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Donor's Generosity Leads to National Possibilities

Protecting the Rights of Immigrant Youth

2019 UPDATE



From left to right: Penelope, Whitney, and Veena

In early 2019, the Dorothy J. Dickman Trust presented Open City Advocates (OCA) with a \$200,000 gift to launch a national effort to increase legal protections and representation for children after they have been sentenced in juvenile court. In particular, this gift will support OCA's development of a "tool kit," including policies, procedures, practices, and evaluation measures that will be provided to organizations interested in implementing our program model. This funding also will cover a symposium for defenders and advocates to learn more about our model and share challenges and successes in their efforts to expand holistic legal representation for children after sentencing.

This gift stems from the hard work and life-long generosity of the late Dottie Dickman and her late husband, Hy Dickman.

Some of our youth are not only maneuvering through DC's juvenile justice system but are also finding their footing in the US while fearing deportation to countries racked by violence. Our lawyers are quickly forging partnerships with immigration experts so that our clients can better understand

They operated a community pharmacy in northwest DC for decades and were beloved for not charging customers to fill prescriptions if they couldn't afford to pay.

OCA caught the interest of the Trust after a family member volunteered with us. Her volunteer service launched her career in public defense, after which she shared the following reflection with our Co-Founders: "I am so grateful that you included me [as part of the mentoring and legal team for a client]. I truly loved learning from you. It made me a better, more holistic lawyer. Your work stands for itself and I can't wait to see what you do with some extra resources!"

If you would like more information about our "tool kit" or would like to support further expansion efforts, please get in touch!

the immigration consequences of their involvement in the justice system. We hope that these partnerships will equip both our lawyers and clients with the tools to navigate the complex and ever-changing immigration system.

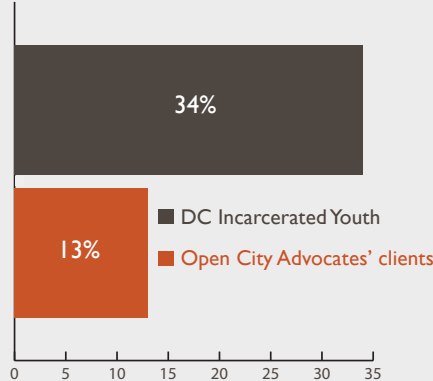
Critical Role of Legal Fellows

In addition to our two Co-Founders, our third staff position is a Legal Fellow, which is typically a two-year externally funded position. From 2017 to 2019, Natasha Baker served as our Skadden Legal Fellow and was focused on supporting the expansion of our services to girls. In September 2019, we were joined by Equal Justice Works Legal Fellow, Veena Subramanian, sponsored by The Morrison & Foerster Foundation. In addition to supporting our clients, Veena is exploring

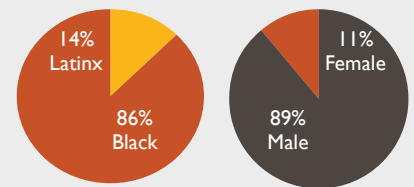
the intersection of DC's child welfare system and juvenile justice system in order to provide better supports and opportunities to our "crossover" clients who entered the juvenile justice system after a period of familial neglect and/or abuse. Having a legal fellow is crucial to our program model, as it allows us to continue providing and improving our direct services while also supporting our systemic reform efforts.

By the Numbers

Reconviction Rate



Youth Served



Our Youth

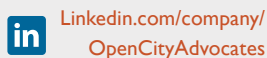


Building Partnerships

In 2019, Open City Advocates launched two strategic partnerships to support policy and practice reforms that better safeguard rights, care, and services for youth after sentencing, both locally and nationally. Our local reform efforts include a partnership with the Council for Court Excellence, which established a "Post-Disposition Working Group" to further our efforts. Once the working group finishes its preliminary research, it will draft materials to highlight the benefits and challenges of robust post-sentencing representation for youth in DC to inspire local

reforms. In addition, the gift of the Dorothy J. Dickman Trust is supporting a partnership with the National Juvenile Defender Center to inspire increased collaboration with cities, counties, and states across the country that are similarly looking to expand protections for youth after sentencing. The movement to get children out of harmful jails, to reunite them with families, and to give them the due process and supports they need to become successful adults is taking off!

Follow us on social media for updates throughout the year!



Join Open City Advocates in our mission. Treat the young people in our juvenile justice system like you would your own. Believe in them. Care for them. Invest in them.

www.OpenCityAdvocates.org/Donate