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# Judicial Process Commission

## 2005 Annual Report

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### VISION

The Judicial Process Commission envisions a society with true justice and equality for all. We understand that in a just society, all institutions will be based on reconciliation and restoration, instead of retribution and violence.

### MISSION

The JPC is a grass roots, nonprofit organization that challenges society to create a just nonviolent community which supports the right of all people to reach their fullest potential. We do this by:

- Providing support services for those involved in the criminal justice system
- Educating the public
- Advocating for changes in public policy.

### SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PAROLEES & PROBATIONERS: EMPLOYMENT, MENTORING & ADVOCACY

A total of approximately 400 parolees or probationers received direct services from JPC. A recent sampling of 168 customers over a 2 month period reveals an estimated **22% working, 10.8% in school, or in treatment**, 22.6% are unemployed, 40.5% cannot be located, and 4.1% are in jail. AmeriCorps workers, JPC staff, mentors and students provide reentry support services.

Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project (FCAMP) thanks Rochester Area Community Foundation for a \$20,000 grant. The collaborative includes Cephass, faith organizations, and representatives from the criminal justice system. Both mentors and Public Policy Group members are being asked to deepen their involvement. Additional training and support is provided to mentors every Monday night when workshops are offered. JPC is open until 8:00 PM Monday nights so that mentors that work during the day are able to gain the support they need. Funds were donated so that mentors and mentees could enjoy free meals at a local diner.

The Public Policy Group is building support for the pre and post case management proposal. Twenty-nine leaders here have endorsed the report "Gaps In Reentry Services" documenting the need for case management. Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment may take the proposal to the New York State legislature in 2007.

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## RECONCILIATION NETWORK: DON'T KILL IN OUR NAMES

Reconciliation Network: Don't Kill in Our Names (RecNet), in anticipation of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reinstatement of New York's death penalty on September 1, 2005, organized talks by Malcolm Bell and David Kaczynski, three book reviews at Writers and Books, the play *The Exonerated* at Brockport, an ad which ran at the Little Theater, and the planting of a Peace Tree at Mercy High School. RecNet holds vigils the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Hall of Justice on Exchange Boulevard. We encourage you to join us.

On September 6, 2005, the Court of Appeals, declared that the New York statute was coercive, and therefore unconstitutional, Gov. Pataki immediately asked the legislature to correct the flawed section of the law, that stated that if the jury was not unanimous for either death or life without the possibility of parole, the judge must sentence the offender to 20 to 25 to life with possibility of parole. Jurors, fearing the person might eventually be released, could opt for a death sentence. The Senate immediately passed a revised statute, while the Assembly held a series of five hearings at which 170 people testified. Two prominent committee chairps, Joseph Lentol and Helene Weinstein, who had previously been for the death penalty, changed their views. Speaker Silver refused to bring the bill to the floor for a vote.

After the murder of two police officers, Gov. Pataki again asked the legislature to amend the bill, limiting use of the death penalty for the killing of law enforcement officers and prison guards. No changes were recommended to correct the other defects in the statute which might render it unconstitutional, such as geographic and racial disparities in its application, the method of execution, or allowing innocent people to be sentenced to death. For example, three of the seven men sentenced to death in New York State were from Suffolk County which has a low rate of violent crime. A preliminary study in New York found that a person is twice as likely to face a death penalty trial if the victim is white. The question of whether lethal injection is cruel and inhumane is being determined in various states. The U.S. Supreme Court will review Florida's lethal injection protocol. Nationwide, 123 death row inmates have been exonerated, 15 by DNA evidence. Since Gov. Pataki has drastically reduced funding for the Capital Defenders Office, there is a heightened chance that any new death sentence would be overturned due to ineffective counsel.

RecNet members serve as members of the Board of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty and give talks on this issue. We urge you to contact your elected representatives to make your views known.

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## WHAT DIVIDES US WORKSHOP TEAM

The more awareness is spread in our community about diversity the more we are able to understand each other and build a stronger community. The Team used group discussion and two videos from Stir Fry Productions to explore white privilege and sexism with about 65 people. Mentors from the Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project and participants at Restart, Catholic Family Center, attended the free sessions.

Author and poet Genny Lim says this about the videos *"the myth of Eden cracks open as its citizens share what it is like to be locked outside the garden. We watched gripped by their raw emotions, honesty and courage. Why is it so hard to hear?"*

The videos from Stir Fry Productions are available to all without a fee by calling the JPC office. The Team provides workshops on racism and sexism at no charge.

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## FUNDING SOURCES

### FOUNDATIONS

Rochester Area Community Foundation  
Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving

### GROUPS

AIDS Rochester  
Catholic Family Center  
The Green Party  
Local 381 Family Services  
Pershing Securities Group  
Rochester Fatherhood Resources Initiative

### FAITH ORGANIZATIONS

#### American Baptist Churches/USA

Lake Avenue Memorial Baptist Church  
Public Christian Mission of the Rochester  
Genesee Region

#### Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
Downtown United Presbyterian Church  
Summerville Presbyterian Church

### Roman Catholic

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rochester  
Church of the Assumption  
Resurrection  
Sisters of Mercy  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Sisters of St. Joseph

### Genesee Valley Association of the United Church of Christ

Irondequoit  
Mountain Rise

### Other Faith Organizations

First Unitarian Church  
The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Spiritus Christi  
Temple Sinai

### OTHER SOURCES

Individuals & Honoraria

**ESTIMATED  
NUMBERS OF  
PERSONS  
SERVED**

<i>Justicia</i> newsletter	3,500
Reentry services	400
Youth Job Readiness & Life Skills Training -	12
Jail and prison correspondence	400
Presentations-	350
Rochester Psychiatric Center, School Without Walls, Nazareth & Mercy HS, U of R	
Mountian Rise, Baber AME Church, Best Program, Rochester Works, Unity Health	
Employment Unit/MCDHS	
What Divides Us Workshop	65
Active Mentors	24
Trained Mentors	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,811</b>

**2005 - 2006 COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Yolanda Asamoah-Wade, Chairperson	Harry Murray
Mary Boite	Clare Regan
Joyce Clark (2005)	Jack Bradigan Spula, <i>Justicia</i> Editor
Vivian Cook Johnson (2005)	Fred Schaeffer
Laurie Hamlin, Treasurer	Mary Sullivan, RSM
Robert H. Jones, MD	Jacque Whitfield (2005)
Gail Mott, Secretary	Louise Wu Richards

**STUDENTS**

Gloria P. Anderson, Roberts Wesleyan College  
 Janice Boyd, Monroe Community College  
 Jocelyn Cruz, School Without Walls  
 Terasa Harris, Monroe Community College  
 Pam Hunter, Intern, Best Program  
 Tamara Kendrick, Intern  
 Greg Latta, Intern  
 Kenneth Lewis, Monroe Community College  
 Wanda Richardson, Monroe Community College  
 Frank Rogers, Intern  
 Janice Rowley, Intern  
 Sarah Sheldon, SUNY Binghamton  
 George Wesley, Monroe Community College

**STAFF**

Tabitha Barber, AmeriCorps  
 Todd Brady, Consultant  
 James Caldwell, Mentor Coordinator  
 Anna Marie Dygert, AmeriCorps  
 Mark Hussey, AmeriCorps  
 Victoria Kushner, AmeriCorps  
 John Mourning, Mentor Outreach  
 Susan K. Porter, Coordinator

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