicia M. Hamilton
Ark-la-Tex Tents
SOBO Promotional Products
BOM

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana
Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office
Nelson & Hammons
Mission Compression
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
Business First Bank
Laurie McGehee
Laura and Alan Seabaugh
Don Weir, Jr.
Robby Latham- State Farm
Kelli Todd

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