

What Works in Rehabilitation of Court-Involved Youth?

Mentoring is an effective way to prevent at-risk youth from becoming involved in delinquency and also to help already delinquent youth change their lives for the better. Mentoring relationships have been shown to improve youth's self-esteem, behavior, and academic performance (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, www.ojjdp.gov/programs)

Balanced and restorative community safety is not focused only on short-term external control of individual juvenile offenders. It requires equal attention to working with adults and youth to change behavior. Reducing risk often focuses on individual offenders, but building community capacity to manage behavior focuses on adults and organizations within the community. Community safety is achieved when community members live in peace, harmony, and mutual respect and when citizens and community groups feel that they personally can prevent and control crime (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/implementing/safety)

Programming for young women involved in juvenile courts must address specific underlying risk factors. Girls are significantly more likely than boys to report that prior victimization – whether emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse – was a key factor leading to their offending behavior (Girl Scouts of the USA, *Girl Scouting in Detention 2012*).

For More Information:

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JUVENILE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Judge Troy B. Braswell, Jr.

State of Arkansas - 20th Judicial District
2nd Division Circuit Court – Juvenile



JUVENILE COURT FACTS:

The needs of court-involved youth in Faulkner County far exceed the available resources of the court and staff. Risk factors for the young people who come through our court include poor academic achievement; truancy; lack of positive peer influence; drug use; teen pregnancy and/or teen parenting; little or no school or community involvement; exposure to violence in the home or neighborhood.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Tutor at the Court
- Be a Volunteer Probation Officer
- Be a Court Troop Girl Scout Leader
- Co-Teach a Life Skills Class
- Become a Drug Court Advocate
- Lead a Book Club Discussion

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

~Dr. Martin Luther King

Court Assistance Programs

Mission: To provide court-involved youth with increased caring intervention to prevent future court-involvement and to encourage positive, appropriate behaviors that will further help those young people contribute to society on into adulthood.

Faulkner County Juvenile Court seeks to carry out this mission through community volunteers to increase these young people's resilience to risks.

Tutoring: Children as young as age 5 are processed through Juvenile Court for truancy and status offenses. One of the outcomes of missing school is falling behind academically. Conversely, failing to understand the course material leads to missing school. Tutoring allows the young person to catch up academically and develop other protective factors from the experience.

VPO: First-time delinquent non-violent offenders between the ages of 10 and 18 are much more likely to successfully rehabilitate if mentored by positive role models. The Volunteer Probation Officer (VPO) Program engages caring citizens to help juveniles and their families get back on track.



One Hour a Week Can Make the Difference!

Girl Scouting: Girl Scouting USA trains 2-3 women each semester to lead a specialized Juvenile Court Girl Scout troop in our court. Girl Scouts' "Finding Freedom through Learning to Lead" Program at Faulkner County Juvenile Court allows 6th – 8th grade girls to participate in a validated leadership program.

Classes: Life-Skills and Fitness Classes addressing court-involved youth-specific issues are co-taught throughout the year by staff and volunteers. Examples: ACT Prep, Anger Management, Parenting, Teen Parenting, Relationship Violence, Civil Rights, Yoga, Meditation, Drug and Alcohol Education, and Other. What can you share?



Drug Court Advocate: Breaking the chains of addiction is a challenge for anyone, but for young people with multiple risk factors, it requires a coordinated team effort. Faulkner County Juvenile Drug Court recruits and trains volunteers to work with our youth toward their sobriety goals.

Book Clubs: Book clubs offer an opportunity to develop a life-long love of reading. Volunteers facilitate discussions helping participants draw parallels to their life experiences. The youth also gain valuable skills in self-expression and expand their vocabularies.