



BETTER SYSTEMS LIVES

A Report to Our Community

June 2017



center for
CHILDREN & YOUTH
JUSTICE | *Better systems. Better lives.®*



Justice Bobbe J. Bridge, (ret.)



Kristen Howell

“ Together, we’re making “better” happen across systems and within communities, for generations.”

Dear friends,

Better systems, better lives. Over 10 years of efforts to achieve this motto, to make change that generates justice and well-being for children and youth in our juvenile justice and child welfare systems, our mission is as critical today as it was at our founding in 2006. Generations of children and youth need us to continue boldly reshaping these systems, to make “better” the new benchmark for every policy, every process and every person that touches our kids’ lives.

How do we make “better” happen? It starts with you—our friends, supporters, partners, stakeholders, community members. It starts with everyone who cares about children and youth, everyone who believes that “better” is not only possible, but imperative, for future generations.

With your support, we tackle the root of the problem by changing systems. We start with listening and understanding. We rely on scientific research, collect data and talk to youth and families about their challenges. We bring together partners from the public and private sectors to examine the data and identify opportunities for improvement.

We nurture fresh ideas and interventions, and rigorously test them so they are ready to be taken to scale. We do this by advocating for common sense policy change so our systems have the best resources and tools they need to support children and youth.

Together, we are making “better” happen by championing the vital systems reforms shared in this Report—from helping youth realize their full potential free from gangs and violence, to providing legal solutions to ensure justice for youth and families, to raising awareness and transforming policies surrounding child sex trafficking and LGBTQ youth.

Thank you for believing in the promise and power of better systems, better lives. Thank you for believing in us. Together, we’re making “better” happen across systems and within communities, for generations.

Thank you.

Justice Bobbe J. Bridge (ret.),
Founding President/CEO

Kristen Howell,
2015 – 16 Board Chair

Celebrating Better Systems, Better Lives:

Generations of Impact at 2017 Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award Breakfast

On March 15th, almost 900 of our friends, neighbors, philanthropists, public servants and community leaders braved early morning Seattle traffic and weather to stand with “systems” kids. At the 2017 Breakfast, this community of youth champions celebrated outstanding work, honored the lives and resilience of “systems” kids and invested nearly \$380,000 to power better outcomes for generations of children and youth. When we come together in celebration and resolve, when we reaffirm as a community our commitment to better systems and better lives, we build the foundation of a future where youth and families are free from generations of pain, trauma and failed supports. Thanks to all our incredible sponsors, challenge fund donors and supporters for fueling better futures for so many!



Dr. Eric Trupin and Casey Trupin, 2017 Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Honorees, recognized for their extraordinary, outcomes-focused advocacy on behalf of at-risk and vulnerable youth (Photography by Warren Woo)

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Better = Empowering Young People with Collaborative Leadership on Youth Violence

There are more than 15,000 youth and young adults involved in gangs in Washington State, all of whom are exposed to violence, drugs and incarceration. Youth involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, who experience inordinate trauma and displacement, can be disproportionately impacted by a variety of negative outcomes, including involvement in gang/group violence.

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To support young people in achieving their goals, free from violence and victimization, **CCYJ is changing the way law enforcement, social services agencies, courts, educators and community organizations work together.**

In 2011, CCYJ convened the Suburban King County Coordinating Council on Gangs (SKCCCG) to develop an innovative approach to prevent violence, empower youth, and transform our communities, pioneering implementation of the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM) on a regional scale. The CGM is a national best practice for gang/group violence intervention and prevention. Staffed by CCYJ, SKCCCG brings together high level decision makers including mayors, police chiefs, school district representatives, service providers and elected officials to conduct research, establish collaborative partnerships, leverage existing resources and coordinate existing community programs.

In September 2016, CCYJ was awarded a two year, \$327,000 grant from OJJDP to support expansion of SKCCCG's work to reduce violence and address youth and young adult gang/group activity throughout King County.

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Youth LINC, a component of the SKCCCG, is a youth-centered, multidisciplinary intervention strategy to coordinate existing programs which serve a shared population of at-risk young people. Representatives from street outreach, probation, mental health, education, employment and law enforcement agencies help young people focus on goals related to education, employment, and positive peer relationships. **Most young people supported through Youth LINC, over 150 served in 2016, are experiencing less court and system involvement, less duplication of services and more consistent contact with service providers.**

In 2016, the Seattle Office of the Mayor Innovation Team approached CCYJ after two community assessments reported an overwhelming need to address gun and group violence among young people in the City. The recommended solution? Implementation of a broad spectrum of evidence-based prevention strategies, like LINC. CCYJ launched Seattle LINC in January 2017: the LINC infrastructure now includes three regional teams coordinating service provision to youth and young adults across King County. This multi-jurisdictional approach makes SKCCCG's implementation of the OJJDP's CGM one of the largest in the nation and the first to successfully adapt the CGM regionally.

As a component of the SKCCCG work, LINC teams create better systems, better lives by leveraging and multiplying community resources, reducing duplication of services, promoting systems change and more effectively serving the community.



Better = Helping Families Stay Together with the Power of Partnership

After two years of planning, CCYJ along with our partners the Northwest Justice Project and King County Superior Court's Parents for Parents Program, and in collaboration with the King East Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Office, opened the doors to a new Family Advocacy Center (FAC) in April 2016, housed at the YWCA Regional Center in Renton.

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Modeled on a successful program pioneered by the University of Michigan Law School, FAC provides free legal representation, social work services, and parent ally supports to families who are experiencing a legal issue that is either propelling them unnecessarily into the child welfare system or causing their child to linger unnecessarily in the system. **Guided by CCYJ's experience in building strong collaborative partnerships, FAC leverages the combined expertise of our partner organizations to help keep families together, allowing the foster care system to focus its resources on children who need its protection.**

The FAC's multidisciplinary team provides not only legal representation, but involves a social worker to assist with housing, basic needs, and counseling, and a parent ally who shares her experiences and emotional understanding with parents to help them navigate the system.

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By addressing families' comprehensive needs, the FAC works to keep children safe and stable within their families by strengthening a caretaker's ability to provide for a child's safety and permanence, minimizing the emotional trauma caused by removal and foster care placement.

In 2016, the FAC received 70 referrals and served 35 clients, nearly doubling our goal and demonstrating a demand for services that outpaces our team's current capacity to serve all eligible families. Of the clients served, the FAC team was successful at achieving the legal objectives in 94% of cases. By design, FAC referrals stem primarily from a single DCFS office, one of several in King County. The volume of referrals received from this single office alone speaks to the great need for FAC services county-wide.

Looking forward, FAC's biggest opportunity is to effectively use early outcome data and cost-efficiency analyses to determine whether FAC services are worth sustaining beyond the three-year pilot period. Given FAC's impressive track record of achieving client outcomes and programmatic goals, we are well on our way to building a strong case for making FAC services a standard, state-funded option for all child welfare-involved families in Washington.

We thank Casey Family Programs and multiple private donors for supporting FAC in providing better options and better outcomes for families and youth.



Project Updates

BETTER = SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ YOUTH WITH SAFE AND AFFIRMING CARE

CCJY launched eQuality as a multi-phased project aimed at creating lasting improvements to services provided within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to LGBTQ+ youth. To begin, the eQuality team conducted the State's first comprehensive research effort on the experiences of Washington's systems-involved LGBTQ+ youth. The results of this effort were published in a comprehensive report entitled, ***Listening to Their Voices: Enhancing Successful Outcomes for LGBTQ Youth in Washington State's Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems.***

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The data and conclusions outlined in ***Listening to their Voices*** provided the impetus for Phase II of eQuality—development of the ***Protocol for Safe and Affirming Care (PSAC)***. In developing the PSAC, the eQuality team reviewed models and resources across the nation, conducted stakeholder surveys, and held regional mini-summits, with a final summit of statewide leaders in September 2016. Nearly 200 stakeholders serving all 39 counties in the state shared their knowledge and experience during the development process.

Published in January 2017, **the PSAC provides a framework that youth-serving professionals in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems can follow to ensure they are providing safe and affirming care to LGBTQ+ youth.**

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In the next year, the eQuality team will pilot implementation of the PSAC in Spokane and King Counties, providing training for professionals working with youth and identifying and engaging with system-involved LGBTQ+ youth. But **the PSAC has potential for impact beyond our pilot—it lays the foundation for improving the lives of all youth involved in large, institutionalized systems.** While each system is unique, many of the principles and model policies PSAC contains are universally applicable and easily modifiable as a basis for ensuring safer and more affirming care for all youth these systems serve.

With support from the Raikes Foundation, the Pride Foundation, QLaw, and many individuals, eQuality is transforming the way systems interact with LGBTQ+ youth to improve their experiences in care.

BETTER = HELPING SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN ACCESS RESOURCES FOR RECOVERY

CCYJ is building a statewide, coordinated and victim-centered response to support commercially sexually exploited children and youth (CSEC)—identifying, engaging, and helping them to recover from the exploitation and coercion they have endured.

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Published in 2013, **the Washington State Model Protocol for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (Model Protocol) helps communities identify, engage, and respond to the needs of CSEC. The Protocol is increasingly recognized nationally as a model for engaging professionals in a trauma-informed response to this vulnerable population.** At the urging of CCYJ, the Legislature has established the CSEC Statewide Coordinating Committee to oversee our State's response to this critical issue.

The lack of accurate data regarding CSEC has created a critical gap in our ability to fully meet the needs of these children and youth. **Thanks to Project Respect, Washington is one of few states, if not the only, state in the nation to collect widespread data on children in the sex trade involving 16 organizations and hundreds of individuals statewide.**

BETTER = KEEPING KIDS IN SCHOOL BY EMPOWERING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

When kids start to disconnect from school, it's a critical warning sign of trouble and all too frequently the start of a path that leads to involvement in the juvenile justice system.

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The Washington State Becca Task Force (BTF) is a statewide organization that helps support schools, courts, and service providers in carrying out the intent and goals of the mandatory attendance and at-risk youth laws, called the "Becca Laws." Coordinated by staff at CCYJ, **the BTF provides a forum for collaboration; facilitates the initiation of research and training on the development and use of proven practices that support youth and families in crisis;** and, leads efforts to ensure that adequate funding, accountability, and efficient and effective processes are in place for carrying out the Becca laws. Staffed by CCYJ, the BTF meets monthly to carry out its purpose.

In 2011, the BTF made recommendations for truancy system reforms, including the implementation of community truancy boards (CTBs) statewide. CTBs are composed of community members who are tasked with identifying barriers to school attendance and recommending methods for improving attendance. In 2016, the State Legislature passed a law promoting

In 2016 more than 1,400 youth provided data about their experiences. Of those in the survey who were exploited, 25% were male, 36% were in school, 55% were living with a parent or relative, and 35% were involved in the child welfare, juvenile justice, or mental health systems.

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Thanks to this work, 70% of Washington's residents now live in a region that has a coordinated, collaborative, and victim-centered response to CSEC. **Representatives of our juvenile justice and child welfare systems are now more likely to recognize when a youth in their care is being exploited to provide the crucial services they need.** Before this awareness, exploited children and youth were often returned to the circumstances in which they were being exploited or treated as criminals, adding to their trauma.

Thanks to StolenYouth and multiple private donors, Project Respect is breaking cycles of exploitation and expanding access to better lives for victimized children and youth.

court- and school-based intervention and prevention strategies that foster school attendance, including having CTBs in place statewide beginning in the 2017 – 18 school year.

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Each fall, the BTF hosts a two-day conference for professionals from schools, juvenile courts, service providers, and others providing them with a critical space in which to learn the latest Becca-related knowledge and policies to better serve youth in their care. The 2016 conference featured an expert panel discussing how to develop and sustain CTBs including mechanisms for creating, funding, and supporting effective CTBs and school-court-community collaboration.

In the coming year, the BTF will continue to support the statewide establishment of local CTBs by providing regular forums for collaboration and information exchange among systems professionals. **Having community truancy boards as a resource in every community will increase the number of students who are stabilized and empowered to stay in school. Youth who stay in school are more likely to graduate and be prepared for college, work, and success in life and less likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system.**

A young person with short dark hair is shown in profile, looking out of a window. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting sunrise or sunset. The person is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt. The window frame is visible, and the background outside is bright and slightly blurred.

Better = Transforming the Futures of Foster and Homeless Youth

Lawyers Fostering Independence (LFI) provides life-changing civil legal aid to youth who have experienced foster, group or kinship care and/or are experiencing or facing the prospect of homelessness. Powered by over 100 volunteer attorneys, LFI removes civil legal barriers that most often affect a young person's ability to obtain stable housing, good employment and desired education.

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After eight years of success in serving hundreds of King County's most vulnerable youth and young adults, LFI will begin expanding statewide on a county-by-county basis in 2017 thanks to a foundational investment by the Perkins Coie Charitable Foundation.

Beyond King County, legal aid for these youth is rare, but their need for support is pervasive. **LFI's expansion will fill the gap in services and work with existing services to meet the critical needs of our state's most vulnerable populations—serving hundreds more youth every year.** Our ability to be successful in expanding services is driven by the strength and caring of our community, the partnerships we have made, and the resilience of the young people we serve. Young people like Tosha, a college student and former foster youth.

Together we are making generational change by helping young people like Tosha reach for their future and not be blocked by their past.

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Like most students, money is tight for Tosha as she works hard to succeed in school and make her ends meet. When Tosha needed to move before the end of her lease, she lined up a new tenant right away. Yet, despite the fact that it cost the landlord nothing to reassign Tosha's lease to the new tenant, the landlord demanded an "assignment fee" of an entire month's rent.

With the help of an LFI volunteer attorney, the assignment fee was cancelled, and Tosha is focusing on her education, her job, and settling into her new home. **LFI saved Tosha money she didn't have and prevented her from being sent to collections or having her credit or housing stability negatively affected.** Together we are making generational change by helping young people like Tosha reach for their future and not be blocked by their past.

LFI is supported by Costco Wholesale, the Schultz Family Foundation, local law firms and individual donors. Thank you!



FOUNDED IN 1912,

Perkins Coie LLP has more than 1,000 lawyers in 19 offices across the United States and Asia. The firm provides a full array of corporate, commercial litigation and intellectual property legal services to a broad range of clients, from FORTUNE 50 corporations to emerging growth startups, as well as public and not-for-profit organizations.

Through their pro bono legal work and other public and community service efforts, they change lives and transform our communities.

In 2016, Perkins Coie attorneys and legal staff donated approximately 52,000 hours of pro bono legal service.

Community Champion—Perkins Coie

“All of our (pro bono) clients are trying to access justice and to find a better situation, better system or better life,” says Leah Medway, Pro Bono Counsel at Perkins Coie, describing the common thread between communities served by her law firm’s pro bono work. The alignment between Perkins Coie’s values of service and CCYJ’s mission for “better systems, better lives” has fostered a longstanding partnership between the two organizations, beginning with the instrumental role of a Perkins Coie’ pro bono Fellow in launching our Lawyers Fostering Independence (LFI) program in 2008, and leading up to the firm’s transformative gift funding a new LFI staff attorney.

This investment in a new LFI staff attorney, expanding LFI’s services to meet the needs of hundreds more youth, is funded from a portion of a fee award received by Perkins Coie for pro bono representation of the Foster Parents Association of Washington in a significant case that secured increased financial support for foster families. When Perkins Coie receives fee awards from pro bono cases, they re-invest those funds into non profit public service organizations or pro bono initiatives—part of their commitment to service and community that garnered the Washington State Bar Association’s 2016 Pro Bono Award.

But Perkins Coie’s commitment to helping increase access to justice for our community’s most vulnerable doesn’t end with investment of funds—firm attorneys also give their time to change the trajectory of a young person’s life by handling cases for LFI clients. Recently, a Perkins Coie lawyer represented William, a young man from Pierce County who had got his life on track but worried that his troubled past would prevent him from truly moving forward.

With the help of his Perkins Coie attorney, William’s juvenile record was sealed, a life-changing impact. William’s lawyer said, “It was incredibly rewarding to work with William—he now is able to apply for jobs and further education without the restrictions that would otherwise impede his progress in the world. He’s a very impressive man with a young family, and I’m so glad we were able to help him move forward”.

CCYJ is honored to partner with Perkins Coie, true community champions for our youth!

Generosity for Generations: Legacy Gift Ensures Future Impact for System Kids

“It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us.” (Teacher Jackie Mutcheson)

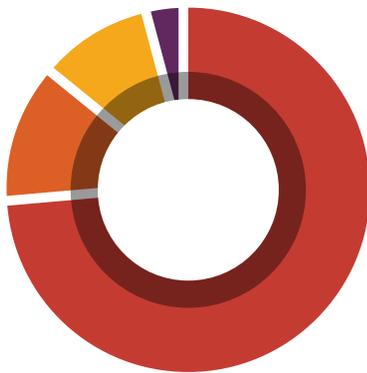
With work as large as long-term reform of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, we all have a part to play in ensuring fair, safe, and stable futures for children and youth. CCYJ is honored to have a committed community of supporters fueling better lives for children and families with their time, talent, and treasure. Yet we never take this support for granted, and were honored anew by a groundbreaking legacy gift from quiet Seattle philanthropist, William T. Beeks in 2016.

Mr. Beeks played many roles throughout his life: civil servant, attorney, investor, mentor and philanthropist. Enacting his passion for philanthropy, he was a generous investor in humanitarian, animal, and arts organization during his lifetime—and chose to leave a legacy of impact through bequest gifts to local nonprofits, including CCYJ.

This \$1.3 million gift, given after Mr. Beeks conducted extensive research on CCYJ’s work, is a validation and vote of confidence in our last decade of accomplishments and in the impacts CCYJ will generate in the future. To receive such a profound investment in our mission is both an honor and a stimulus—system kids need our best efforts, and we will continue to create better lives for youth and families across systems, within communities, for generations.

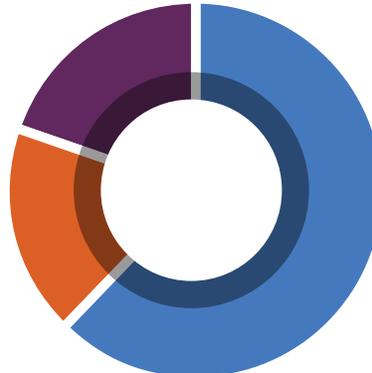
Our deepest gratitude to William T. Beeks, and to all who powered another year of critical systems change in 2016!

2016 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



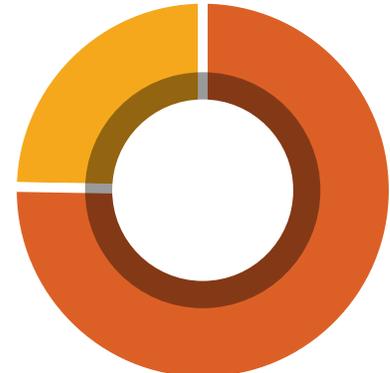
SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$2,494,809
Grants & Contracts	\$411,094
Special Event, Net	\$334,099
In-Kind	\$137,575



EXPENSES (EXCLUDING IN-KIND)

Projects/Programs	\$1,023,416
Administrative	\$295,160
Fundraising	\$320,355



DONATED SERVICES

In-Kind Advertising	\$103,725
Program Services	\$33,850

CCYJ thanks the Seattle Times for their contribution of bold, compelling, mission-forward advertising in support of our work to create better lives for generations of Washington youth.



Thank You

for Sharing Our Vision of a Just Future for All Kids

Together we share the belief that children and youth are our state’s most valuable assets. We believe that when we ensure all children and youth have the opportunity to learn and develop, we all benefit. And, we believe that strengthening the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to meet the unique needs of the young people within those systems should be one of our highest priorities.

Thanks to your generous investment, over our first decade of work, CCYJ has championed more than 80 systems-level reforms within our child welfare and juvenile justice systems that have improved the lives of the 50,000 children and youth impacted by these systems each year.

THE 10 FOR 10 FUND:

Pursuing sustainable systems change to positively impact future generations

As we celebrate more than a decade’s worth of transformative innovations and systems reforms, we realize there is still a great deal of work to be done to address the inequities and shortcomings of our juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

CCYJ’s 10 for 10 campaign will establish a \$1 million pool to sustain our current work and create an innovation fund so we can readily respond to new and emerging needs. New opportunities that will be catalyzed by 10 for 10 include: implementation of Girls Courts in Washington State, concerted strategies to support at-risk youth in Military families, and an initiative to address inequities for youth from Native American nations.

We thank the following donors for your investment in the 10 for 10 Fund:*

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David Zapolsky

AGAIN, THANK YOU

The need for this work becomes more imperative each day as children and youth face a shifting climate in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, both here and nationally. Your support ensures that CCYJ will continue to champion innovative reforms and will have the funds to quickly respond to ideas and opportunities that will make lasting, positive change for the most vulnerable children and families in our state.

BETTER SYSTEMS, BETTER LIVES—BECAUSE OF YOU.

* Contributors as of 06/2017



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A background image showing the silhouettes of a family—a man, a woman, and a child—embracing each other. The scene is set against a soft, hazy sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient from purple to blue.

Together, we can create better lives for generations of children and youth by reforming the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

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