

Juvenile Law Center

advancing the rights and
well-being of children in jeopardy

*Celebrating Forty Years of Achieving Justice and
Ensuring Opportunity for Children at Risk*

CASE FOR SUPPORT



TM

Founded in 1975, Juvenile Law Center is the oldest public interest law firm for children in the United States. In our early days, Juvenile Law Center was a local legal service that represented children in individual cases. Today we have a national reach. We use an array of strategies to reform practices and policies that each year affect hundreds of thousands of youth in the foster care and justice systems.

Our policy work—through litigation, appellate advocacy, legislative or regulatory reform and writing for the field—has become durable and influential.



OUR VALUES

In all of our work, Juvenile Law Center strives to ensure that:

- Laws, policies and practices affecting youth in the child welfare and justice systems are grounded in principles of adolescent development and other relevant research;
- Justice and child welfare systems respond appropriately to the impact of trauma on youths' behavior; and
- Justice and child welfare systems address economic opportunity and minimize disproportionality along race and class lines.

OUR MISSION

JUVENILE LAW CENTER uses an array of legal strategies and policy advocacy to promote fairness, prevent harm, ensure access to appropriate services, and create opportunities for success for youth who come into contact with the child welfare and justice systems.

Cover image courtesy of Kids For Cash the movie, reprinted with permission of SenArt Films Releasing. The Kid In Cage image is a registered trademark of Justice Project, LLC. For more information, or to bring the film to your community, go to www.KidsForCashTheMovie.com

Juvenile Law Center's staff has achieved national and international

Recent Awards

In 2008 Juvenile Law Center was one of eight non-governmental organizations in the world to receive the **MacArthur Foundation Award for Creative and Effective Institutions**. In 2001 and 2010 the American Bar Association presented the Livingston Hall Award to Robert Schwartz and Marsha Levick, respectively.

Other recent awards include:

2009: Citizens of the Year Award, Philadelphia
Inquirer: Marsha Levick, Lourdes Rosado

2011: Thurgood Marshall Award, Philadelphia
Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section: Robert
Schwartz and Marsha Levick

2013: Webby Award for Best "Law" Website,
International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences

2013: The Legal Intelligencer presented Marsha
Levick with the first **Arlen Specter Award**, created
to honor the late Senator's legacy and recognize the
attorney or judge who in the past 10 years has done
the most to promote the law, the legal profession or
the cause of justice in Pennsylvania

2013: The Annie E. Casey Foundation presented
Juvenile Law Center with the **Gloria J. Jenkins
Award for Outstanding Contributions to
Juvenile Justice Reform**

2014: Pennsylvania Bar Association Children's
Rights Committee, **Child Advocate of the Year
Award** to Jennifer Pokempner

**Two of Juvenile Law Center's founders are
with Juvenile Law Center today.**

**In the last 15 years, our staff and budget have
tripled.** With a tightly monitored annual budget
of almost \$3 million, Juvenile Law Center deploys a
team of 21 staff, including 12 attorneys.

**We maintain an experienced and talented
staff with connections across the country in
the justice and child welfare fields.**

**National media coverage around several
high-profile cases has dramatically increased
demand for our services.**

**Juvenile Law Center's geographic reach
has dramatically expanded over the years,
extending across the nation and around the
world.** At the same time, we've narrowed and
deepened our substantive reach. This evolution has
been both opportunistic and purposeful.

recognition for its ground-breaking advocacy.

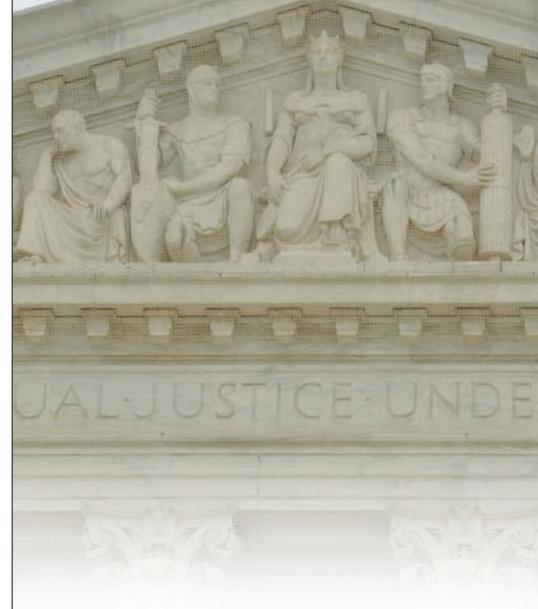
We have created a geographically diverse Board of Directors. Roughly one-half of our Board members are working and residing outside of Pennsylvania, including members from Los Angeles, New York, Washington, DC, and Chicago. The Board includes national leaders in our field, as well as people who have excelled in other domains, including government, business, communications, athletics, and academia.

We are widely published and recognized as a thought leader on juvenile justice, youth in the adult criminal justice system, and child welfare policy issues.

We are known for our work on preventing youth from entering the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; for ensuring that these youth are well served when it is necessary for them to be in these systems; and for improving the oversight of youths' transitions from these systems so that they have opportunities to become productive adults.

We have many superb partners across the country: one of our strengths lies in our ability to connect the dots across youth, systems, and jurisdictions.

We have a strong appellate and amicus practice, especially in the justice field, where we are the "go-to" organization on issues of transfer and sentencing, procedural and substantive due process, and children's constitutional rights.



*Juvenile Law
Center serves
society's most
vulnerable youth.*

*They are
most likely to
be mislabeled,
ignored, harmed,
or scarred for life
by systems that
are supposed to
help them.*



Over 50% of the youth who age out of care experience one or more episodes of homelessness and nearly 30% are incarcerated at some point – many times the rate for other young adults.

Juvenile Law Center has long been at the cutting edge of national movements on behalf of youth in the foster care or justice systems.

We were among the first in the country **to advance the rights and needs of older youth** in foster care, who were too frequently dumped to the street when they turned 18.

We were among the first **to link adolescent development** to policy and practice reforms for youth in the justice and foster care systems.

We were among the first **to tackle zero tolerance policies** in schools and the school to prison pipeline.

Influencing Landmark United States Supreme Court Decisions

Juvenile Law Center was the only advocacy organization in the country to participate in all four recent landmark Supreme Court decisions on the impact of adolescent development and justice policy:

- *Miller v. Alabama*: Juveniles convicted of homicide can no longer receive mandatory sentences of life without parole. 2012
- *J.D.B. v. North Carolina*: A child's age must be considered by law enforcement in determining whether Miranda warnings need to be given to children during police interrogations. 2011
- *Graham v. Florida*: A sentence of life without parole imposed on a juvenile convicted of a non-homicide offense is unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment. 2010
- *Roper v. Simmons*: Abolished the death penalty for juveniles under the Cruel and Unusual Punishment Clause of the Eighth Amendment. 2005

“Kids for Cash”: Uncovering the Largest Judicial Corruption Scandal in the History of The United States

Beginning in 2007, Juvenile Law Center investigated and saw results for thousands of youth who were tried and convicted by a juvenile court judge who was later convicted of federal crimes.

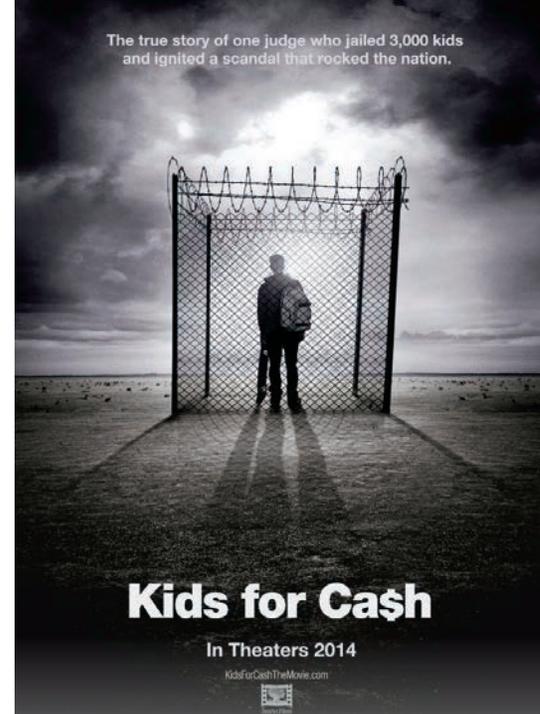
The dramatic story is told in the 2012 book, *Kids for Cash*, by William Eckenbarger and the award-winning 2014 documentary film, *Kids for Cash*, produced and directed by Robert May.

Juvenile Law Center’s work involved:

- Federal litigation on behalf of thousands of children and families whose rights were violated. The suits led to millions of dollars in compensation.
- State court litigation that led to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court vacating adjudications of delinquency and expunging records of thousands of children.
- Legislation and court rules that effectively prevent youth from waiving their right to counsel; prohibit shackling of youth; and add numerous trial and appellate due process protections.

“...schools were happy to dump troublemakers, sending children to prison, as if life behind bars would make kids wiser, more amiable and better prepared to do the work of the world...”

— *The Nation*, 9.24.2014



*34% of 17-18
year-olds in foster
care experience
five or more
school changes.*

*Fewer than 50%
of foster youth
finish high school
by age 18.*

*Over 80% of
youth in foster
care say they want
to go to college,
but most don't
make it. Only
2-9% obtain a
college education.*

Shaping State Court Rulings Across the United States

Working with colleagues in other states, Juvenile Law Center's appellate and amicus advocacy has changed the law in states across the country. California is an example of recent successes.

People v. Caballero (2012) and *People v. Gutierrez* (2014): California Supreme Court cases in which we argued as amici.

The California Supreme Court's pathbreaking decisions limit sentences for juveniles that are the equivalent to life without parole in non-homicide cases, and end presumptions in favor of life sentences for juveniles.

Improving Federal Law

The Uninterrupted Scholars Act (2013): Juvenile Law Center was part of a team that led Congress to enact a law that makes it easier for foster youth to obtain an education by permitting schools to release a child's education records to child welfare workers, while still protecting student confidentiality and family rights.

Members of Congress are increasingly relying on Juvenile Law Center for advice on important legislative matters. In 2014, for example, Republican Senator Rand Paul and Democratic Senator Cory Booker consulted Juvenile Law Center staff before introducing a bill that would affect solitary confinement, juvenile record expungement, and transfer to adult court.

Advancing Scholarship

Juvenile Law Center is a frequent participant at symposia and conferences across the country. In recent years, we have also presented in China, Japan, the Netherlands and Ireland.

Juvenile Law Center staff have edited books that influence the field, and we have contributed chapters to volumes edited by others. We have participated in symposia at numerous law schools, defining the legal landscape across child welfare and juvenile and criminal justice.

In 2012, for example, five Juvenile Law Center attorneys wrote articles and made presentations at Harvard Law School at a symposium sponsored by the Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.

Over our 40 years, many Juvenile Law Center lawyers and law student interns have become law professors across the United States. We have had continuing relationships with them, both in case work and in producing legal scholarship.

Educating State Officials

Juvenile Law Center has had many opportunities to educate state leaders. We participate with Georgetown University in delivering a certificate program to state stakeholders on diversion and information sharing.

In 2014, we did a primer for the Washington Supreme Court on adolescent development and US Supreme Court jurisprudence. We've also worked closely with the National Conference of State Legislatures and other national organizations.



Deputy Director and Chief Counsel Marsha Levick visiting Japan in 2013 to discuss the “Kids for Cash” scandal.

Our 2015-2017 Strategic Plan

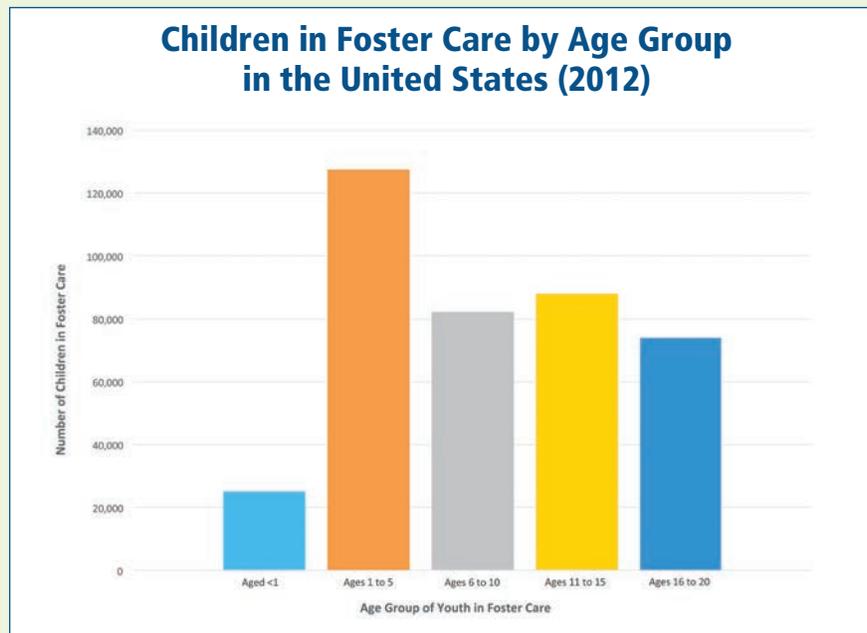
Juvenile Law Center's Board recently adopted a plan that will shape the next three years while providing a foundation for the next 40.

Gifts to Juvenile Law Center will support this plan's core strategic themes. They will give us the flexibility to respond to breaking crises, like the Luzerne County kids-for-cash scandal. They will enable us to give focused attention around the country to the following:

Transition to Adulthood

Promoting successful transitions to adulthood for foster youth

By increasing attention on 18-21 year-olds involved in the foster care system, we will be staking out new territory. Juvenile Law Center will continue its leadership in helping to shape the litigation/legislative/policy agenda in child welfare. This includes advocating for developmentally appropriate representation for all teens, and ensuring that young people ages 18-21 can stay in care/re-enter care.



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

Our 2015-2017 Strategic Plan

Incarcerated Youth

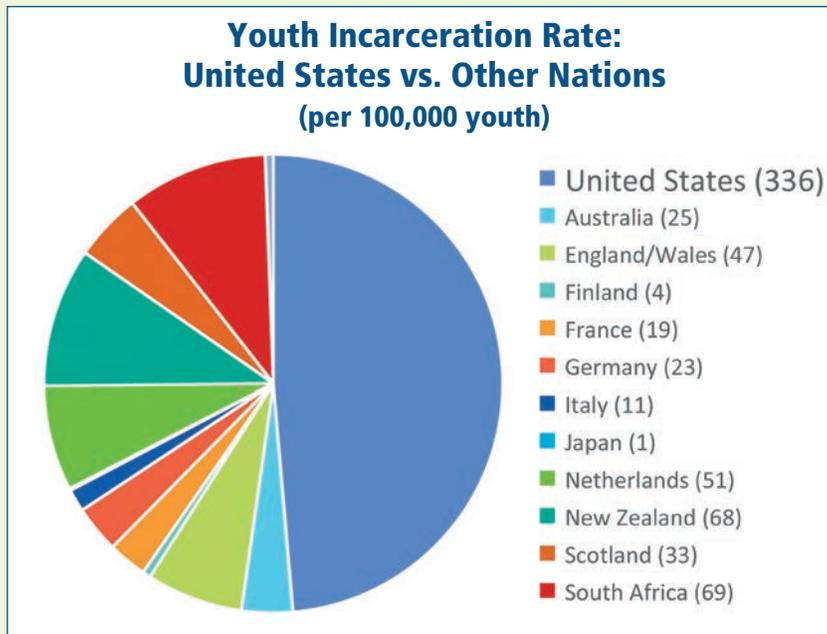
Ensuring safe, humane and supportive conditions for incarcerated youth

The United States is the only country in the world that puts youth in solitary confinement. Juvenile Law Center will seek to end solitary confinement of youth, the use of chemical and mechanical restraints, unnecessary shackling and other harmful or inhumane conditions of confinement for youth who are incarcerated.

Youth in the Criminal Justice System

Challenging harsh sentencing of youth and reducing the prosecution of youth as adults

We will continue to challenge sentences of juvenile life without parole (JLWOP), long-term or “life equivalent” sentences, the application of mandatory minimum sentencing provisions to youth convicted as adults, other disproportionate sentences, and the automatic or direct file of youth to criminal court.



Source: Hazel, Neal, *Cross-National Comparison of Youth Justice*, London: Youth Justice Board, 2008.

The U.S. incarcerates five times more youth per 100,000 than any other developed country.

Our 2015-2017 Strategic Plan

Second Chances Project

Challenging the misuse of juvenile records and promoting re-entry and educational access for youth in the justice system

We will work to eliminate barriers to success because of past system involvement and lack of opportunities. This work includes: challenges to juvenile sex offender registration; promoting laws that protect the confidentiality of delinquency records and greater opportunities for expungement of records; advocating for policies that promote re-entry into the community for youth returning from placements; and ensuring educational access for youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

Fairness and Due Process

Fighting for procedural due process, access to counsel and promoting racial and economic justice

We will advocate for statutes and court rules that promote fairness for youth in the courts. Fairness includes procedural and substantive reforms, including meaningful access to counsel at all stages of proceedings; ensuring adequate financial and other resources for indigent defense systems; and preventing self-incrimination. Fairness also includes working to end pervasive racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system as well as promoting economic justice for these youth.

Keeping Kids in the Community

Reducing referrals to the justice system and de-criminalizing typical adolescent behavior

We will work to reduce the use of pre-trial detention, and to reduce the length of stay of youth in facilities. We promote laws and policies to divert youth from court and system involvement, particularly for minor misbehavior that is normative for adolescents. Our work includes preventing "cross over" of youth from the foster care to the delinquency system, and to stemming the school to prison pipeline.

Our 2015-2017 Strategic Plan

Luzerne Legacy Project

In this project, we will build upon the reforms and address issues that arose out of the kids-for-cash scandal. As a result of our work in Pennsylvania in the aftermath of the scandal, substantial reforms of the justice system were implemented by both the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Through the Luzerne Legacy Project, we seek to make these reforms nationally widespread. They include:

- improving due process protections, including making it harder for youth to waive their right to counsel;
- ending shackling of youth in courtrooms;
- promoting expungement of juvenile records;
- reducing collateral consequences of juvenile convictions, such as the inability to get jobs, obtain housing, or join the military;
- promoting diversion from juvenile court, with an emphasis on reducing school referrals; and
- reducing unnecessary incarceration of youth.



One of Juvenile Law Center's greatest strengths is our agility – our ability to respond quickly to changes in the environment to advance our agenda. Expanding our resources will allow us to swiftly react to unexpected opportunities to improve outcomes for children.

Investing in Juvenile Law Center

Juvenile Law Center has prudently managed its resources. Over the past 15 years, we have built a fund of over \$5 million which supports our work.

Zubrow Fellowship in Children's Law. Endowed by Barry and Jan Zubrow, this is the only fellowship in children's law in the United States.

Juvenile Law Center has received several large one-time awards from foundations that we have invested and grown. These include the \$500,000 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions (2008), and a one-time, \$1 million award from the William Penn Foundation (2010).

Seventy percent of Juvenile Law Center's budget comes from foundations. Juvenile Law Center is supported by some of the leading foundations in the United States, including:

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Ford Foundation

Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Open Society Foundations

Pew Charitable Trusts

Public Welfare Foundation

Since our founding in 1975, funders across the country have invested in Juvenile Law Center. Individuals, corporations, and foundations from Boston to Seattle, from Washington to Los Angeles, have recognized the quality of our work.

Our challenge in the coming years is to grow our resources so we can continue to deliver advocacy for vulnerable youth.

We are a financially healthy, well-managed organization.

Our expenditures closely track our revenues. We were able to grow our budget even during the post-2008 recession, thanks to targeted gifts to support discrete parts of our work.

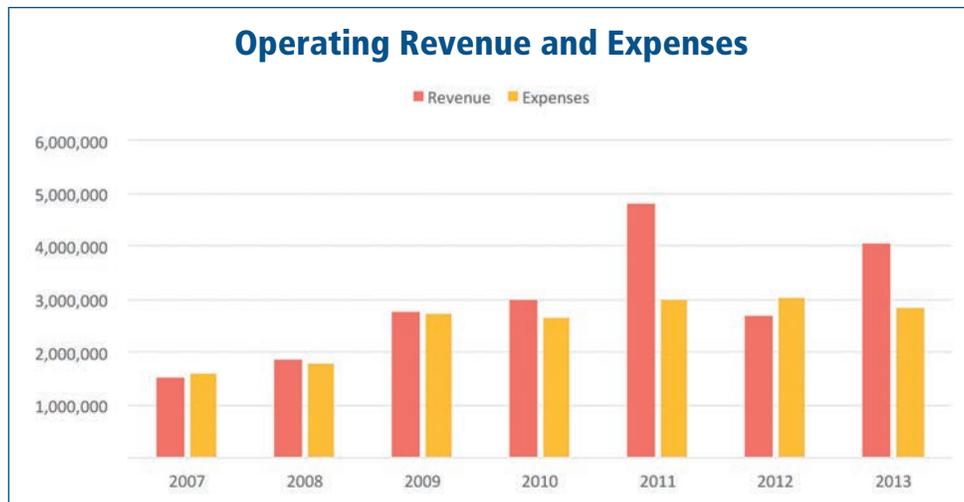
We have been able to grow revenue from individual gift giving so that individual donations are now 14% of our budget.

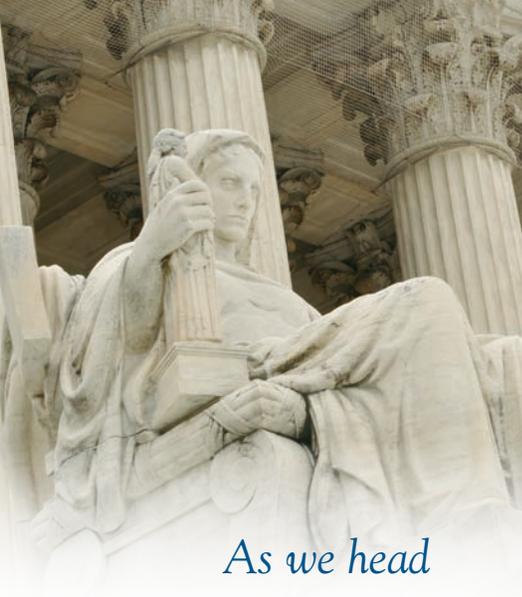
Our goal over the next three years is to more than double individual giving to guard against any diminution of foundation dollars, which still make up 70-75% of our budget.

Year	Budget	Projected Individual Gift Revenue %
2014 - 15	\$2.9 million	19%
2015 - 16	\$3.1 million	22%
2016 - 17	\$3.0 million	24%

Our revenue consistently covers expenses.

We are a lean organization — we have no debt and few property or equipment expenses.





As we head into our 40th Anniversary year, we can look back on our success, effectiveness and achievements. With your partnership, we will continue to implement our vision, be sustainable, and maintain our mission of helping America's youth.

You Can Help

Unrestricted contributions not only maintain Juvenile Law Center's core strengths, but also ensure that the organization has the necessary infrastructure to keep pace with the changing times.

Juvenile Law Center's Board has a history of 100% Board Giving at the highest possible level of commitment.

Significant annual gifts and multi-year pledges from individuals will help to support Juvenile Law Center's work.

Please consider supporting us in one of the following ways:

ENDOWMENT

An endowment creates financial stability. It will enable Juvenile Law Center to be less dependent on unpredictable sources of revenue. Endowment funds are prudently invested by our Board Investment Committee, which also provides stewardship.

Juvenile Law Center is currently offering the following naming opportunities:

- **Executive Director's Chair (\$1,000,000)**
- **Deputy Director and Chief Counsel Chair (\$1,000,000)**
- **Youth Engagement Program(s) (\$500,000)**
- **Annual Award to recognize exceptional leadership and advocacy on behalf of children in the justice and child welfare systems (\$250,000)**

MULTI-YEAR GIFTS

- Legacy Gift of \$100,000 fulfilled over three years to honor and sustain organizational leadership, celebrate our 40th Anniversary, and support future growth
- 40th Anniversary Year Sponsor Gift of \$10,000 (or more)
- Impact Gifts of \$5,000 - \$10,000 a year for three years to support our new three-year strategic plan
- Champion for Kids sponsorship by a firm or business for \$5,000 or \$10,000 to support our work on youth transitioning to adulthood

Juvenile Law Center thanks you for considering a significant gift.

With your help, Juvenile Law Center will continue to lead in improving public systems that affect the lives of tens of thousands of young people in the child welfare and justice systems.

Juvenile Law Center is dedicated to advancing those goals.

To make a contribution to Juvenile Law Center, ask questions, or discuss other ways to support our work, please contact our development officer, Rosie McNamara-Jones at (215) 625-0551 or rmcnamara-jones@jlc.org.

You may also write to us at:

Juvenile Law Center
The Philadelphia Building
1315 Walnut Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19107



“Our society must be encouraged or compelled to act in ways that promote fairness, create respect for human rights, and provide vulnerable children with the protection and services they need to become healthy and productive adults.”

— Robert G. Schwartz
Executive Director

Youth from the foster care and justice systems share their voices with Juvenile Law Center to advocate for change.

“Educational planning is very important for foster youth because we are not always told of the opportunities we have to succeed in education.”

“Court involvement can have long-term consequences for youth—educational disruptions, trauma from being removed from their homes, a juvenile or criminal record.”

“Moving constantly affected my education. I’ve been enrolled in nine different schools. I lost credits in one of my classes, so I had to retake a 10th grade class in 12th grade.”

“I did not age out of care, I was pushed out. Too many kids are pushed out of foster care before they are ready.”

“When you hit 18, you do want to be grown, but you need support and guidance to be a successful adult.”

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November 2014