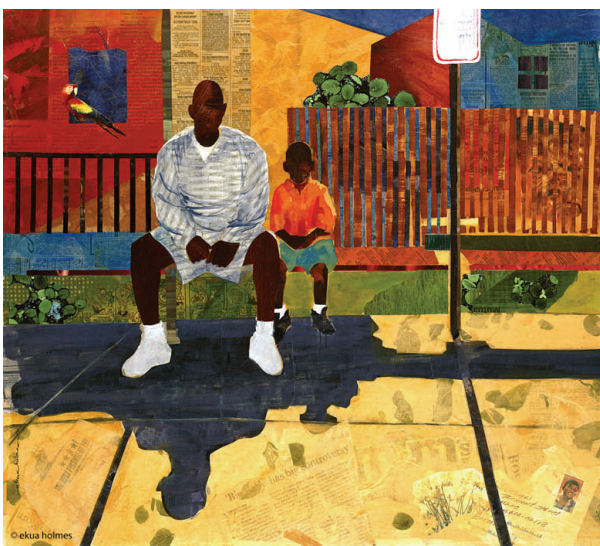


ADVOCATING

CfJJ launched its ***Just Kids*** campaign to raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction – *to keep kids on the right side of the law*. Currently in Massachusetts, *all* 17-year-olds charged with a crime are automatically tried and sentenced in the *adult* criminal justice system – regardless of the circumstances or severity of the offense. Research has shown that trying and sentencing 17-year-olds in the adult system *decreases* public safety. This policy also goes against everything we know about adolescent development, is contrary to the general recognition in Massachusetts that 18 is the age of adulthood, and is out of step with the vast majority of other states. CfJJ has been investigating the impact of the current system and the implications of raising the age of jurisdiction through meetings with stakeholders, collection and analysis of data, and interviews with young people and their families. We will be releasing a report summarizing our findings in 2011.

Meanwhile, our ***Just Facts*** campaign to obtain comprehensive statistical data at every key decision point in our system has made remarkable progress. Although we were not successful in our attempt to require improved data collection and dissemination through legislation this year, we were able, with the help of many persistent allies, to obtain important new data directly from the police, the courts, and the Probation Department. This is the critical first step toward addressing the racial disparities (known as Disproportionate Minority Contact, or DMC) in the juvenile justice system. While actually reducing DMC will require much more work, with accurate, comprehensive data we will finally be able to identify where and why it occurs and begin to devise sensible strategies to combat it.

One place where data is already playing an important role is the **School-based Arrests Research Project**, a joint effort of CfJJ and the ACLU to try to understand why *40% of all juvenile arrests* in Springfield are made *in schools*. We recently expanded the study so that Springfield can be put in context with two other large urban districts: Boston and Worcester. We are now in the process of analyzing information from those districts and anticipate completion of our report in 2011.



"A Matter of Time" is a collage created by Roxbury artist Ekuia Holmes to comment on the importance of caring adults in the lives of children. More of Ekuia's work can be seen and/or purchased at www.ekuiaholmes.com. CfJJ is honored to have a print of this image in our office.

Other advocacy activities this year included:

- Participating in the effort led by the Youth Advocacy Department to **eliminate mandatory life without parole sentences for juveniles**.
- Pushing for **adequate funding for the Department of Youth Services** to enable it to meet the needs of the kids most deeply involved in the juvenile justice system.
- **Raising the political profile of juvenile justice policy issues** by including several in a questionnaire distributed by Massachusetts Citizens for Children to candidates in the November election.
- Researching the **need for children to have privileged conversations with their parents** and preparing to support carefully-drafted legislation to establish such a privilege.

EDUCATING AND CONNECTING

In partnership with the Trinity Foundation, CfJJ hosted a half-day *Juvenile Re-entry Conference* in February. With a sold-out crowd of 150, the conference provided an opportunity for broad discussion of one of the most important – and unexamined – parts of the juvenile system. *Youth in Gangs: Behind the Headlines*, our November Juvenile Justice Forum at the Boston Bar Association, helped to correct many of the misconceptions on this heated topic. The program included not only researchers and practitioners, but formerly gang-involved youth as well. Finally, we hosted our annual *Leadership Celebration* on December 2 – honoring Ned Loughran, founding Executive Director of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, and featuring Dr. Laurence Steinberg as keynote speaker.

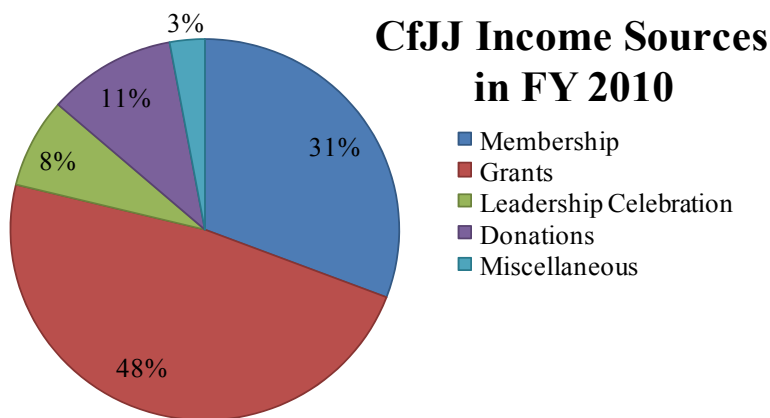
THE VOICE FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

CfJJ responds to and helps shape **media coverage** of a wide range of juvenile justice issues. This year those issues included: the school-to-prison-pipeline, juvenile life without parole, Department of Youth Services education programs, Disproportionate Minority Contact, school bullying, electronic monitoring bracelets, alternative lock-up programs, and probation. We added social media to our communications repertoire this year: you can now read – and comment on – **CfJJ's blog** and follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter!** An upgrade of our website is also in the works which we hope will be completed by the end of 2010.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2011

Diversion is an under-utilized (and rarely-examined) practice that can have enormous benefits for kids and for public safety. On **April 28, 2011**, CfJJ will host a half-day conference: *Good. Fast. Cheap. (Pick All Three.) Why Diversion Works for Kids.*

Our *2011 Leadership Celebration* is scheduled for **Thursday, December 1, 2011**. Mark your calendars – and watch your email for more news and events!



It's CfJJ's members and donors, event sponsors and attendees, and foundation supporters – especially the Gardiner Howland Shaw Foundation and the Public Welfare Foundation – who make this all possible. Thank you so much!