REPORT CARD

for 2014
Nick Foong, Virginia College campus president, teaches a class at DJJ’s Job Readiness Training Center.

Birchwood School students participate in a poetry reading at DJJ’s cultural events gazebo.

DJJ youth work with senior citizens as part of the 9th annual “Restoring Carolina Through Youth Service” project.
Welcome to our eleventh annual South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice Report Card, the last one before my retirement. Back in 1968, when I first began working in the juvenile justice field, I could never have imagined that I would be in a position of looking back over 45 years at how incredibly far juvenile justice has advanced in South Carolina in the last few decades. Our first Report Card in 2004 was published in the wake of a recently dismissed federal lawsuit that had haunted the agency for ten years. This Report Card, by contrast, is published in the wake of our lowest juvenile crime and incarceration rate in the modern history of the agency.

The average daily population of our long-term secure facility at our Broad River Road Complex this year was 108 juveniles—down 75% from the BRRC population when we released our Report Card in 2004, and down 48% from the year before I became Director. That is not a reduction that I claim credit for, mind you. It’s a reduction that’s come as the result of the hard work of hundreds of DJJ employees and partners working to reduce juvenile crime and develop alternative programs for youth who simply don’t belong behind the fence in Columbia.

Even more telling is the reduction in juvenile referrals to DJJ. This is one of our best indicators of juvenile crime in South Carolina. Eleven years ago, DJJ received over 27,000 juvenile referrals each year. In 2010, that number was down to 20,000. And this year, we hit a modern all-time low of 16,429. In fact, the juvenile violent and serious crime rate in South Carolina has dropped 64% since it peaked in 1994-1995. This reflects a consistent trend in juvenile crime in this state. And referrals have dropped another 8% in just the last year. This is the result of the hard work of many people on the preventative front-end of juvenile justice in the community—stopping our youth from ever choosing the wrong path to begin with.

And while these statistics highlight a wonderful trend in South Carolina, the programs and people behind them also continue to impress me. As always, I wish to highlight some of DJJ’s efforts this year in improving and educating our young people and giving back to our communities.

This year, the agency continued our focus on job readiness training for our young people by running 24 training classes at our Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Columbia, with a total class enrollment of over 1,400 (with students from 21 counties) since it opened in October of last year.
The JRTC can not only serve local youths, but also now has satellite sites throughout the state where students can participate in classes via remote videoconferencing. DJJ also has job readiness training in the community as well—with 8 community Job Readiness Training sites serving 380 students this year. This is all in addition to our excellent technology training programs behind the fence—where students can take classes or receive instruction in auto collision repair, automotive technology, culinary arts, upholstery, painting, ceramics arts, sewing, horticulture and carpentry.

And speaking of great job training opportunities, this year our young people at DJJ, along with volunteers from Wells Fargo and other organizations, built the agency’s third Habitat for Humanity House here at our Broad River Road Complex. DJJ youth participated in every phase of the construction of this home, which was then moved to its permanent site for presentation to the homeowner (with DJJ youth in the community participating the final phase of construction). This valuable experience was not only a chance for our youth to learn valuable construction skills, but it also helped them learn the value of providing community service.

On that note of community service, this year we also had our largest “Restoring Carolina Through Youth Service” event since the event began in 2009. Throughout September, 594 DJJ staff, 866 DJJ juveniles, and 177 volunteers came together to conduct 109 community service projects in all 46 counties of South Carolina and within all of the agency’s facilities and camps. Across the state, these DJJ teams conducted many restorative justice activities, such as: cleaning up public parks; volunteering at emergency food banks; visiting nursing homes; cleaning and repairing homes for veterans and senior citizens; volunteering at animal shelters; and writing to deployed soldiers. Youth offenders in DJJ custody also participated, making greeting cards, care baskets, and scrapbooks for local nursing homes and hospitals.

As I conclude this, my last Report Card letter as the DJJ Director, I just wanted to thank all of you who have made my many years here so meaningful. Thank you to our DJJ employees, our volunteers, our many community partners, and to all the other agencies and organizations that have stood with us. These are your accomplishments within these pages. They are the result of your hard work in teaching our young people at DJJ that change is possible, and your hard work in helping them to find the pathway to that change.

And so I present to you, the citizens of South Carolina, the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice 2014 Juvenile Justice Report Card.

[Signature]
Director, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
DJJ juveniles and volunteers work on DJJ’s third Habitat for Humanity home

DJJ’s youth work with the Missing in America Project in crafting urns for unclaimed veterans

DJJ youth in the community help landscape a public park as part of the 9th annual “Restoring Carolina Through Youth Service” project
Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina’s 46 counties. Law enforcement also may elect to send the juvenile to a South Carolina juvenile detention center, pending a hearing.

After county office or detention center personnel have interviewed a juvenile, DJJ makes recommendations to the solicitor’s office regarding the case. The solicitor has a number of options available when deciding how to pursue a case. A solicitor may choose to divert a juvenile to a community program, such as Juvenile Arbitration, or require the juvenile to make restitution for the offense. Solicitors also may choose to proceed with prosecution or dismiss a case entirely.

If the solicitor chooses to prosecute, the next stage of the process involves the family court. A family court judge determines the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and sentences those juveniles adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Often a judge will request a DJJ evaluation of the juvenile before making a final ruling, or prior to commitment. This evaluation involves psychological, social, and educational assessments conducted either in the community or at one of DJJ’s three regional evaluation centers. The resulting comprehensive evaluation helps the judge decide how to proceed in the best interests of the juvenile, victim, and community.
A family court judge may find that a juvenile is not delinquent (not guilty). After a finding of delinquency, the judge has several sentencing options. Chief among these is probation, which maintains the juvenile in the community under DJJ supervision. The judge may also commit the juvenile to DJJ custody by imposing a determinate (fixed amount of time) or indeterminate sentence. An indeterminate sentence allows the youth to be confined up to the age of 21.

Upon indeterminate commitment, a juvenile will be given a time range or “guideline,” determined by the state Board of Juvenile Parole (for all felonies and select misdemeanors) or DJJ’s own release authority (for most misdemeanors and all status offenses). This range is based on the severity of the juvenile’s offense and his or her history of previous offenses. These guidelines can run anywhere from 1-3 months up to 36-54 months. The Board and DJJ use these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile’s behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

Juveniles may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a local aftercare program or program at a wilderness camp or group home. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision. DJJ county officers supervise juveniles on parole, much as they supervise juveniles on probation.

For more detailed information visit DJJ’s website at: www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php
CASE REFERRALS TO DJJ: In FY 2013-14, 16,429 cases were referred to DJJ, a 19% drop in the last five years. Data collected by DJJ at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 69 percent of cases closed involved males and 58 percent involved African-Americans. The average age was 15 years old.

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO DJJ: The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was Assault and Battery, 3rd Degree. 8.9% of all cases referred to DJJ involved violent and serious offenses.

OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAMS: Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated in all 16 judicial circuits in South Carolina to divert first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims, and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions.

AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ: During Fiscal Year 2013-14, an average daily population of 372 juveniles was held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ.

DJJ participates in the Performance based Standards (PbS) project of the Council of Juvenile Corrections Administrators. This year, two DJJ secure facilities achieved level 4, the highest possible PbS rating, ranking them in the top six to twelve percent of participating PbS facilities in the country. Three other DJJ facilities achieved level 3 rating.
CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

JUVENILE PROBATION & PAROLE

CASELOADS IN COMMUNITIES: The supervision of offenders in their communities enhances community safety. DJJ’s community staff supervised 3,474 juvenile offenders both on probation or parole at the close of Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Youth Served by TASC

2013-2014 1,653 Youth
2012-2013 1,156 Youth
2011-2012 1,091 Youth
2010-2011 1,010 Youth
2009-2010 656 Youth

TEEN AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS (TASC):

TASCs are after-school programs that provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. 1,653 students were served in 2014. DJJ’s newer Job Readiness For Teens sites (which also provide students with job training) were also created across the state in 2013.

SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATES: DJJ operates its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. For the eleventh year, DJJ’s school district received the “Palmetto Gold” award. The passing rate for the General Equivalency Degree (GED) test at DJJ schools is 77%, exceeding the national passing rate of 75%. Post-secondary opportunities are also available for students.

DJJ’s Birchwood School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
RESTITUTION: Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. In FY 2013-14, restitution was ordered in 1,600 new cases totaling $487,344. A total of $216,980 was paid to victims during the fiscal year.

WORK SERVICE: Offenders are expected to perform work service to repay their community for the harm they have caused. In FY 2013-14, 1,319 new cases included orders for work service hours, which totaled 40,556 hours. During the year, 25,504 hours were worked by offenders in their communities.

VICTIMS: Victims of juvenile crime are given the opportunity to serve as speakers on victim impact panels. These panels allow victims to tell offenders face-to-face how their crimes have impacted their lives. In FY 2013-2014, 22 victim impact panels were held. Records show that 276 juvenile offenders attended these panel presentations and were able to hear from victims.

Additionally, juveniles receive training in victim empathy. In FY 2013-2014, 89 victim impact classes were held in DJJ county offices. A total of 707 juvenile offenders took part in these victim impact classes.

JOB READINESS TRAINING: In its first year of operation, DJJ’s Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) had a total enrollment of 1,112 for its training classes from its opening in October, 2013 until September of this year. Students at JRTC took classes in financial literacy, culinary arts, leadership, interviewing skills, public speaking, interpersonal skills, and in many other areas related to life skills and job placement.

During fiscal year 2013-14, 380 youth also completed job readiness training in DJJ’s eight community job readiness training sites, located throughout the state.

DJJ also offered students in its school district numerous career and technology classes such as graphics arts, automotive collision repair, automotive technology, horticulture, digital desktop publishing, culinary arts, parenting, and carpentry. ServSafe, forklift, WorkKeys, welding, and other certifications are also offered, with 304 certifications awarded in 2013-14.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COMPETENCY: During FY 2013-14, 3,117 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ. Citizen volunteers helped to make our communities safer by contributing approximately 24,348 hours of services.
19-Year Comparison of Violent & Serious Juvenile Cases in South Carolina

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th># of Cases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>1,282</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>3,589</td>
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VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES: Nationally and in South Carolina, juvenile violent crime peaked in the mid-1990’s. Since then, violent and serious juvenile crime in South Carolina has decreased by 64% percent. The number of cases includes juveniles referred more than once during the fiscal year.

TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE: One indicator of trends in South Carolina's juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed to DJJ. This table compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ over the past five years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>1,364</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>1,374</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>1,470</td>
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<td>2010-11</td>
<td>1,910</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>1,977</td>
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</table>

DETENTION: Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ’s Detention Center pending court action. Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. DJJ's Detention Center has had a drop in the daily population from its peak in 2005-2006. This drop correlated with detention reform efforts implemented by DJJ with the assistance of the University of South Carolina’s Children’s Law Center.

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR: Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense. Historically, 85% of offenders on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.
When in Columbia, please visit DJJ’s

Store of Hope

3208 Broad River Road (across from the BiLo)
Columbia, SC
And like us on Facebook at our new Store of Hope Facebook page!

Store Hours
Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
and the 3rd Saturday of each month 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Offering youth-made and refurbished items - including home furnishings, woodcraft and metalcraft, decorative goods, and much more!
Special Thanks to the Many Donors, Community Partners, Business Associates and Volunteers Who Make a Difference in the Lives of our Youth.

Wells Fargo partners and DJJ dedicate the agency’s second Habitat for Humanity home. February, 2014
IV. Decline of Population within DJJ Secure Long-Term Facilities

The population has dropped by 74.9% since FY 02-03.