



**The Youth Justice Corps. . . Building healthier, safer communities with the talent, energy and contribution of young people currently or formerly involved with juvenile justice.**

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*“In Atlanta, youth under supervision have raised more than \$10,000 dollars to aid the survivors of the terrorist attack on*

*“In Bend, Oregon 25 students worked tirelessly to build four homes for Habitat for Humanity.”*

*“In Stockton, California a computer science class refurbished hundreds of computers and donated them to impoverished elementary schools.”*

*“In Cleveland, Ohio volunteers stand vigilant over poor seniors to make certain that their homes are safe, their prescriptions are up to date and their social security checks are delivered and deposited.”*

All of these good deeds were done by young people with experiences in juvenile justice or adult corrections. Imagine the good that a service force of 1 million young people could do to improve the livability of our nation’s communities. For that is how many of our youth are involved in juvenile justice or in juvenile institutions or are coming home who are able to make a contribution to their community if given the opportunity.

The limitless possibilities of mobilizing such a vast resource has prompted a group of community leaders, justice officials and youth development agencies to join forces and organize what will become known as the Youth Justice Corps.

The Youth Justice Corps is grounded in the belief that service is a universal currency that prompts goodwill, equips people with the skills and assets necessary to be responsible, productive citizens and builds healthier, stronger communities.

The Youth Justice Corps will be launched in a diverse set of communities to:

- Serve as a rallying point to identify unmet community needs and engage the community in a plan of action to address those needs
- Improve the economic vitality of neighborhoods
- Improve workforce quality for local businesses
- Provide a measurable means to demonstrate returns on taxes invested in public safety
- Provide an opportunity to demonstrate that community members involved in the justice system can be held accountable constructively in the neighborhood
- Provide a publicly supported mechanism to reduce reliance on incarceration and re-invest savings in