

2020 IMPACT REPORT

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVOCATES INTERNATIONAL

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THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST CHALLENGING YEAR FOR OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN IN THE DETENTION SYSTEM.

Before the pandemic started, we expanded our Alternatives to Detention work to three new states in Mexico and were excited to see more local governments engaging on detention reform. We already are seeing changes to the system that will ensure fewer children end up in detention in these new sites.

But once the pandemic hit, our team immediately saw how vulnerable youth in detention would become.

It also became clear that we would be under new financial constraints.

Without supporters like you, we would not have been able to respond so quickly and make such a big impact for children across Latin America. I am proud of the work we have accomplished together.

Thank you,

DOUGLAS KEILLOR- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION

MODEL SITE: CHIHUAHUA STATE

IMPACT: 750 YOUTH ANNUALLY

Started in 2015, our pilot site has seen hundreds of youth released from detention and hundreds more never set foot in prison due to reforms to the juvenile justice system.

Reducing detention: From 2019-2020 we saw a record low number of youth in detention. Only 47 spent time in pretrial detention and 90% of youth arrested are on release programs.

Improving Alternatives: In 2020 we completed our Probation Transformation Pilot project which saw probation violations decline by 30%. Probation supervisors were able to get these kids back on track and no child had probation revoked.

Protecting Youth in Detention: We continue partnering with the state education and child protection departments to improve programming and education in detention.

PROJECT REPLICATION

IMPACT: 1,500 YOUTH ANNUALLY

In 2019 we began replicating our successful projects to three new states, Guerrero, Durango and Mexico City.

We signed Memoranda of Understanding with local officials and hired local staff to establish inter-agency working groups that are implementing changes to harmful detention practices.

Thanks to our pandemic response efforts, the government of Chiapas has invited us to start our Alternative to Detention project. In 2021 Chiapas will be our fifth site.



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COVID-19 RESPONSE | HERE IS HOW JJAI RESPONDED...

IMPACT: 65% OF YOUTH IN DETENTION NATIONWIDE, 34 DETENTION CENTERS IN 27 STATES.

OVER 1000 cleaning supplies.

200 care packages for youth being released from detention.

65 board games.

57 sports balls.

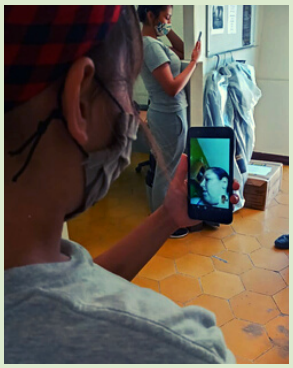
05 laptops for virtual classes.

05 cell phones for video calls with family.

150 books and magazines.

22 hours of Virtual Classes per week.









Due to the coronavirus pandemic, children in detention are in a double lock-down – as their family visits are suspended and support staff is limited. Thousands of children are in a de facto solitary confinement-like situation. Youth are at risk of significant mental health trauma and abuse. Detention centers have limited access to basic cleaning supplies, face masks, or even potable water.

Special thanks to the Open Society, Partners for America, Operation Blessing and the Rotary Club International for partnering with us to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

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PANDEMIC RESPONSE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

IMPACT: 3,000 VIEWERS, PRIMARILY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Local detention centers were left to their own planning and preparations in response to the pandemic. On March 19th we published recommendations for local governments to respond to the pandemic by reducing detention populations, protecting youth in detention, planning for alternative programming and adopting measures to ensure youth are not isolated or at-risk of abuse.

The Mexican Federal Government adopted these recommendations and we held 13 webinars for Mexican government officials.

Beyond Mexico, many countries in Latin America were overlooking the impacts of the pandemic on youth in detention.

We organized nine webinars to address the pandemic in youth detention in Puerto Rico, Bolivia and Central America.



"We have participated with JJAI on webinars and phone calls, getting timely information that has improved our staff's response to the pandemic and benefited the youth we serve."
JUVENILE COURT JUDGE, CAMPECHE, MEXICO.



In September, Mexican President López Obrador noted JJAI's efforts to respond to the pandemic, the only nonprofit organization he called out specifically in his Second Annual Government Report.



"Thanks to JJAI for the aid they provided of a water pump. The youth are also attending virtual drawing classes and other virtual classes like English, yoga and knitting. It is an honor to have been able to receive attention and assistance during this pandemic with access to these courses. It helps protect the youths' mental health." Detention Center Director

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OVER 278 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN OUR NATIONAL ART CONTEST "THE PANDEMIC THROUGH MY EYES".



"Now I think differently. The only thing I really need and want is the love of my family. I lost my brother, and I did not get a chance to say goodbye. I did not get to cry by his side. I did not get the chance to tell him I will always keep him in my heart. COVID-19 has taken many things away from me..."

EXCERPT FROM TEENAGER'S WINNING ESSAY.











Thank you for being a part of Juvenile Justice Advocates International. Your partnership means that we have been able to impact the lives of thousands of children across dozens of countries during this very challenging time. Today more than ever, we must ensure a Future for Every Child….

Annual Budget:

- 2019: $221,000
- 2020: $185,000

Staff:

- **2019:** 6 Full-Time, 2 Part-Time, 15 volunteers
- **2020**: 9 Full-Time, 2 Part-Time, 25 volunteers

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