IMPACT REPORT



2025

JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVOCATES

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY. PROTECTING CHILDHOOD. STRENGTHENING JUSTICE.



Douglas Keillor
Executive Director - JJAI

"In a year of shifting political landscapes and unpredictable funding, Juvenile Justice Advocates International (JJAI) expanded its reach, deepened its impact, and helped more children and families than ever before.

As 2025 closed, JJAI successfully transitioned long-standing Alternatives to Detention (ATD) programs in Mexico to local leadership, while launching new initiatives in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Puerto Rico. At the same time, our work in the United States and on the global stage continued to shape policy, improve detention conditions, and elevate the voices of children most often unheard.

Despite shifting political and funding realities, we are emerging stronger and impacting more children in more places, thanks entirely to our supporters."

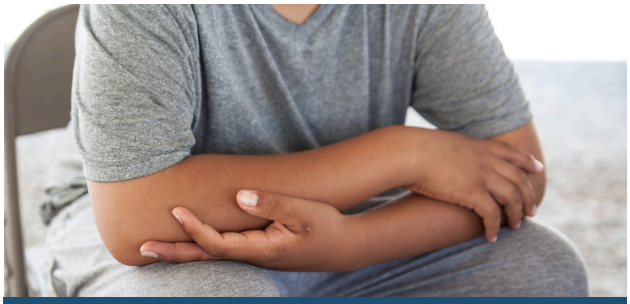


MISSION

Juvenile Justice Advocates International works to minimize the unnecessary deprivation of children's liberty, protect their rights, and promote positive youth development through policy reform, technical assistance, research, and family-centered support.

For over a decade, JJAI has partnered with governments, justice professionals, civil society, and communities to demonstrate that **safer communities and better outcomes for youth are achieved when detention is rare, humane, and rehabilitative.**

CORE PROGRAMS



ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION (ATD)

JJAI works with justice systems to replace unnecessary incarceration with **community-based, rights-respecting alternatives**, including:

- Pretrial detention screening
- Community supervision
- Reduced procedural delays
- Reentry and post-release support
- Independent monitoring of detention conditions

Recognizing that **families are central to rehabilitation,** Mobilize & Empower strengthens family connections through:

- Family reunification support
- Transportation, meals, and care packages
- Legal rights education and workshops
- Community engagement and family roundtables



MOBILIZE & EMPOWER

2025 AT A GLANCE:



01 Expanded programs to **Costa Rica, Honduras, and Puerto Rico**

02 Launched development of a **Regional Alternatives to Detention Toolkit for Latin America**

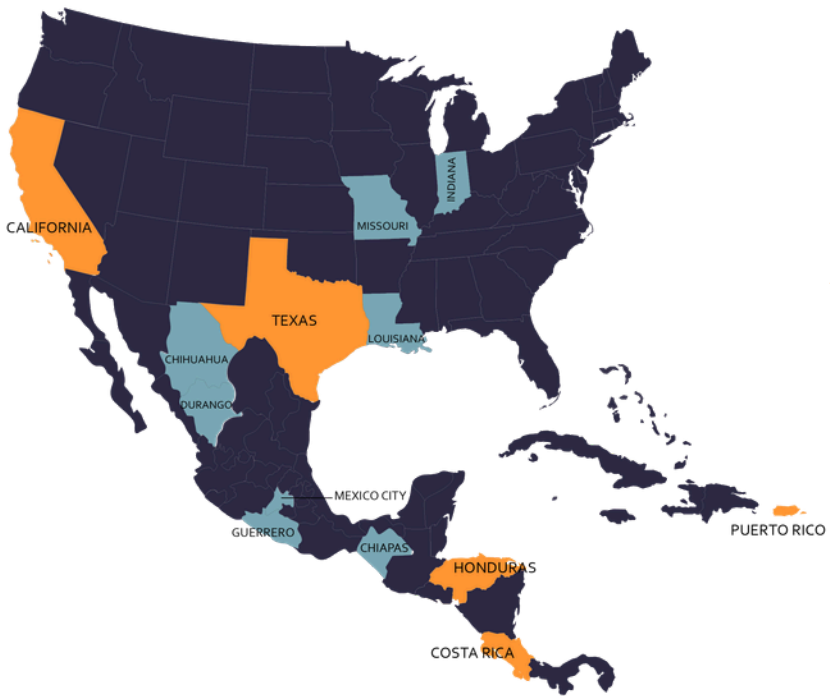
03 Completed independent **juvenile detention condition assessments in the U.S.**

04 Released the **2nd edition of the Global Pretrial Detention Report**

05 Expanded **Reflections of Dignity**, elevating youth voices through international art exhibits

06 Advocated for children's rights at global forums in **Madrid, Istanbul, Minneapolis, and Denver**

OUR PROJECT SITES



US Detention Assessments:

- California
- Texas

Past sites:

- Louisiana
- Missouri
- Indiana

Latin America Project Sites:

- Costa Rica
- Honduras
- Puerto Rico

Past sites:

- Chihuahua
- Durango
- Mexico City
- Guerrero
- Chiapas

COSTA RICA

Building a Regional Model for Rights-Based Youth Justice

JJAI established high-level partnerships with national justice institutions and was selected as a **pilot country** for the Regional ATD Toolkit. In late 2025, Mobilize & Empower launched at the Zurquí Juvenile Detention Center, reuniting families — many for the first time in months.

Mobilize & Empower initiatives began in November 2025

IMPACT:

10	8	100%
youth supported	families reunited	Access to transportation and meals

> ***"I learned that I'm not alone.*** *There are other mothers fighting for their children."*
>
> Victoria





> ***"This space gave me strength.*** *I arrived feeling guilty and left feeling supported."*
>
> Carmen

> *"We do the best we can without a manual. Our families judge us.* ***But here, I felt understood."***
>
> María



HONDURAS

Sustaining Reform Amid Funding Loss

After USAID funding ended, JJAI ensured continuity of reform through new partnerships and donor support. JJAI became a permanent member of the **National Technical Roundtable on Children's Rights,** strengthening national coordination on alternatives to detention.

Mobilize & Empower reached youth across three detention centers, restoring family contact in some of the country's most remote facilities.

Mobilize & Empower initiatives began in November 2025

IMPACT:

18 youth supported

17 families reunited

100% Access to transportation and meals

"After nine months without seeing my child, this support allowed me to come back. I left feeling hopeful and grateful."

Juana Núñez





"Getting here is not easy, but my granddaughter is worth every sacrifice."

Reginaldo Mejía

"I earn very little, but this support allows me to stay connected to my daughter."

María del Carmen Castillo



PUERTO RICO

Rebuilding a System After Crisis

JJAI formally launched operations in Puerto Rico to address severe system failures worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our work combined system reform with direct youth engagement, resulting in immediate and measurable improvements.

At the Villalba Youth Treatment Center, the integration of therapeutic arts and family engagement resulted in **zero behavioral incidents** during implementation.

IMPACT:

25	9	10
families engaged	youth directly served	therapeutic art workshops

> *"I used to feel like my eyes were covered... but now I can see the beauty in life again."*
>
> Youth participant





> *"My Reflection of Dignity shows my country, my way of seeing the world, and the love my family represents."*
>
> Youth participant

> *"This painting speaks about loneliness and honesty. It helped me express what I had never said out loud."*
>
> Youth participant



REGIONAL IMPACT: ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION TOOLKIT

With support from the **Tinker Foundation**, JJAI is developing a Regional ATD Toolkit to help governments implement proven, rights-based alternatives to detention.

Proven Outcomes from JJAI Models

01 **85%** reduction in recidivism

02 **90%** education completion among re-entry youth

03 **78%** employment six months post-release

04 **95%** of families report improved relationships



LEADING DETENTION REFORM IN THE UNITED STATES

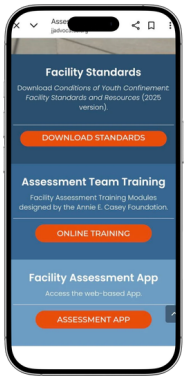


In 2025, JJAI completed an independent assessment of detention conditions in **Dallas County, Texas,** prompting public commitments to:

01 Expand family visitation

02 Strengthen education and therapy

03 Eliminate solitary confinement



JJAI also released the **2025 U.S. Conditions of Youth Confinement Standards & Resource Hub,** now piloted in over **20 facilities** nationwide.

IMPACT: **300+** youth benefiting from improved detention conditions

GLOBAL ADVOCACY



February 2025 | Field Research — Malawi

JJAI gathered firsthand evidence with Northwestern University showing how long pretrial detention harms children when courts, oversight, and alternatives are limited.

June 2-4, 2025 | Global Report Launch — Madrid

JJAI launched a global report analyzing youth pretrial detention in 161 countries, highlighting urgent solutions to reduce unnecessary detention and protect children's rights.





July 9, 2025 | Regional Webinar — The Americas

JJAI convened partners across the Americas to share progress, respond to emerging threats, and strengthen collaboration to protect children in justice systems.

August 22-24, 2025 | Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum — Denver

JJAI launched new U.S. detention assessment tools with system leaders to help improve safety, accountability, and youth well-being in confinement.





October 14-16, 2025 | Youth Justice in Action Conference — Minneapolis

JJAI shared practical strategies to strengthen youth and family engagement—helping more children stay connected, supported, and prepared to return home.

October 26-31, 2025 | Global Corrections Conference — Istanbul

JJAI advanced global momentum for youth justice reform by promoting safer, more humane detention practices grounded in community solutions and human rights standards.



REFLECTIONS OF DIGNITY

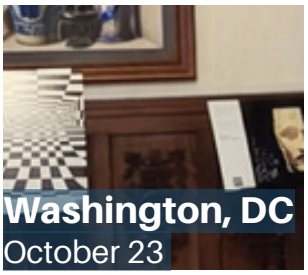
Art as Advocacy

JJAI launched Reflections of Dignity, a series of international art exhibits created by youth deprived of liberty in different parts of the world. Through their artwork, youth shared experiences of identity, resilience, and hope.

The exhibits were co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota Human Rights Program and the Institute for Global Studies.



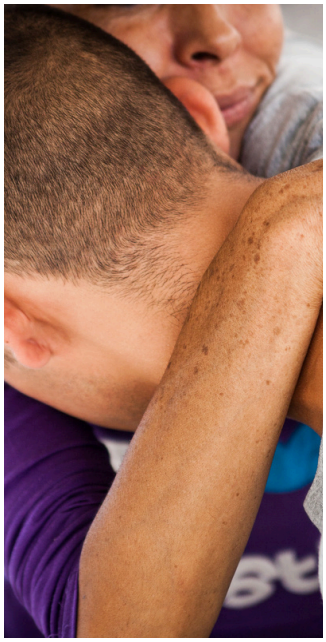






Reflections of Dignity highlights the role of art in amplifying the voices of incarcerated youth and has become a central pillar of JJAI's international advocacy.

LOOKING AHEAD



As we enter 2026, JJAI is positioned for sustained growth across the Americas — scaling proven solutions, strengthening families, and ensuring that **every child is treated like a child, even in conflict with the law.**

Every child deserves a second chance.
Every family deserves support.
Every community deserves safety and healing.

Thank you for making this work possible.

GET INVOLVED

www.jjadvocates.org @juvenilejusticeadvocates

Juvenile Justice Advocates International @jja_int