



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR

Greetings:

As we reflect upon the accomplishments and challenges of the past year, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Judicial Process Commission. It is with great pride and gratitude that I address you as the President, and I am immensely thankful for the dedication and hard work of each member of our Board of Directors that has contributed to our shared mission.

A Year of Purpose and Achievement:

The year 2023 has been a testament to our commitment to excellence in the administration to create a just, nonviolent community. We support the rights of all people affected by the criminal justice system and promote changes to that system to help them achieve their fullest potential.

Collaboration and Community Engagement:

Collaboration has been a cornerstone of our success. We have worked closely with legal professionals, community leaders, and other stakeholders to foster partnerships that strengthen the foundations of our judicial system. By engaging in meaningful dialogue and cooperation, we have broadened our impact and increased our influence in shaping positive change.

Acknowledging Challenges and Embracing Growth:

While celebrating our achievements, we acknowledge the challenges that persist. As an organization, we remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing these challenges head-on, learning from them, and leveraging our experiences to fuel future growth and improvement.

Gratitude and Appreciation:

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each partner and member of the Judicial Process Commission for your unwavering dedication, passion, and hard work. It is your commitment that propels our organization forward, and I am inspired by the collective impact we have made in advancing the cause of justice.

Looking Forward:

As we turn the page to a new year, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the successes achieved, and the shared vision that unites us. Together, we will continue to navigate the evolving landscape of the judicial process with resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to the values that define us.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Sincerely,

LaShana Boose
President of the Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Supporters, Partners, and Friends,

I am delighted to present the 2023 Annual Report for the Judicial Process Commission, Inc. (JPC). The 2023 program year was a year of opportunity and development. In 2023 the agency focus was community integration, collaboration, and impact.

We have made significant partnerships and collaborations which has allowed us expand our services, thus increasing JPC's overall impact. Specifically, our LAEPEE (Legal and Employability Program Expanded Enhanced) department exceeded the previous year's total impact, by August of this program year." Small but Mighty "is a true phrase to describe my team: who all worked to get the job done in all areas of programming. I take opportunity to say thank you Annette, Myril, Jeanette, Lamont, Amanda and Colin-JOB WELL DONE!

The 2023 program year served as an opportunity to challenge current processes and pathways. Our team meetings became brainstorming sessions where we questioned where we have been as an agency and what territory JPC has yet to conquer. We sought to understand what restorative tools we possess and those we need to obtain in order to offer sustainable supports to the men and women returning from incarceration.

This year we developed a former participant advisory Board whose insight was beneficial in helping the JPC team/program heads understand the experience of the services we offer. These men and women gave valuable insight and suggestions that we have implemented in our services with hopes of addressing the gap in the services offered at JPC. We look forward to the work ahead with this Board. Thanks to the men and women who came back to serve in this manner. Your voice is valuable!

Of course, none of this is possible without the support and collaboration from our dedicated supporters. On behalf of the entire JPC team, I extend a heartfelt thanks, for your support and partnerships. Together, we are making significant strides that will benefit the lives of those impacted by the criminal justice system.

With Warm Regards,

Shermond D. Reid
Interim Executive Director

About

Our vision, *JPC envisions a transformed society, where formerly incarcerated community members are no longer marginalized and stigmatized and feel empowered to lead fulfilling lives.*

Our mission, *JPC creates a just, non-violent community, striving to strengthen individuals seeking re-entry into society. we believe in and support the rights of all people affected by the criminal justice system and promote systemic changes that empower, inspire, and we provide person-centered, evidence-based, collaborative services. we advocate for positive change through mentorship, education, financial assistance, and other forms of advocacy.*

Population Served

Women, men, non-binary individuals and LGBTQA+ participants, 16 years and older, involved in the criminal justice system living in the greater Rochester community. The majority of JPC clients are people of color, most living in poverty/extreme poverty. Some are homeless, struggling with mental health issues or substance abuse, often unemployed/underemployed. 75% of our clients have children: many parents live apart from their children and are seeking to reunite with them.

PROGRAMS

Legal Action Employability Project, Enhanced and Expanded (LAEPEE)

This first of its kind collaborative effort in NYS began in 2006 with Legal Assistance of Western New York - Rochester Office, and is designed to eliminate barriers that make it difficult for criminal justice involved women and men to rejoin the community and succeed in almost every important aspect of life, especially employment. Partnerships for this project include LAWNY, Center for Community Alternatives the Public Defender's Office.

LAEPEE services include: RAP Sheets (Records of Arrest and Prosecution) – JPC directly requests New York State/Federal Rap Sheets from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and the FBI or through a company called IdentoGo. JPC staff reviews and summarizes the RAP sheet and creates a conviction summary. In collaboration with legal partners, JPC determines the participant's eligibility for a certificate of rehabilitation.

Certificates of Rehabilitation: *This term encompasses both the Certificate of Relief from Disabilities and the Certificate of Good Conduct and both are an essential resource for returning citizens who are seeking employment. They are offered in just a few states to assist in the reduction of recidivism. Certificates lift bars to employment and licensure that result from a conviction history and may be used to demonstrate rehabilitation or a commitment to rehabilitation. In NYS they are approved by a judge or the parole board and serve as legal evidence of rehabilitation. They may be required by an employer or by NY law for employment and licensure in over 100 professions.*

Job Discrimination Education and Litigation: This service ensures that the employment rights of criminal justice involved persons are understood and enforced in New York State. JPC staff obtains and

corrects the RAP sheets, call or write letters to employers and refer cases to LawNY Rochester Office for further advocacy and/or litigation.

Faith Community Adult Mentoring Project (FCAMP)/ Peer Mentoring

Trained volunteer mentors assist individuals returning from incarceration at the Monroe County Jail, Albion or Orleans NYS Correctional Facility or federal prison. Female and male volunteer mentors are matched with a mentee pre and/or post release. Mentors serve as a guide and coach to support the participant's successful return to our community.

New Journey

New Journey continues the effort of the 2010-12 federally-funded Women's Re-entry Project. The program works in collaboration with Monroe County Probation and the Jail, SAFE Court, Albion NYS Correctional Facilities or federal prisons to serve 50 high to moderate risk women with children post release each year. Women receive intensive support and case management services that may include: housing supports, family reunification, weekly therapeutic support groups, 1-on-1 counseling with a master's level licensed social worker, service coordination, mentors, preparation for employment. Wrap around services including: identification, used household items/baby items/furniture, first month's rent/back rent, referral and advocacy for additional services such as: primary care, mental health, substance abuse treatment and welfare benefits. All stabilize supports to help reduce recidivism/reoffence.

JPC Housing for the Homeless

Since 2010 the Rochester Housing Authority and JPC have partnered to provide permanent supportive housing to women and men with past criminal justice system involvement. JPC staff provides a variety of support services including face to face meetings and wrap-round services. Eighteen (18) vouchers are provided for safe, affordable and permanent housing for homeless women and men. Participants for this program must be homeless, at least 18 years of age and have a long-term disabling condition.

Leadership and Organizing

Former Participant Advocate Council-Comprised of former JPC participants, this committee meets quarterly to offer suggestions and identify program gaps to insure reliability and accuracy of service. The first meeting took place in October 2023, five (5) participants who all received various services from JPC offered sound input about their personal experiences at JPC and methods that would make the programming more beneficial to future JPC participants.

SUCCESS STORY

Meet Jeffrey, a 42-year-old husband and father of three, who was beaming with joy about the idea of becoming a real estate agent. Full of excitement and curiosity about this new pathway, Jeffrey decided to sign up for the real estate class. While filling out the forms, Jeffrey's enthusiasm turned from gloom to doom as he read the requirements: the applicant must be 18 years old. The applicant can have no felony convictions (other than those that have been pardoned).

During his teen years, Jeffrey was mischievous, as he sought for identity and acceptance. Born to a 15-year-old father, and 18-year-old mother, Jeffrey was misguided and would eventually end up in the care of his grandmother.

As, Jeffrey grew older the absence of his parents made him long for love and acceptance. Jeffrey became a rebel. His grandmother always would remind him of this truth, she would say, "Son you better make better decisions, because what you do today, whether positive or negative, will have an effect on your tomorrow". Ignoring warnings, it would be soon after that Jeffrey ended up arrested at the Monroe County Jail. Yet, somehow, he came out of this incident unscathed and unlearned.

Jeffrey continued his rebelliousness would only escalate. By now, he is 17, still seeking identity and self-worth. He became belligerent and started indulging in hard liquor, which only embedded him into a deeper state of confusion. Jeffrey admits, at this point in life he did not care if he lived or died. At the age of 17, Jeffrey was arrested and convicted of criminal mischief, he was sentenced to his actions would land him in jail for 6 mos. and 5 years' probation. Jeffrey admits, that in the beginning he did not regard his situation with the seriousness that is regarded. Instead he continued to act out and rebel, even while in jail. His actions would land him in the "box" (solitary confinement).

After release, the words of Grandma would manifest, her words were "what you do today, whether positive or negative, will have an effect on your tomorrow". Jeffrey, then 21, could not find a job suitable to care for his growing family. So, Jeffrey returned to school to achieve his GED. Afterward, he enrolled in college and relocated to Augusta, Georgia. After completion of his degree, he applied for a job at an electric company. Yet, once his background returned Jeffrey was turned down. This would be Jeffrey's reality for some time, Jeffrey could not get a decent job. He worked odd jobs and worked through temp agencies to make ends meet. Jeffrey wanted to apply for his Certificate of Rehabilitation to remove the barriers to employment, but he did not have the funds to hire an attorney.

Jeffrey became creative as entrepreneur to make ends meet by starting a clothing line and an entertainment company. He created 3 mentor organizations (The Real Shop Talk, Inc. and Beauty Time, Inc). Jeffrey, threw himself into empowering the youth, in hopes that they wouldn't follow his path.

Yet, again at 42, after putting in all that work to re-invent myself only to be faced again with the ramifications of the choice I made when I was 17. Saddened about reading the requirements about the job, I was a little down when I picked my son up from football practice, who at the time was 17, the same age I was at the time of my arrest. He asked, "Dad, is something wrong?" Trying to use this moment as a teaching tool, I responded, well son, I've had another opportunity slip through my fingers because of my past mistakes. My felony conviction still haunts me and son, I'm just tired".

He asked, is there something you can do about it? He then, proceeded to throw my words at me, saying, "like you always tell me, when an obstacle gets in your way find a way to go over it, under it, around or through it! He exclaimed, "You have to fight for your future!"

And, that led me to encounter the Public Safety Bldg. clerk which in turn, referred me to the Judicial Process Commission. This visit would change the trajectory of my career pathway. The staff showed me kindness and made me feel welcomed and not judged. They walked me through the process, whatever question I had they answered. This Program allows people to live again and thrive again. Receiving my certificate gave me back power to choose a career path rather than working job to job. This is the work that changes lives, as it opens up the pathway, removing the barriers allowing people to recover from their bad choices and decisions.

2023 IMPACT OVERVIEW

The LAEPEE Program, processed 707 certificates of rehabilitation processed about **85%** were granted. Of those granted About **30%** used the certificates to gain sustainable employment ,**20%** used the certificates to advance in the workforce.

Housing, Shelter Plus -18, program through the Rochester Housing Authority, 17 were housed during 2023 housed all received -stabilizing supports: *to include bus passes, food, emotional support, peer mentoring, and case management, stabilizing housing supports.*

New Journey Program, serviced over **50** high risk mothers coming out of incarceration and almost **80** children under the age of twelve. Supports included:

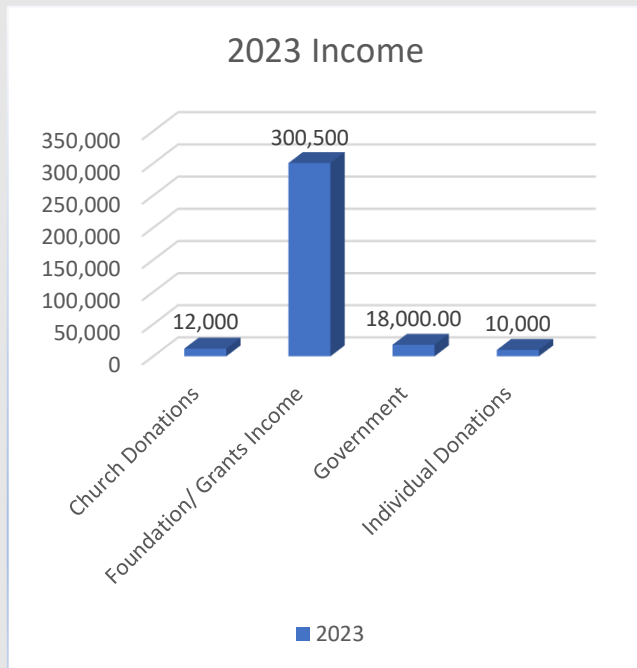
- **10** received help with security deposits and/or rent
- **10** received wrap arounds supports for furniture and bedding
- **50** received housing supplies, transportation supports/gift cards
- **50** received food continuously
- **20** received reunification supports with their children
- **30** ongoing Transportation supports daily/monthly bus passes
- **30** clothing and/or salvation army vouchers
- **10** cell phones/cell phones bills
- **7** received Digital Literacy Training
- **50** benefitted from our Peer/mentoring services/which included wrap-around supports, transportation, phones, case management & Intensive Therapeutic supports. Weekly therapeutic groups and one-one sessions.
- **5** graduated this program year!!!!!!

FCAMP Mentoring Program, provided mentors for 60 persons- Supports included advocacy, (internal /external) referrals, food, housing supplies, digital literacy classes

Community Engagements:

- (4) Library presentations
- JPC sat on the panel discussion at the Little Theatre- Free Chol Soo Lee.
- Al Sigl Center presentation for Veterans
- University of Rochester for the 1st year Ob-Gyn students
- Blue Cross Arena-Workforce Fair
- Scotty B overdose Awareness Event
- Expungement Event –Through this event we processed 156 persons to obtain their certificate of rehabilitation.
- Know Your Rights Event- JPC brought together several agencies to notify the participants of their rights after criminal justice impact. Participating agencies included: *New York Civil Liberties, Division of Human Rights, Action for A Better Community, Monroe County Public Defender's office, LawNY & Empire Justice Center*

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AT A GLANCE



JPC Participant Demographics

Gender

- **48%** males
- **43%** Females
- **9%** LGBTQ

Age:

- (19- 34) **40%**
- (35-54) **50%**
- (55 and up) **about 10%**

Race:

- African American (**85%**)
- Caucasian (**10%**)
- Latino (**about 5%**)

Essential Community Partners

Rochester Re-entry Advocates: Center for Community Alternatives, Legal Assistance of Western New York - Monroe County Public Defender's Office

Hope House-Salvation Army

Legacy Makers

Action for a Better Community

Rochester Housing Authority, Permanent Supportive Housing

Women in Reentry Collaborative: UR WISH, EE Pathways, formerly, Exercise Express, Center for Economic Opportunity, CEO

Community Collaborators

Acces VR

Catholic Family Center: Restart, Freedom House,

Delphi Rise

Hope Initiatives

Huther Doyle

Jennifer House, Spiritus Christi Church

Monroe County Probation & Community

Corrections Department

Monroe County Reentry Task Force

NYS Commission for the Blind

NYS Division of Parole

Out of Darkness

Pathstone: Employment Programs & Wilson Commencement Park

Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC)

RochesterWorks!

Strong Ties, University of Rochester

Women's Community Residence, Rochester Regional Health

YWCA housing programs

City of Rochester- Peace Collaboration

Greater Works Collaborative, Inc.

Rise Up Rochester

Organization Funders/In-kind Support

Religious Organizations

Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Episcopal Diocese

First Presbyterian Church

First Unitarian Church

Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Third Presbyterian Church

Atonement Lutheran Church

Foundations

Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation

ESL Charitable Trust

ESL Community Impact

Rochester Area Community

Foundation:

LGBTQ &

Rochester Women's Giving Circle

Fred & Floy Willmott Foundation

Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation

Greater Rochester Community

Foundation

Mary Mulligan Trust

Brighton Kiwanis

Other Organizations

Monroe Community College

Government (2)

Monroe County

EFSP/FEMA/CARES Fund

Current Board & Advisory Board Members

LaShana D. Boose

City of Rochester

Board President

Helen Jae Cheves, Adjunct

Faculty, SUNY Brockport -II Steps

Ahead, President **Chair**

Communications Committee

Terrell Brady

Community Development Officer
Action for a Better Community

Wyman Harris, Attorney Monroe

County Public Defender's Office

Marlon Jefferson

Manager at Key Bank

Jamilya Arzanesh

ESOL teacher at the Rochester

Early College International High School, RCSD.

Cherie Wright- Banda

Monroe County

Governance Committee

Advisory Board-

John M. Klofas, Ph.D. Director

Emeritus, Center for Public Safety, R

Current Staff and Volunteers

STAFF

Shermond D. Reid

Interim Executive Director.

Annette Montstream

LAEPEE, Program Director

Myril Stoudemire

Service Coordinator

Lamont Phillips /
Service/Mentor
Coordinator

CONSULTANTS

Colin Fleming - Stumpf

Grant Writer

Bernardi & Company LLC
Amanda Joseph

Bookkeeper

Jeanette Gartland Creighton,
LMSW CASAC
Therapist/Case Manager

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Robert Conklin and Alex Hrabko
Information Tech.

Admin. Support

Edward Johnson
Notary and Judy Johnson

Website
Matthew Weeg

IN-KIND LEGAL

STAFF

Scott Forsyth,
Esq.

LawNY Rochester

Monroe County Public Defender's Office

Center for Community Alternatives

Active Mentors

Marco DiGiovanni

Barbara Grosh

Michelle Horman

Tim Hinton

Deborah Glee

Stephen Metildi

Danny Mitchell

Robert Picco

Timothy Rawlins

Susan K. Porter

*Serving in Monroe County
for over*



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