“The future is not a gift. It is an achievement.”

— Robert F. Kennedy
WHO WE ARE

Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps is a leader in child welfare and juvenile justice, operating a number of programs and services for at-risk youth and families. Our work includes community based initiatives, residential treatment and juvenile justice programs, and we partner with national organizations and state agencies to use proven methods and develop new ways to advance practices in the care of those most vulnerable. We help individuals and families overcome difficult challenges and situations by providing the tools and skills they need to heal, grow and thrive. Everything we do is based on the belief that every child deserves the chance for a brighter tomorrow.
OUR WORK
Our programs are focused on helping children and adolescents deal with past trauma, develop self-esteem and become contributing members of society. We also provide support services for families and preventative programs for youth living in areas with high rates of violence and crime. We collaborate with numerous agencies to keep children out of trouble, in school and on a path of healing, and we work within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to promote and enhance system reform.

AT A GLANCE
Founded: June 25, 1969
Type of organization: Private, nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)3, Licensed Child Agency. Approved Private Schools, Private and Public Adoption Services
Structure: Volunteer Board of Directors, operational management by President/CEO
Annual budget: $19 million
Employees: 400
Children and families served: 800+ annually

OUR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FALL INTO FIVE CATEGORIES:
• Community-Based Services
• Educational Services
• Adoption Services
• Residential Treatment Services
• Juvenile Justice Services

OUR MISSION
Fiercely committed to Robert F. Kennedy’s legacy of unwavering responsibility to the poor and disadvantaged, RFK Children’s Action Corps advocates for children and embraces all social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds in order to build healthier families, more responsible citizens, safer communities and a more just society for us all.

We believe...
... in the legacy of Robert F. Kennedy – that society has a responsibility to the poor and disadvantaged,
... in respecting the dignity and individuality of every human being,
... that all children have the right to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment,
... that every person has the right to reach his or her full potential.

We carry out our mission and values with:
• Purpose: We believe every child has the right to reach his or her full potential. We embrace and honor our relationships with the children, families and communities with whom we work.
• Hope: We foster hope within our children, families and communities and believe we are all capable of positive and lasting change.
• Leadership: We have an obligation to lead. Childhood is fleeting. We must act now to make a difference for our youth, families and communities to ensure a better tomorrow for everyone.
• Community: For children and families to become healthy and resilient, communities must welcome and sustain them. We support communities, so in turn the communities can better nurture their most vulnerable citizens.
• Courage: Our children, families and communities inspire us with their courage in times of enormous hardship and misfortune. We follow their example as we fight for quality care, adequate funding and system change.
Keeping the family connected is a key factor in the success of a child. **We helped reunite 111 boys and girls with their families** where the environment was safe and healthy.

**We created 16 new forever families for 17 children** through our Bright Futures Adoption Center, ensuring loving and stable homes for children.

**Our Cape Cod Youth in Progress Driver’s Education program** helped 108 teens (including 20 youth involved in DCF) receive their driver’s license. In addition to obtaining a driver’s license, youth participate in community service learning projects. We also had six students from other programs succeed in obtaining their driver’s license.

**Students across the agency took action with more than 690 hours of community service,** giving back to the community and learning the importance of social responsibility.

Reversing the path to juvenile crime, **DDAP, our Detention Diversion Advocacy Project,** served 106 clients, and 96 percent of youth referred to DDAP returned to court for all scheduled court dates.

Education is the pathway to the future. **We helped more than 80 students achieve their educational goals**, including: earning a high school diploma or GED equivalency, participating in college courses, passing MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) requirements or successfully completing a school year.

To support our belief that every kid should have art in their lives, **80 children experienced more than four theater performances and 33 youth participated in workshops** focused on therapeutic expression through the arts.

An incentive-based program that uses minibikes as a motivational tool, **NYPUM (National Youth Project Using Minibikes)** provided 106 of our students with the opportunity to develop self-esteem, values for daily living and a sense of teamwork.

**The Fay A. Rotenberg School** participated in a 10-week residency with local artist Merill Comeau. Projects included book-making, personal narrative boxes and self-portraiture and culminated with the submission of the girls’ artwork in the DYS Statewide Youth Showcase at UMass Boston.

In December, with the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, **we launched the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice**, which provides consultation, technical assistance, and training to serve local, state, and national leaders, practitioners and youth-serving agencies to improve system performance and outcomes for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. Read more about the work of the National Resource Center on page 19.

**COASA (Children of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse)** continued to be a significant resource for presentation, intervention and support groups for communities throughout Massachusetts. In addition to increasing its presence and the number of workshops with other community-based programs, it also looked to expand its reach into additional public and private schools in the area.

In October 2013, **RFK Children’s Action Corps dedicated the basketball court on the Lancaster Campus in memory of John Spencer**, who served as supervisor of the Elizabeth Birk Oatis Children’s Center from 1981 until 2007. John was a leader, mentor and support system to his coworkers and a favorite bedtime reader of the children in the program. Friends, family and colleagues were in attendance to celebrate John, who was described as “one of a kind, a legacy.”
OUR SUCCESS is measured by the strength of our desire and the size of our dream.
Dear Friends,

Here at RFK Children’s Action Corps, we operate numerous programs and services for those in need. As you know, our efforts span a wide range of focus: therapeutic, education, adoption, substance abuse, system improvement. But all of the work we do has the same goal: we help kids. We give at-risk children and families who have nowhere else to turn the resources and tools necessary for a chance at a brighter future.

As we share the following stories of hope, courage, and triumph in the face of adversity, we are grateful to all those who made them possible and to those who continue to help us write our next chapters. In order to provide these second chances, we must increase our visibility and continue to secure more stable, private funding, so that our work will not be so closely affected when state funding fluctuates. Philanthropy is a critical component of our ability to thrive, and we are rising to the challenge.

Last year was a transformational year for the agency in many ways. We significantly increased our donor base. We received two major gifts that will have considerable impact and event revenue is the highest it’s ever been. But, it’s time to reach higher.

Another milestone we reached this past year was the launch of the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice. Led by RFK Children’s Action Corps and supported by the MacArthur Foundation, the National Resource Center works to improve the way systems work together to result in better outcomes for kids. Our work at the national level allows us not only to extend our reach in jurisdictions throughout the country, but it also provides us with best practices that we can then implement within our programs in Massachusetts.

This work, along with the strength of our staff, Board, and leadership, all put us in a place to stabilize and sustain our current and future capabilities. We move forward with a strategic plan that was, and continues to be, staff guided and Board driven. We continue to work collaboratively to execute this plan that will build on our proven methods and successes and position us to be able to help even more children and families.

As always, the work we do could not happen without the help of supporters who believe in our organization, our work, and most importantly, that those we serve deserve the opportunity for a better tomorrow. While there will certainly be obstacles and challenges along the way, together, we can carry out the legacy of Robert F. Kennedy and make a difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities.

Edward P. Kelley
President and CEO
### STAFF LEADERSHIP

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<td>Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer</td>
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<td>Alden S. Wells</td>
<td>Vice President of Financial Management</td>
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<td>Karen B. Cheyney</td>
<td>Director of Bright Futures Adoption Center</td>
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<td>Linda Corey</td>
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<td>Director of National Education and Program Development</td>
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<td>Valerie L. Paen</td>
<td>Director for Education for Massachusetts; Principal of RFK Lancaster Campus</td>
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<td>Ellen S. Solomita</td>
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<td>David Tivnan</td>
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<td>John A. Tuell</td>
<td>Executive Director, RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice</td>
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<td>Adrienne E. Williams</td>
<td>Director of Community-Based Services</td>
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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### ADVISORY COUNCIL

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LEADERSHIP
Youth develops confidence, builds leadership skills
Stevona arrived at RFK Children’s Action Corps’ Fay A. Rotenberg School, the only private female secured facility in Massachusetts, desperately in need of a support system and structure. Her mom was sick and could only take care of herself, and her dad was in and out of the picture. She rarely attended school and became involved with a gang. The tipping point occurred when she was involved in a group assault incident and charged as an adult at the age of 15.

“Stevona understood that the life she was living caught up with her. She accepted full responsibility for her actions,” explained Kate DiMarino, administrative assistant at Rotenberg. “She made education the priority and became a role model for other girls.”

“All the staff helped in some way. They made my time feel special. I got to start with a clean slate,” said Stevona.

After 18 months at Rotenberg and a plan in place, Stevona happily moved in with her sister. She was grateful that the staff made sure she didn’t go into a foster home and adjusted well to a new school and community. She graduated from Community Academy High School in 2013.

“They make sure you will have everything at home – that you have a job, are going to school, and that you have activities to do.”

In continuing her long-term relationship with RFK Children’s Action Corps, Stevona hopped on a plane for the first time and attended the 2014 Juvenile Justice Youth Summit in Washington D.C. Co-hosted by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the goal of the conference was to cultivate and empower a new generation of juvenile justice advocates.

Accompanied by DiMarino, Stevona had the opportunity to engage in skill-building, networking, and leadership development and participated in a youth advocate panel, led by OJJDP Administrator, Robert Listenbee.

“She met new people and gained confidence,” said DiMarino. “Independently, she started getting business cards from people.”

Stevona and DiMarino found time for some fun during the four-day summit, visiting the White House, monuments, and even doing a little souvenir shopping.

Now 20 years old, Stevona is taking classes at Bunker Hill Community College while holding down a job. She wants to work with children and become a physical therapist.

“RFK is not just an organization. It’s long-term, part of your life, your family,” Stevona said. “I can call them at any time and they’ll be there. They’re my support system.”
PURPOSE

Johnston Hall helps two young women reach their full potential.
ERIN & PAULINE’S STORIES

ERIN – BEFORE

“When I was seven, I was diagnosed with ADHD and OCD,” said Erin. “My family wanted to send me to a mental facility and that’s when DCF [Department of Children & Families] got involved in my life.”

Erin struggled through adolescence. “I was always the outcast in school. My caseworker would suggest placing me in all different kinds of programs. My parents didn’t want me. I ran away for about a month when I was 14. I got caught by the police and went to court – where the judge knew me very well – and recommended DCF take custody.”

She had just turned 15 when she arrived at Johnston Hall.

PAULINE – BEFORE

Pauline was born to two drug addicted parents. “When I was seven, I started moving almost every year, living with different family members. Then I moved to my first foster home.”

Pauline stayed at her first foster home for more than three years. Things were good, but she missed her younger sister and decided to move to the same foster home to be with her. “It ended up being horrible. So I moved to a third foster home. It was even worse. They made me feel like Cinderella. I couldn’t eat at the table with them... I stopped going to school.”

After a few different foster homes and programs, Pauline also ended up at Johnston Hall when she was 15.

A TURNING POINT AT JOHNSTON HALL

“All the staff were so supportive. They were really there for me. They talked to me,” said Erin. “I was very angry. They taught me how to deal with things.”

Scott Favreau, program director at Johnston Hall, explains the STARR program model. “It stands for Short-Term Assessment and Rapid Reintegration. These kids come to us in a crisis. We do our best to show them support, stabilize them and help them live a regular life. They need structure and positive role models.”

“There are staff that I will never forget, like Scott. He made it personal,” said Pauline. “I wasn’t just a number, or just another foster kid. I finally felt important.”

Erin and Pauline were roommates at Johnston Hall and quickly became best friends.

“RFK took us to do so many things – things I wouldn’t have been able to do with my parents,” said Erin. “We went to Six Flags, caves in New York, swimming at the YMCA. There was a rock climbing wall and dirt bikes we could ride. They made it feel like I had a family for the first time. I was finally part of something.”

“I got to go to a high school with kids on a bus. I got to be part of society. It helped me,” said Pauline. “We did things that normal kids get to do. Things that I never thought I’d be able to do.”

“They made sure we had a normal teenage life – made sure we didn’t miss out,” said Erin. “They wanted us to be happy. We weren’t bad kids, just in bad situations.”

In 2007, after seven months at Johnston Hall, Erin returned home to her parents. Shortly after, Pauline also left and moved in with a close friend’s family. Pauline embraced the turning point in her life and graduated from high school in 2008.

Erin was in 12 different facilities after Johnston Hall and was briefly incarcerated when she was 18. She overcame her struggles and eventually obtained her GED.

ERIN – TODAY

Recognizing how much the program helped her, Erin regularly volunteers at Johnston Hall. “It feels good to be a positive resource for girls. I want to make a difference in their lives.”

Erin is now 23 years old and a successful life insurance agent. Licensed in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, she relocated to the latter and recently bought a home and a new car. She has a great relationship with her parents and boyfriend, and is the proud mother of two puppies and two kittens.

“Everything that happened in my life led to this moment. I’m so happy and I love where I am.”

PAULINE – TODAY

Now 24, Pauline is engaged and recently gave birth to a healthy baby girl. She has continued to successfully overcome challenges.

When she was 21, Pauline gained custody of her now three-year-old nephew, Julian. Her sister was in an abusive relationship, and Julian’s home was unsafe.

“I want to give Julian and my new daughter everything I didn’t have. My life has made me stronger. If I hadn’t gone to RFK, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”
Tyriq entered RFK Children’s Action Corps’ Detention Diversion Advocacy Project (DDAP) program when he was 14. He had gotten derailed – doing drugs and hanging out with the wrong crowd. It caught up with him when he was detained for trespassing, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Kevin Small was assigned as Tyriq’s DDAP youth advocate. “His mother is a hard-working, single parent. She was concerned about him getting into further trouble.”

Life was stressful for Tyriq’s mother, Carol. “Kevin was very supportive. He would come and get Tyriq and take him to outings. He had talks with him about life experiences, rights and wrongs. He made Tyriq recognize the support he had from me as a parent. I’m a strong advocate for Kevin. I appreciated everything he did.”

Tyriq quickly embraced the DDAP goals of completing community service, attending school regularly and obeying rules at home. In fact, he did more community service hours at a food bank in Jamaica Plain than required.

“I liked preparing and serving food for the elderly,” said Tyriq. “I could stay busy and learn how to not get in trouble.”

“We showed him he had better options. A lot of kids don’t get a second chance like he did,” said Small. “He took the opportunity and made the best of it.”

Tyriq successfully completed the DDAP program in early 2014. He is staying focused on school and maintaining good grades. The program helped him realize he loved to work. Beginning in June, Tyriq started cutting his neighbors’ lawns to earn money.

Community connections and collaboration play a major role in ongoing success after the DDAP program officially ends.

“We exposed him to after-school programs and community centers; showed him there are kids that aren’t hanging out on the streets. Here are peers that are doing something you can do,” said Small. “Some say it takes a village to raise a child. We say it takes a community.”

Tyriq started high school this year and is continuing to do well. “All the teachers speak highly of his potential,” Carol said proudly.

Tyriq is glad to be on the right track now. “My future goals are to finish high school, attend college and become a successful business man.”
HOPE
Young boy gets a second chance, hope for the future
COURAGE
Two boys gain independence through education programs

RYAN & ZACH’S STORIES

ZACH’S STORY

Zach has lived in a few different group and foster homes, but the Experiment with Travel (EWT) special education day school at RFK Children’s Action Corps has been a consistent part of his life for more than four years.

“He truly does have disabilities that wouldn’t be accommodated at a traditional high school,” explained Rebel McKinley, EWT school director. “What defines us is the ability to customize programming. We adapt to the goals of each child. Through a small, structured environment students determine the direction they want to go.”

“I went to an alternative school before coming to EWT. This feels more like a regular school,” said Zach. “They made me feel better. They asked me what I was good at doing.”

“We’re all about providing amazing educational opportunities,” said McKinley. “With the adventure component, we provide hands-on experiential learning.”

Zach was able to tie his interests to real world experiences. “Science is my favorite subject. I like learning about different animals. I got to go to the zoo. I volunteered at a horse place. I cleaned their stalls, groomed them, walked with them; learned there are different types of horses. That was my favorite.”

In June 2014, Zach graduated from the program – celebrating his certificate of attainment and completion of all high school credits.

He performed at the ceremony, playing the keyboard and freestyle rapping. He built musical interest and talent through his time at the school. “I learned that things can be hard when you learn something new. When I started out, I wasn’t good at the piano.”

Zach is currently working to pass the math portion of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test and will be staying on as a post-graduate to do some targeted academic and career transition work.
Now 20, Zach’s goal is to get his official high school diploma. He is taking MCAS prep classes at Holyoke Community College.

“I’m getting to know how college works. It gives me an experience – an idea of what it will be like,” said Zach.

McKinley is glad Zach will be in the program until he turns 22. “We use Zach as much as we can as a peer mentor. He doesn’t judge anyone. He’s friends with everyone. He shows leadership in encouraging other students.”

Zach elaborated on his mentor role. “I like to help out the other students. Help them out if they are feeling down. I try to get them to participate.”

Outside of EWT, Zach enjoys the independent nature of his group home. He is learning important life skills, like how to cook and manage his money.

When asked what he would miss most about EWT, Zach said, “I’ll miss everything. They’ll never give up on me if I don’t give up on myself. That’s my motivation. Always believe in yourself.”

RYAN’S STORY

Before Ryan moved into the Adolescent Treatment Unit at the Lancaster Campus, his mother Mary thought she was at the end of her rope.

Mary and her husband adopted Ryan when he was two. He was physically, emotionally and sexually abused at a very young age. Ryan’s biological mother, also Mary’s sister, has mental illness. His father died from a drug overdose. Diagnosed with autism and PTSD, Ryan was constantly in and out of hospitals. He suffered from hallucinations and attempted suicide when he was seven years old.

“He was anxiety-ridden. He couldn’t sit still. He couldn’t enjoy life at all. He worried about everything,” said Mary. “There was no place where he felt comfortable.”

After failed attempts at numerous other programs over the years, Mary was understandably skeptical by the time Ryan was a teenager and they first met with Val Paen, principal at RFK Children’s Action Corps’ Lancaster School.

“Our residential program is all-encompassing, providing family and individual therapy, and educational services,” explained Paen. “We’re about getting students to make good decisions for themselves. We have a point system for rewards. Ryan adapted quickly to the structure.”

“Finally, for the first time, Ryan was successful and that made him feel good. He responded to those incentives. He was motivated to do well,” said Mary.

Ryan has many fond memories of his four years at Lancaster. “I got to do a lot of fun stuff. Every single month I earned ice cream social. If you do your work, get good grades, do your homework, you get incentive programs ... we went bowling, to an apple orchard and roller skating.”

Each student’s plan is unique. For Ryan, the focus was traditional life skills. He had jobs at the school – from picking up bakery goods twice a week with staff to janitorial work. Jim, school-to-work mentor, gave him guidance, especially in social situations. He taught Ryan how to shop, cook and clean. “Jim helped Ryan feel like it was okay to be who he was,” said Mary.

Ryan made incredible strides both academically and socially. In June 2014, he put on a cap and gown and had a formal graduation from the program, receiving a Certificate of Completion.

“It was exciting. Everyone cheered for me,” Ryan said. “RFK helped me to get to independence. They helped me do things that were good for me. They kept me safe and helped me feel good about myself.”

Mary is now a title 1 tutor in math at Lancaster. “I’m so glad to work here. It’s something you want to be a part of ... It literally is the best thing that ever happened to Ryan – and us. This school saves lives.”

Ryan is now 19. He has transitioned to living in a group home and is working toward getting a job. “My goal is to make my whole family proud. Life is easier now. I want to go straight forward to good stuff.”

SPOTLIGHT

Ryan and Mary appeared in this year’s agency video Ripples of Hope

Watch it at youtube.com/RFKChildren
What began as a way to help a local family affected by the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings has grown into an annual event to help so many other neighbors in need. When several members of the White family of Bolton sustained serious injuries in last year’s attack, a group of friends quickly came to action to organize a fundraiser to benefit the family and other victims – the Bolton 5K Rally – led by Elizabeth Davis-Edwards, president of The Bolton Rally Group.

Originally designed to be a one-time event, the residents of Bolton were inspired to keep this act of kindness going and, along with the White family, held the second annual Bolton 5K Rally this year, with RFK Children’s Action Corps as the beneficiary.

The road race, which took place in June, raised nearly $30,000 to enhance a zip line and ropes course on our Lancaster Campus, a fun activity that focuses on teamwork and helps build confidence, trust and self-esteem. This had been a long-time dream of the campus, and they were honored by the generosity of the Bolton community and the Rally, whose slogan is, “where everybody wins.”

“It is not every day that we receive a call from someone saying that they want to plan a fundraiser on our behalf. I was so impressed by the women who organized the Bolton 5K Rally – their endless energy, commitment and efficiency while planning the event was truly amazing,” said David Tivnan, director of operations.

With the support of participants, sponsors and the event committee, the rally also became so much more than just a fundraiser. As the number of students from our Lancaster Campus who attend Nashoba Regional High School has increased in recent years, their administration and students recognized the importance of making them feel comfortable and welcome, both in school and in the community, and have taken the time to learn more about our kids and the work we do.

“We have had such a life-changing experience partnering with the incredible team at RFK Children’s Action Corps to spread the good news and inspiring truth about who these kids really are,” said Davis-Edwards. “We thank them for all the hard and important work they do every day. Our community and all those within it are better people because of them.”

Erin and Pauline, who are featured in this report, were recognized during a ceremony at this year’s rally where they had the opportunity to share their success stories. “I never felt so honored. They gave us flowers, and I could see the staff were proud of how we’ve changed and grown,” said Erin.

DIGNITY U WEAR HELPS CHANGE LIVES

Many of the children in our programs come to us with very little other than the clothes on their backs. Others wear hand me downs or clothing that is torn, doesn’t fit, or is out of style. Some lack even basic essentials, such as clean socks and underwear. This past year, we were excited and honored to enter a new partnership with Dignity U Wear, a nonprofit that provides brand new clothing to those in need.

Founded in 2000 by philanthropist and Holocaust survivor Henri Landwirth, Dignity U Wear receives in-kind and financial support from corporate sponsors to help over 300 nonprofit social service agencies across the country, focusing primarily on three areas: school children, veterans, and women and children in crisis.

“I met some of these young people when I visited the programs. In their eyes, I could see a new word forming in their world. That word is hope”, said Barbara Truncellito, executive director, Dignity U Wear.

We received our first shipment – 52 boxes! – this spring and will continue to receive deliveries every other month. The clothing is distributed free of charge through our Upper Room Boutique, where our kids can try on and choose brand new clothing, shoes and accessories without worrying about price tags. In their new wardrobes, they gain confidence, express individuality, and feel good about themselves, a seemingly simple act of kindness that will make a big difference in their lives.

“Dignity U Wear is more than just clothes for our kids,” said Yvonne Addo-Piper, director of admissions and community engagement. “It’s how they feel. They develop self-esteem and self-worth. They know that people care, and they, in turn, want to give back to others when they can.”

With the continued generosity of Dignity U Wear, together we can ensure that every child in our care will always be provided with the necessities that no one should go without.
COMMUNITY
Supporters in Action
RFK NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
For Juvenile Justice

Outagamie County, Wisconsin
  Dual Status and Multi-System Youth Reform

Hampden County, Massachusetts
  Dual Status and Multi-System Youth Reform

Hammond Region, Louisiana (Office of Juvenile Justice)
  Probation System Review

Santa Clara County, California
  Dual Status and Multi-System Youth Reform

Newton County, Georgia
  Dual Status and Multi-System Youth Reform
Since 2010, Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps has been home to a large portfolio of grant-funded work that touches the lives of children and families throughout the country. Through the ongoing generosity and support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, our efforts to enrich the lives of young people, foster healthy families and build safer communities have been greatly enhanced.

In December 2013, we expanded our national reach with the launch of the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice—and quickly enhanced our position as a recognized leader in child welfare and juvenile justice reform throughout the country. The RFK National Resource Center serves communities nationwide to improve outcomes for children and families whose lives have been touched by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, as well as other youth-serving systems, by enhancing system performance and advancing juvenile justice reform.

The work of the RFK National Resource Center primarily focuses on:

- Improving outcomes for **dual status youth** – youth with prior or current involvement in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems;
- Conducting **probation system reviews** to help jurisdictions identify and address critical issues impacting services delivered to youth who are on probation; and,
- Addressing the complexities of **information and data sharing** among youth-serving systems.

Since its launch, we have worked throughout the country to provide on-the-ground consultation and technical assistance to local communities and jurisdictions. The RFK National Resource Center team has also delivered numerous keynote, plenary and workshop presentations across the country. Our work and expertise is further cultivated by the Dual Status Youth Practice Network and the Probation System Review Practice Network. The formation of these two practice networks provides the opportunity to bring together innovative and experienced leaders, representing 14 different states, who have championed juvenile justice reform efforts within their local jurisdictions. Our team is working closely with the practice networks to develop new materials and resources to contribute to the youth- and family-serving fields and accelerate reform.

The website for the RFK National Resource Center (www.rfknrcjj.org) also serves as a resource hub for jurisdictions and stakeholders by providing established **publications, frameworks, tools, resources** and the best available research to further support the achievement of juvenile justice reform. We have advanced this work through the development of new publications, resources and opinion pieces that have been spread throughout communities and jurisdictions seeking to improve the lives of their young people.

Our articles and opinion editorials have sparked ongoing dynamic conversation about current issues impacting the juvenile justice and child welfare systems and highlight experiences from the field. They have further been leveraged through national media, including National Public Radio’s **All Things Considered** and The New York Times.

The RFK National Resource Center is supported in part by the continued generosity of the MacArthur Foundation and serves as a member of the Models for Change **Resource Center Partnership**. This partnership builds on the MacArthur Foundation’s nearly 20-year, $165 million commitment to the juvenile justice reform movement seen nationwide, much of which was made possible by the Foundation’s **Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice** initiative. As part of the Resource Center Partnership, the RFK National Resource Center strives to achieve a shared goal of protecting children, while improving the effectiveness and outcomes of the juvenile justice system and strengthening our communities.

**Members of the RFK National Resource Center’s Dual Status Youth Practice Network share their success**

"Hands down, this is the most rewarding work I have done in my 25 years in the probation field. For the first time, there are solutions being generated for very complex issues that are working and benefitting the very youth who have traditionally had the worst trajectory in our system."

Laura Garnette, Chief Probation Officer, County of Santa Clara, California

"Speaking as someone who has had an entire career in child protective services whose work has focused on how to keep children safe within their families, this work has been transformational. Measuring the markers for success for our youth will have lasting impacts on how we choose to deliver services in the future. I am always amazed at what a small group of people can do to change history."

Melissa Blom, Division Manager, Children Youth and Families, Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services, Wisconsin

"I am motivated by the tremendous strides in juvenile justice reform seen nationwide and proud to be part of this work. The field of knowledge continues to grow and spread through the leadership of organizations who recognize the importance of juvenile justice reform and continue to support programming and research initiatives to sustain these efforts."

Mark Werner, Deputy Chief of the Clinical Division for the Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services, Illinois
NATIONAL Partnerships
NA TIONAL YOUTH PROJECT USING MINIBIKES (NYPUM)

NYPUM is a nationwide network of 33 youth development programs sponsored by American Honda Motor Co. Inc. to engage youth and promote their development through an exciting and challenging activity. The program focuses on at-risk children, including children of military service members, young women and girls, and Native American youth. The NYPUM team is near completion in the testing of a cloud-based, evidence-focused system that will collect and analyze performance of NYPUM programs across the country and their impact on positive youth development and achievement. Launch of the full system is anticipated for late 2015.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY JUVENILE JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Robert F. Kennedy Juvenile Justice Collaborative, a project of RFK Center for Justice and Human Rights and RFK Children’s Action Corps, seeks to improve reentry supports and success for justice-involved youth actively engaged in several key events to advocate for more effective federal youth reentry policies and to further engage youth, national and community partners and decision makers in this work. Through this partnership, RFK Children’s Action Corps and our RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice continue to increase national attention on the challenges facing youth as they return to the community following time in a juvenile justice facility.

In June, Sens. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., and Cory Booker, D-N.J., introduced the Better Options for Kids Act, a bill that would use federal funding incentives to promote juvenile justice reform through evidence-based practices. The Collaborative was invited to participate in a briefing on the introduction and helped to craft the reentry section of the bill. Leigh Mahoney, our director of national education and program development, represented the Collaborative as a panelist with Sen. Murphy at the bill’s successful introduction on Capitol Hill. Also, members of the House Judiciary Committee’s Over-Criminalization Task Force hosted a forum on the collateral consequences of criminal conviction, led by Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., Bobby Scott, D-Va., and Steve Cohen, D-Tenn.

The Collaborative worked with House Judiciary Committee staff to identify and prepare one of the forum’s four panelists, Anthony Pleasant. During the forum, Pleasant described the significant challenges that justice-involved youth face when returning home to their communities. He told his personal story of going to prison at 16 and spending 10 years incarcerated far from his family in three different federal penitentiaries across the country.

The Collaborative also increased its virtual communication and connections by hosting a popular webinar featuring several officials from the Department of Education and the Department of Justice, who described the educational reforms that the Obama administration is implementing to improve access to education for young people involved in and returning from the juvenile justice system. The update, provided by the federal officials, directly reflected the federal policy recommendations co-written by the Collaborative and presented with national and local partners to the administration last year. The webinar helped to inform the broad youth advocacy community of this important achievement.

THE NA TIONAL CRITTENTON FO UNDATION

Since our organization’s induction into The National Crittenton Foundation’s (TNCF) family of member agencies, we have begun to identify and work on concrete strategies to leverage that partnership to our benefit and, we hope, to that of TNCF members. TNCF is nationally recognized as the “go to” influential, national organization with the motivation, passion and expertise to effectively impact public policy for girls/young women and their young families. Their national public policy work aligns with our mission and our own work with the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice. Accordingly, we are increasing our joint visibility and impact via initiatives on a national level. The peer learning and support allows us to showcase our expertise, particularly in the service to girls in the juvenile justice system. And, we now have access to expert support as we strengthen our current services to girls in the child welfare system, as well as those who are dually involved. We look forward to the continued growth of this rich partnership.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014
(July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

ASSETS

Current assets
Cash $873,846
Other current assets 2,551,836
Total current assets 3,425,682

Other assets
Property and equipment 6,182,249
Long-term investments 2,275,697
Other assets 1,104,869
Total other assets 9,562,815

Total assets $12,988,497

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities $2,121,233
Other liabilities (long term debt) 5,138,601
Total liabilities 7,259,834

TOTAL NET ASSETS $5,728,663

REVENUE AND EXPENSES*

Revenue $18,948,616
Department of Children and Families (DCF) 39%
Department of Youth Services (DYS) 23%
Cities, towns and Department of Education 17%
Contributions, gifts and grants 14%
Other (investments, misc.) 7%

Expenses* $18,187,201
Program expenses 83%
General and administration 12%
Fundraising 5%

$761,415
FISCAL YEAR 2014 SURPLUS

* $13.3 million or 73 percent of all expenses are for employee compensation and related items

A copy of the complete audited financial statements prepared by McGladrey is available upon request.
We are pleased to acknowledge those who made contributions to RFK Children’s Action Corps in FY2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014).

We have done our best to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you have changes, please let us know.

$25,000+
- American Honda Motor Co. Inc.
- Celebration for Kids
- Beth and Linzee Coolidge/Dusky Foundation
- Francis Pew Hayes Family Foundation
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- One Stop Business Centers Inc.

$10,000 – $24,999
- Robert L. Beal
- Joan and Steve Belkin
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
- BNY Mellon Charitable Giving Program / Alice P. Chase Trust
- Maureen and Richard Bolger
- Mary and John J. Boyle, III
- Brynwood Partners
- Citizens Bank Foundation
- Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation
- Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC
- Marilyn and Raymond Ruddy
- Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights
- State Street Corporation
- Stephen H. Peck, United Benefit Services

$5,000 – $9,999
- Anonymous
- ACT Leasing
- Anchorage Capital Group
- Kris and Jim D. Blue, II
- Carolyn Carlson
- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Cares
- Kristen and Michael Croke
- Hilary and Christopher Gabrieli
- Susan and James E. Geraghty
- Greater Boston Council on Alcoholism
- Sharon Simpson Jones and Marc Jones
- John W. Keith
- Nexus of Northborough
- Loomis Sayles & Company
- Susan and Peter Maguire
- John C. & Eunice B. Morrison Charitable Foundation
- Mutual of America Life Insurance

$2,500 – $4,999
- Acadian Asset Management
- American Century Investments
- Margaret and Donald Anastasia
- Aon
- Baystate Health
- Beach Point Capital Management
- BNY Mellon
- Boston Trust & Investment Management Company
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- Citizens Bank – Healthcare & Non Profit Group
- Clarion Partners
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asset and Forfeiture Community Reinvestment Program
- Monica and Michael Connolly
- Darrell Crate
- Eaton Vance Management
- The Sooner Foundation
- South Boston Community Development Foundation Inc.
- State Street Global Advisors
- State Street Matching Gift Program
- Telamon Insurance
- Kim Thornton
- UBS Securities LLC
- Laurie and Bob Watson / LPM Charitable Foundation

$1,000 – $2,499
- Acadian Asset Management
- American Century Investments
- Margaret and Donald Anastasia
- Aon
- Baystate Health
- Beach Point Capital Management
- BNY Mellon
- Boston Trust & Investment Management Company
- Samuel E. Bottom
- Brophy & Phillips Co. Inc.
- Citizens Bank – Healthcare & Non Profit Group
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- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Asset and Forfeiture Community Reinvestment Program
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- The Sooner Foundation
- South Boston Community Development Foundation Inc.
- State Street Global Advisors
- State Street Matching Gift Program
- Telamon Insurance
- Kim Thornton
- UBS Securities LLC
- Laurie and Bob Watson / LPM Charitable Foundation
Many years ago, Beth Coolidge met Don Carey, former executive director of RFK Children’s Action Corps, while teaching at the same school. After taking the position with the agency, he introduced her to our Lancaster Campus, where she met the children and staff and was inspired by the work being done there.

“I just found it an enormously amazing place,” said Beth. “The circumstances that these kids had endured were terrible.”

Eventually, she joined the Board, and she and her husband, Linzee, became long-time supporters of RFK Children’s Action Corps. With the exception of their beloved golden retrievers, Beth and Linzee’s biggest interest is in child development, both having worked with children.

“We knew what these kids were going through, and what their parents were going through,” said Beth. “We had had experience with children at risk, and we know they come with a whole different set of issues. We felt that we should do something to help.”

Over time, they have supported the agency making significant investments of both time and financial contributions. In October 2013, they decided to make an unrestricted major gift of $250,000, knowing the work of the agency, its leadership and its commitment to at-risk children.

“It is very nice to know that, if you have money, you can use it for something worth giving to,” said Linzee. “The act of giving is enjoyable – I get a lot of pleasure out of the hope that giving will create some good in some kid’s life.”

Currently serving as Advisory Council members, Beth and Linzee are excited about what their gift means for the agency and the difference it will make in the lives of the children in our care. They look forward to seeing them grow into their potential and live their lives.

Their message to the kids: “Don’t give up. Someone will come along and make a difference, and you will know it when it happens.”

“This gift allows us to continue the level and quality of our work when unforeseen circumstances impact our budget,” said Ed Kelley, president & CEO. “We greatly appreciate the support of donors like Linzee and Beth, who believe in our work and that every child deserves the chance for a better tomorrow.”

David Firestone
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Holly and Franck Fleury
Robert P. Fitzgerald, Jr.
David Firestone
1970, they decided to make an unrestricted major gift of $250,000, investments of both time and financial contributions. In October 2013, they decided to make an unrestricted major gift of $250,000, investments of both time and financial contributions. In October
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Established around the celebrated philanthropic work of the late
Frances Pew Hayes, the Frances Pew Hayes Family Foundation
has long supported communities and children in Florida, including
sizeable gifts to Youth Haven, an emergency residential shelter for
days and girls who have been removed from their homes due to
abuse, neglect or abandonment.

After Frannie’s passing in 2004, her son Jay Black and his wife Mary
returned to Massachusetts. After connecting with RFK Children’s
Action Corps and visiting our Lancaster Campus, they recognized
that there was an ideal opportunity to uphold Frannie’s legacy and
support similar work with underserved children locally.

In May 2014, they made a multi-year gift of $250,000 that will be
used to make much needed renovations to the administrative
buildings at Lancaster, the first point of contact for our children
when they arrive on the campus.

“What you’re doing is providing a safe and stable environment for
the kids,” said Jay. “We felt the main building should be welcoming
to them.’”

The renovations will not only make a big difference to the children
in our programs, but also have an impact on how the surrounding
community views and engages with the agency.

“When we make a donation, we like to give it where we can see a
change,” said Jay. “The more you dress up a place, the more the
community will take notice. And, maybe in taking notice, they will
take an interest.”