



YOUTH SENTENCING
& REENTRY PROJECT

OUR FIRST YEARS
2014-2016



Dear Friends,

YSRP has come a long way since we started in June of 2014! We have gone from an idea on paper, to splitting a salary between the two of us, to a staff of 6 this year. More importantly, we have engaged nearly 150 volunteers and had the honor of partnering with hundreds of youth, families and “juvenile lifers” to build a more just criminal legal system and a more thoughtful reentry process for individuals who are charged as if they were adults when they are children. **At the Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project, we believe that children do not belong in adult jails and prisons and that people should not be defined by their worst act.** Thank you for joining us in pursuit of this vision.

In our first-ever annual report, we reflect on the last 2½ years of learning alongside our partners on both the outside and inside of jails and prisons, and the milestones we have achieved as an organization that works both within and against systems and alongside communities affected by mass incarceration. We are excited to share more about our work on behalf of children who are prosecuted and incarcerated as if they were adults, including those who were sentenced to now unconstitutional mandatory life-without-parole sentences.

We began as an organization that incorporated principles and techniques from advocacy in death penalty cases, in order to move youths’ cases out of the adult criminal legal system and into the juvenile justice system or, preferably, the community. We added reentry planning, believing it to be a critical component of effective advocacy for all people, but especially children. In January 2016, we expanded our scope to work directly with individuals who, as children, were unconstitutionally condemned to die in prison. Pennsylvania has the largest number of these so-called “juvenile lifers”—nearly 25% of everyone with such a sentence in the world. We feel privileged to work across systems, with lawyers, activists, social workers, judges, probation and parole officers, reentry and other service providers, on behalf of all

of Pennsylvania’s juvenile lifers. We also have been honored to work with and welcome home several juvenile lifers who have already been released. Now, we are hard at work planning for the resentencing hearings and return to the community of many others.

“Thanks to you and everyone that has faith in me.” This quote is from Eugene, a now 17-year-old high school senior we met when he was 15 and being held pretrial in an adult jail. Our legal system is not designed to support young people or to incorporate their full humanity into the process of charging, sentencing and releasing them. At YSRP, we strive to create pathways for individuals and families to navigate the criminal legal system with dignity and with choices and opportunities to move forward. We hope that in the future children will no longer be treated as if they are adults and the work of YSRP will no longer be needed.

Join us as we fight to make justice more accessible to young people who come in contact with our adult legal system, irrespective of the neighborhood they come from or the resources available to them. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who has supported our community to bring this vision closer to reality. Thank you. We hope you enjoy learning more about our journey through this report, and welcome your thoughts and questions any time.

With gratitude,



Joanna Visser Adjoian and Lauren Fine
Co-Founders and Co-Directors

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**YSRP is guided by the deep conviction that
“Each of us is more than the worst thing
we’ve ever done.”**

— BRYAN STEVENSON, LAWYER, SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST, FOUNDER AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF *THE EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE*

OUR MISSION

The Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project (YSRP) uses direct service and policy advocacy to transform the experiences of children prosecuted in the adult criminal legal system, and to ensure fair and thoughtful resentencing and reentry for individuals who were sentenced to life without parole as children (“juvenile lifers”). We partner with court-involved youth and “juvenile lifers,” their families, and lawyers to develop holistic, humanizing narratives that mitigate the facts of each case; get cases transferred to the juvenile system or resentenced; and make crucial connections to community resources providing education, health care, housing, and employment. We also provide trainings on mitigation, and recruit, train and supervise students and other volunteers to assist in this work. Our ultimate goals are to keep children out of adult jails and prisons and to enhance the quality of representation juvenile lifers receive at resentencing, and as they prepare to reenter the community.

OUR MODEL

YSRP developed and launched its holistic model of casework, advocacy and service provision using techniques often employed in death penalty cases. Our model introduces new standards of legal representation that challenge the way that young people are traditionally represented in the adult criminal legal system, to provide space for their full stories to be shared with the judges who decide whether they will end up in adult prison and carry lifelong adult convictions, and to help them stay connected to their communities through incarceration and reconnect to the community upon their release. Our goal is to reduce the imposition, duration, and impact of adult criminal sentences on low-income children and their families.

YSRP's model started with four components:

01

Aid under-resourced, court-appointed attorneys representing youth clients facing adult charges by crafting and presenting mitigating evidence to judges tasked with making a decision of whether to “decertify” a youth’s case and move it to the juvenile justice system. We train attorneys, volunteers and graduate students in mitigation and, as members of the defense team, submit mitigation reports to judges in support of our clients.

YSRP’s holistic support begins as close to a youth’s arrest as possible. At this stage, we seek to ‘decertify’ youth’s cases in the adult system, or move youth’s cases out of adult court and into juvenile court. Although not ideal, the juvenile justice system is far better equipped to provide the particular rehabilitative services and supports that youth need. If children *are* tried in the adult criminal system, we provide mitigating evidence to advocate for the most humane sentences possible.

02

Support young people and their families through their contact with the justice system by creating comprehensive individualized reentry plans, and connecting them with physical and behavioral health services, housing supports, educational and employment programs and other resources in the community. We provide reentry plans at the time of sentencing, incorporating them into mitigation reports for judges in support of our clients.

YSRP seeks to bolster the existing connections young people have with their families throughout their contact with the justice system by providing information, answering questions and facilitating service provision. Once youth return home, we connect them with service providers and support that provides a path to future success. We connect our clients with educational opportunities, behavioral health services, job training, arts and other community programs.

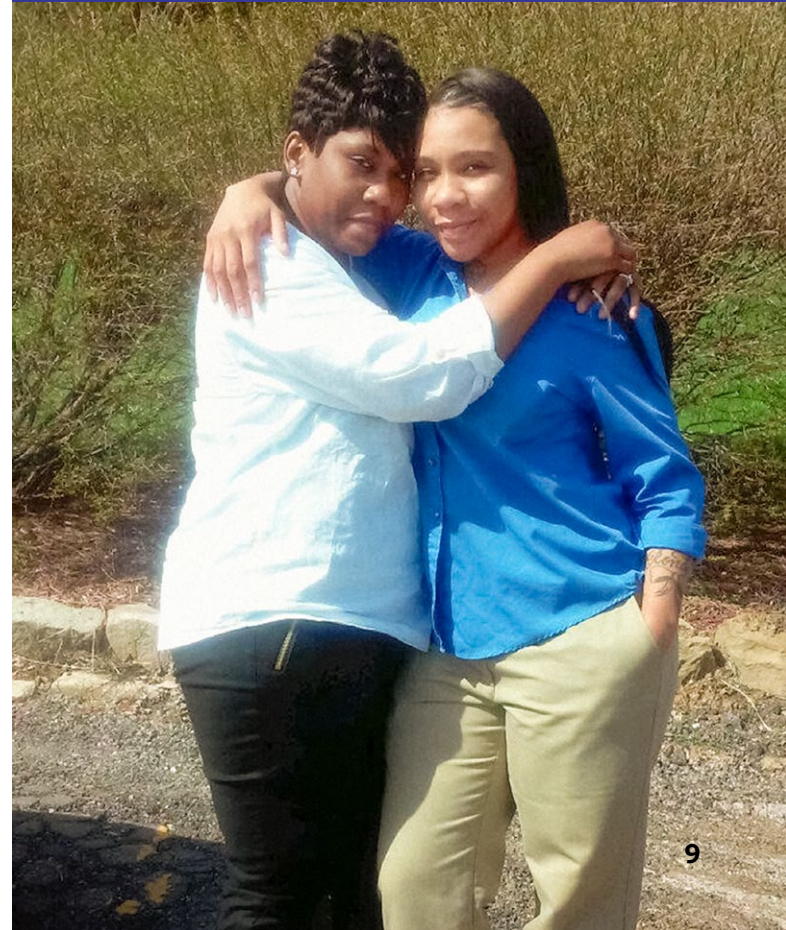
03

Train lawyers, judges and other advocates to enhance the quality of representation provided to youth facing incarceration in adult jails and prisons.

04

Advance policy reform that is rooted in the experiences of our clients and their families, and aspires ultimately to end the practice of prosecuting children as adults in Pennsylvania. In the interim, our policy advocacy seeks to chip away at the impacts of adult incarceration on children and their families, including using solitary confinement on children in adult jails in Philadelphia, and charging parents for the cost of their children's incarceration in the juvenile justice system.

December 2014: YSRP takes its first youth case with Monyatta, charged in the adult system.
[Read more at ysrp.org/8-19-15](http://ysrp.org/8-19-15)



Summer 2015:

Eugene, a youth supported by YSRP, pursues his passion for singing at Rock to the Future's Rock*A*Delphia summer camp.



“From a practical standpoint, they’ve raised the bar in terms of my thinking of what is possible in these cases. When they’re on a case I think in a different way about what’s possible and what should be established practice in these cases...I love that passion. It challenges me even in my adult cases—how can I replicate what they did for my juvenile client to help get more reasonable sentences?”

—FROM AN ATTORNEY

OUR PROGRESS IN OUR FIRST YEARS

In the first years since our launch, our casework model is showing promising signs. YSRP has directly supported 18 young people and their families, and has provided advice and technical assistance to 37 lawyers representing youth charged in the adult system. Since December 2014, 8 out of 13 (or 62%) of YSRP's youth cases were successfully decertified to juvenile court (2 were not considered for decertification because charges were withdrawn or the motion was not filed; and 3 cases are still pending). In cases that were not decertified, YSRP improved the sentences imposed on clients in duration, location (county instead of state incarceration, allowing youth to remain closer to their families), and rehabilitation. Only 1 client has been sent to an adult prison, and another was released to the community. These outcomes are compared to a five-year average of 35% decertifications for all cases of the same type in Philadelphia. All of our youth clients are currently between the ages of 15 and 21 years old, and were between the ages of 15 and 17 at the time of the incidents for which they were charged.

John's* Story

For John,* a youth client of YSRP, violence and tragedy permeated his childhood. At just 10 years old, John's father was murdered at the hands of a Philadelphia Police Officer, turning his life upside down. Lacking the supports he needed to process this traumatic event, John found himself struggling to stay engaged in school despite having previously been a hardworking student, and soon wound up involved in the juvenile justice system. Not long after, John was charged, at the age of 16, in adult criminal court.

YSRP became involved in John's case when his lawyer reached out for assistance with his "decertification hearing," the chance for a judge to decide whether the juvenile justice system would be a more appropriate setting for handling John's case. John spent 8 months in an adult jail awaiting his decertification hearing. In working with John, we learned that he aspired to study at the Community College of Philadelphia and to one day have a career in homebuilding and real estate sales. We also learned about his dedication to his Muslim faith, and his passion for boxing as an expression of athleticism and discipline.

YSRP assisted John's attorney by preparing a report for the judge responsible for deciding whether to send his case to the juvenile system, or have it remain in the adult system. This report described the services and supports we arranged for him post-release from incarceration to support his healthy emotional development as he prepared for the transition into adulthood. It also described

the connections we made for him with employment and arts enrichment programs in his community, and the acceptances we secured from juvenile justice placements that are far better equipped to meet his needs. Because of our work with John and the report we submitted as part of his defense team, his case was successfully transferred out of the adult court system.

John is now in a juvenile placement, where he receives therapeutic support to process the trauma of his father's death. Having obtained his diploma at the age of 16 (while he was in adult jail), John is studying for the SAT, seeks to take courses for college credit, continues to build his skills and work toward his professional goals, and has a community that is ready to receive him when he comes home. We know that John is destined for greatness - and we plan to be there to support him every step of the way.

**Please note: YSRP has changed this client's name out of respect for his privacy.*



Youth sentenced in the adult criminal legal system are 34% more likely to recidivate, or end up back in the system, than youth sentenced in juvenile court.

June 2016: John graduates from Abraham Lincoln High School at the Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center.

Our University Partnerships



SEPTEMBER 2015: Several Youth Advocacy Project members with the Honorable Benjamin Lerner, a then sitting judge in the Criminal Division the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia.

In Fall 2015, the Youth Advocacy Project was launched. A unique student pro bono project at University of Pennsylvania's Law School and its School of Social Policy & Practice, this interdisciplinary student group is dedicated to bolstering the work of YSRP in three key ways:

01

Direct Service: by drafting mitigation reports for the court and making referrals to community-based organizations in cases where youth are facing charges in adult court.

02

Research: by gathering case law and other legal support for advocacy positions and policy work related to juvenile justice and kids in adult court.

03

Community Outreach: by spreading the word about kids in adult court and how to prevent youth from coming in contact with the system; and supporting those who have already had contact with the system.

The Youth Advocacy Project engaged over 34 graduate students in the 2015-2016 school-year, and 37 students in the 2016-2017 school-year. Direct service volunteers are trained and supervised by YSRP.



In January 2016, YSRP became an inaugural client of the Justice Lab clinic at the Sheller Center for Social Justice at Temple University's Beasley School of Law.

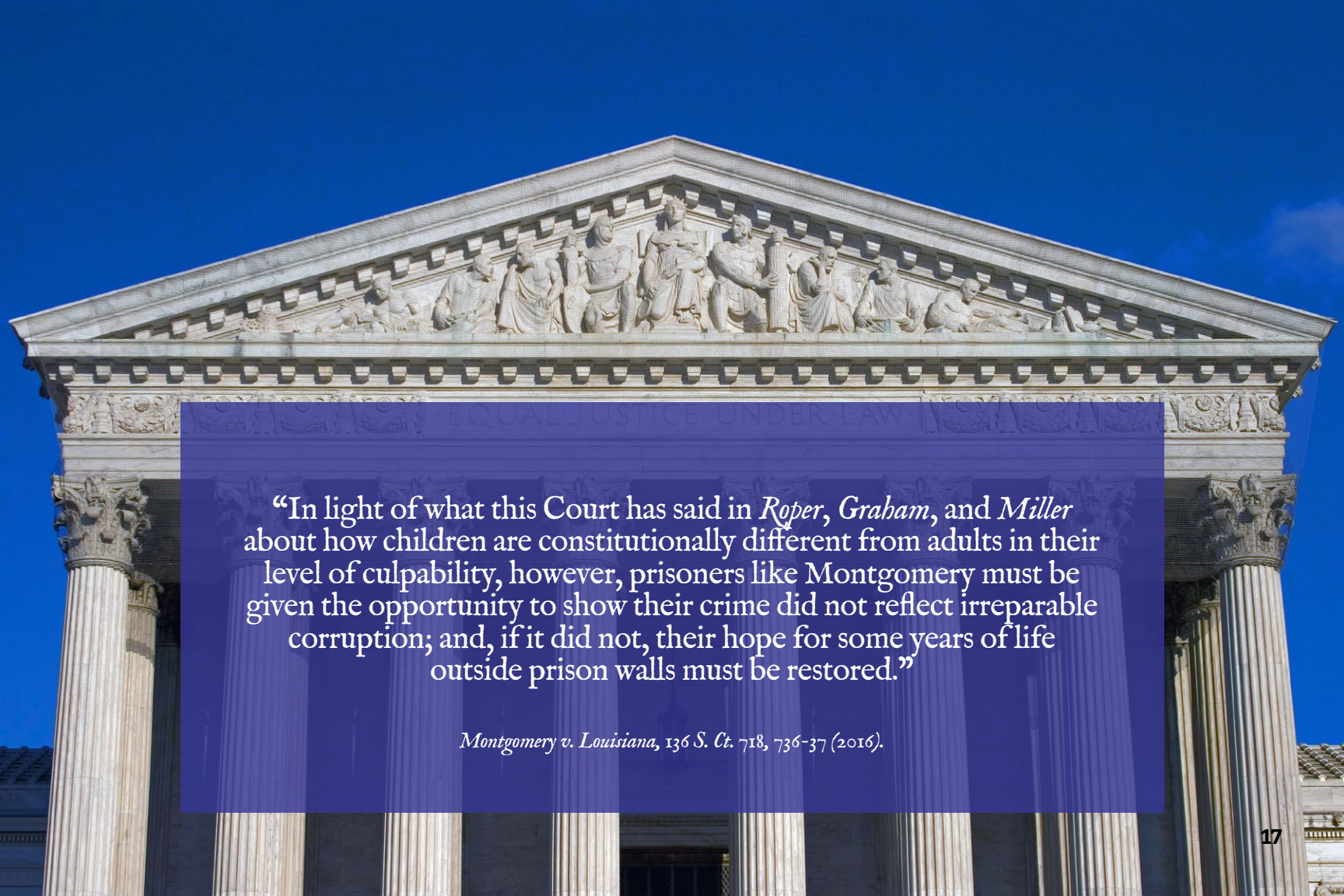
Justice Lab represents client organizations such as YSRP in a range of advocacy matters. YSRP and the Justice Lab interrogated an issue raised by two of YSRP's clients' parents: that Philadelphia is burdening parents, and primarily low-income parents, by charging them for the cost of their children's incarceration in the juvenile justice system. Through this collaborative effort, the City of Philadelphia is close to enacting a moratorium on the practice. [Read more at ysrp.org/11-21-16](http://ysrp.org/11-21-16)

YSRP's Model Evolves: A Response to Juvenile Life Without Parole

On January 25, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a 6-3 decision in *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, rendering retroactive its 2012 decision in *Miller v. Alabama* that invalidated the mandatory imposition of life without parole sentences on children as cruel and unusual punishment. For over 2,000 people across the country currently serving mandatory life sentences they received as children, this landmark decision provided the first actionable glimmer of hope for their release from prison.

For Pennsylvania and Philadelphia, home to roughly 500 and 300 individuals serving these terms, respectively, the significance of this ruling cannot be underscored: *Pennsylvania has sentenced more children to die in prison than any other place on earth.*

Our experience and service delivery model **uniquely positioned YSRP to lead in response** to the *Montgomery* decision, and we were called to act in the service of adults at the other end of the continuum, who had been sentenced in the adult system as children. Our service delivery model has since expanded to include mitigation and broader reentry support specifically for juvenile lifers and their families as they face resentencing and possible return to the community. In turn, our training and supervision capacity has grown to meet the pressing needs of the more than 300 men and women who will be resentenced in Philadelphia.

The image shows the front facade of the United States Supreme Court Building. The pediment features a relief sculpture of various figures, and the entrance is framed by large Corinthian columns. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is centered over the lower part of the facade, containing a quote in white serif font. Above the quote, the words "EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW" are faintly visible in a larger, semi-transparent font.

“In light of what this Court has said in *Roper*, *Graham*, and *Miller* about how children are constitutionally different from adults in their level of culpability, however, prisoners like Montgomery must be given the opportunity to show their crime did not reflect irreparable corruption; and, if it did not, their hope for some years of life outside prison walls must be restored.”

Montgomery v. Louisiana, 136 S. Ct. 718, 736-37 (2016).

Post-Montgomery, YSRP's model is making a greater difference by:

“Thank you all for traveling all the way up here to provide the training. Not only was it very helpful but everyone reminded me to tell you that they all appreciated it and want to extend their deep gratitude.”

— FROM A JUVENILE LIFER

01

Preparing lawyers to zealously advocate for the humane resentencing and reentry of juvenile lifers in Philadelphia, and across the state.

YSRP, along with its partners at the Atlantic Center for Capital Representation (ACCR), the Defender Association of Philadelphia, and Juvenile Law Center, are training pro bono, court-appointed and private attorneys in how to handle a resentencing case, from the courtroom to the Parole Board and through reentry.

Post-Montgomery, YSRP's model is making a greater difference by:

02

Preparing juvenile lifers for their resentencing hearings and eventual reentry.

YSRP and ACCR have traveled to State Correctional Institutions across Pennsylvania to provide mitigation and reentry trainings for individuals affected by the *Montgomery* ruling to enhance their own advocacy when they come before a judge and/or the Parole Board. As of November 2016, YSRP and ACCR have provided workshops for nearly 150 juvenile lifers.

03

Training and supervising over 60 volunteers, including students from 5 area law schools, graduate-level social work students and other professionals to work directly with 27 juvenile lifer clients.

Mitigation volunteers work as part of the legal defense teams with the goal of creating humanizing mitigation reports, including actionable reentry plans, as our juvenile lifer clients face resentencing in front of a judge and/or review by the Parole Board.

04

Coordinating a citywide response, through creating a JLWOP Reentry Working Group as part of the Mayor's Citywide Reentry Coalition, for juvenile lifers who will soon be returning home.

YSRP convenes more than 80 diverse stakeholders including Probation and Parole, civil and criminal legal service providers, social service organizations, community activists, the Department of Corrections and others to work toward the goal of establishing coordinated reentry services for the more than 300 juvenile lifers that could be returning to Philadelphia.

Eddie's Story

At 17 years old, Eddie was homeless and owed money to a drug dealer, but was told he could work off his debt by driving the getaway car in an incident in which a man tragically lost his life. At the advice of his attorney, Eddie took a negotiated plea and expected to be released within the next 18 years, but soon learned that his charge carried a mandatory sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Eddie has lived behind bars for the past 36 years with no hope of eventual release until the *Montgomery* decision in January 2016. Despite this, he earned his GED, an Associate's Degree in Religious Education, and became a minister and facilitator to the men serving alongside him.

YSRP has been working with Eddie and his defense attorney to prepare a report for the judge and parole panel responsible for determining his release. The report includes details about his life prior to and during his incarceration, and a comprehensive plan of programs and services that YSRP has connected him with to help facilitate his successful reintegration into the community.

Eddie dreams of having an aquaponic farm someday, and YSRP cannot wait for the day that we can support him on the outside, alongside his family and friends, as he works to realize this dream. To those who know him, Eddie is a kind-hearted, motivated man with a gentle spirit, which became even more apparent to YSRP when he shared with us with a heartfelt letter of appreciation:

October 23, 2016

Dear Y.S.R.P.,

My name is Eddie and I am a juvenile lifer praying to be re-sentence. I was 17 when I was incarcerated. I participated in a robbery by driving the car when regretfully a man loss his life by my co-defendant.

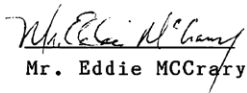
I found my purpose in life which is to share my passion for life with people. I facilitate, minister, and coach as a means of reaching out teaching tools of transformation.

One day a new law was pass which gave me the hope of one day living civilize once again back in society. I had the vision of starting my life over but the concept was vague.

Miraculously the Youth Sentencing & Re-entry Project came into my life and help me create a solid re-entry plan of action that I feel totally secure with.

I wish to Thank Ms. Annie Ruhnke, Ms. Noel Hanrahan, and staff for their professionalism, patience, kindness, structure, devotion, and sincerity. This organization has had a huge impact in my families lives as well as mine. Once again I thank you and I pray that Y.S.R.P. will prosper.

Respectfully,



Mr. Eddie MCCrary AM-4201

October 2016: Eddie McCrary, third from left, with longtime family friend Bonnie Patterson, YSRP mitigation specialist Annie Ruhnke, and Geraldine McCrary, his mother, at the State Correctional Institution at Chester's Juvenile Lifer Family Reunification Day.



November 2016: Arnold Holloway, Earl Rice and his daughter Crystal, and Danny Peters share their stories of coming out of prison after decades with YSRP staff, volunteers, partners and mitigation volunteers at Drexel University's Kline School of Law.



OUR WORK IN THE NEWS

YSRP has elevated local media coverage of issues facing youth charged as adults, and of the resentencing of people who were sentenced as youth to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Following are examples of articles and stories in which we have been featured, quoted, or that we authored.

To view these articles online, visit ysrp.org/news-events

The Legal Intelligencer

New Nonprofit Supports Children in Adult Criminal Justice System in The Legal Intelligencer by Lauren Fine & Joanna Visser Adjoian. **[Read more at ysrp.org/10-23-14](http://ysrp.org/10-23-14)**

10/23/2014

NPQ

New Nonprofit Will Aid Children in Adult Prisons in Nonprofit Quarterly by Shafaq Hasan. **[Read more at ysrp.org/10-24-14](http://ysrp.org/10-24-14)**

10/24/2014

TEDx

Putting Things in Context: Kids in Adult Prison, as presented at TEDx Walnut Street Women by Lauren Fine.

[Watch at ysrp.org/about-us/#tedx](http://ysrp.org/about-us/#tedx)

7/24/2015

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Kids in solitary in Philly Jails: 'It was the worst time of my life' in The Inquirer by Samantha Melamed.

[Read more at ysrp.org/8-15-16](http://ysrp.org/8-15-16)

8/15/2016

WHYY RadioTimes

Juvenile Justice Reform in the Wake of "Kids for Cash," as heard on WHYY's Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane. Guests include: Marsha Levick, Senator Bob Casey and Lauren Fine. [Listen at ysrp.org/8-18-15](http://ysrp.org/8-18-15)

8/18/2015

WHYY RadioTimes

Update on Juvenile "Lifers" in Pennsylvania as heard on WHYY's Radio Times with Marty Moss-Coane. Guests include: John Wetzel, Lauren Fine, Tyrone Jones, Jennifer Storm. [Listen at ysrp.org/9-29-16](http://ysrp.org/9-29-16)

9/29/2016

Erie Times-News

Young Inmates Pose Logistical Challenges at Erie County Prison in the Erie Times by Madeleine O'Neill.

[Read more at ysrp.org/10-2-16](http://ysrp.org/10-2-16)

10/2/2016

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Philly Locks Up Kids for Truancy, Fighting - Then Goes After Parents for Child Support in The Inquirer by Samantha Melamed. [Read more at ysrp.org/11-21-16](http://ysrp.org/11-21-16)

11/21/2016

The Philadelphia Inquirer

8/19/2015

Juveniles Facing Adult Court Get Help From Lawyers' Program in The Philadelphia Inquirer by Samantha Melamed.

[Read more at ysrp.org/8-19-15](http://ysrp.org/8-19-15)

The Philadelphia Inquirer

7/11/2016

After Decades Behind Bars, Juvenile Lifers are Released—But to What? in The Philadelphia Inquirer by Samantha Melamed.

[Read more at ysrp.org/7-11-16](http://ysrp.org/7-11-16)

The Legal Intelligencer

8/22/2016

Making 'Montgomery' Meaningful for Juvenile Lifers in The Legal Intelligencer by Lauren Fine and Joanna Visser Adjoian.

[Read more at ysrp.org/8-22-16](http://ysrp.org/8-22-16)

“There’s a level of hopelessness when you get out of adult jail, whereas in the juvenile system, there’s a treatment mentality. The idea is, we’re building skills for you to go out into the world and to make it,” she said. “That hopefulness alone is a huge factor for these kids.”

—MICHELLE MASON, ASSISTANT CHIEF, DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

“The Philadelphia Reentry Coalition, a collaboration between city and nonprofit agencies, is organizing to fill gaps in support. Joanna Visser Adjoian and Lauren Fine of the nonprofit Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project are cochairing a committee on juvenile lifers. They said advocates have volunteered to work on issues ranging from food-stamp applications to protection from identity theft and fraud.”

—SAMANTHA MELAMED, REPORTER

“For the juvenile lifers returning home, it will take more than a village to provide the support they will need to successfully reintegrate. As the largest city in a state that has sentenced more children to life in prison without parole than any other in the country (and hence has the most juvenile lifers in the world), Philadelphia has a unique opportunity and moral responsibility to seize this moment and to create the model for how to humanely and appropriately handle these cases, from the courtroom to the community.”

—JOANNA VISSER ADJOIAN & LAUREN FINE, YSRP CO-DIRECTORS



September 29, 2016: (from left) Pennsylvania Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel, former juvenile lifer and returned citizen Tyrone Jones, WHYY's Radio Times host Marty Moss-Coane and YSRP Co-Director Lauren Fine

OUR GROWTH

Since June 2016, YSRP has grown its staff to include two mitigation specialists dedicated to post- *Montgomery* resentencing cases, a Director of Operations, and Stoneleigh Emerging Leader Fellow Natasha Felder, who is developing a toolkit for attorneys representing girls charged and prosecuted in the adult criminal legal system. YSRP also receives programmatic and operational support as a field placement for a 2nd-year graduate social work student, and as an externship site for law students from the University of Pennsylvania.

Financial Activity

Grants from foundation partners and contributions from individuals have supported our growth since our launch, and play a vital role in sustaining YSRP's casework and policy advocacy, as well our outreach, training and supervision capacity. All of YSRP's services are provided completely free of charge to our clients and their defense counsel.

	2014	2015	2016* to date
Total Revenue	\$73,396	\$239,391	\$436,550.54
Total Expenses	\$44,819	\$136,846	\$423,714.06

**Please note: 2016 revenue and expenses are included for the period of Jan. 1, 2016-Nov. 19, 2016, the time of publication. If you are interested in reviewing YSRP's full financial statements, please contact us at info@ysrp.org*

OUR REALITY

The need for YSRP's work has never been greater. Of the 300 juvenile lifers whose cases originated in Philadelphia and are now eligible for resentencing, only 10 men have thus far received new sentences. YSRP is actively engaged in the resentencing, parole and/or reentry processes for 27 juvenile lifers, yet we have been forced to turn away cases on a weekly, and sometimes daily, basis due to limits on our capacity. Your support today enables us to prepare more attorneys for the resentencing and reentry of their clients, and increase access to high quality representation for Philadelphia's youth facing prosecution in the adult criminal legal system. Please visit ysrp.org/donate to learn how you can get involved.



November 2016: Crystal, Earl Rice's daughter, supporting him as he shares his story with YSRP mitigation volunteers soon after his release from 43 years and 4 days of incarceration.

OUR GRATITUDE

This list reflects gifts received from our generous individual donors, to whom we are tremendously grateful. We have made every effort to list all contributions accurately and extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generosity and support of our donors, corporate and foundation partners. Equally, we extend sincere apologies for any mistakes or omissions. Gifts listed here were received between June 25, 2014, and November 19, 2016, the time of publication. To note any corrections, please contact us at info@ysrp.org

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And a huge thank you to all of our other YSRP volunteers!

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YSRP is grateful for the dedication and commitment of the Young Friends of YSRP. Young Friends of YSRP engages dedicated young professionals to strengthen YSRP's impact by volunteering their time, skills, and resources. Young Friends help promote YSRP's work, secure resources through fundraising activities, and facilitate pro bono support and participation in YSRP initiatives.

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YSRP would like to thank a few of our close partners without whom our work would not be possible:

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To view this report on our website, please visit: ysrp.org/report-2016

“I appreciate you a whole lot, I can tell that you really care about my future. That means a whole lot to me...Thank you for all of the effort that you’ve been putting in to help my situation, it means so much to me.”

—FROM A YSRP YOUTH PARTNER

OUR HISTORY AT A GLANCE

June 2012

U.S. Supreme Court decides *Miller v. Alabama*. Mandatory life without parole sentences for youth are declared unconstitutional

June 2014

YSRP launches with an Echoing Green Black Male Achievement Fellowship

December 2014

YSRP launches its Pilot Program for youth charged in the adult criminal legal system

December 2014

YSRP takes on its first case - Monyatta, 17, who was charged as an adult

February 2015

YSRP submits its first mitigation report and Monyatta is sentenced

March 2015

Defense Guidelines for representing youth charged with homicide are developed in collaboration with the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

September 2015

The Youth Advocacy Project (YAP), a pro bono project at Penn Law and Penn School of Social Policy & Practice, launches

November 2015

Monyatta returns home after 9 months in juvenile placement

December 2015

YSRP is awarded 1st Place Prize as Philadelphia Social Innovation Lab's "Most Innovative Solution to Combat Poverty in the Region"

January 2016

U.S. Supreme Court decides *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, making retroactive the *Miller* decision that mandatory life without parole sentences for youth are unconstitutional





YOUTH SENTENCING & REENTRY PROJECT

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