



# FALL 2025 Edition



Teamwork  
Makes The  
Dream work!

Since 1976, JJC provided several thousands of children and youth programming through an array of in-home, out of home, community and school based services focusing on intervention, prevention, and community based services. JJC is a non-profit, multi-service organization dedicated to the safety and welfare of vulnerable children, youth and families in Philadelphia.

**OUR MISSION**  
To prevent children and youth from entering the child welfare and juvenile justice system through supportive services in their homes, community and in schools.

# JJC Newsletter

[WWW.JUVENILEJUSTICE.ORG](http://WWW.JUVENILEJUSTICE.ORG)



# WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES



Welcome to our newest members of the JJC family:

Robert Glenn- started 9/2- in Behavioral Health as a Behavioral Health Technician  
Trane Overton- started 9/2- in Behavioral Health as a Behavioral Consultant  
Abbie Friedman- started 9/2- in Behavioral Health as an Intern  
Matt Kerstetter- started on 9/8- in Administration as Deputy Director  
Yaitza 'Marie' Figueroa on 9/12- in Administration as a Receptionist



# BE INSPIRED!

READ ABOUT TWO SUCCESS STORIES  
FROM OUR TRUANCY DEPARTMENT AND  
PARENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM AND  
BE COMPLETELY INSPIRED!



## Message from the Executive Director

As we reflect on this season, I want to recognize the incredible people who make JJC what it is. Across every department—Behavioral Health, Truancy Intervention & Prevention, In-Home Detention, Community School Case Management, Parenting, Aftercare Evening Reporting Center, Community Evening Resource Center, Foster Care, Adoptions, and Intensive Prevention Services—our staff pour into children, youth, and families with dedication and care.

From case managers, social workers, care coordinators, therapists, IBHS staff, and mental health professionals to directors, supervisors, facilitators, mentors, administrative teams, business office, HR, executive coordinator, receptionist, physical resources staff, youth mentors, van drivers, cooks, and our Board of Directors—every person plays a vital role.

Whether through creating safe spaces in our programs, engaging in community and school-based work, conducting home visits, preparing meals, providing transportation, or supporting operations behind the scenes, your efforts ensure youth and families are met with care and opportunity wherever they are.

Thank you for the heart and commitment you bring to this work. Because of you, JJC continues to stand strong as a place of hope, connection, and opportunity.



With gratitude,  
Jeanine Marie Glasgow, Executive Director



**“Our greatest motivation is to play for each other. This team loves each other. That’s what makes this team special — they’re in it for each other.” – Nick Sirianni**

At JJC, we embody this same spirit. Our staff, mentors, community partners, and stakeholders work side by side to support youth and families, showing what it means to put others first. Together, we create opportunities, strengthen connections, and build brighter futures.

Go Team JJC  
Go Birds!



# Announcements



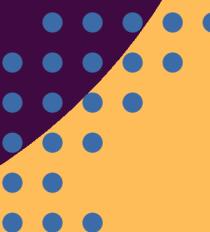
## Exciting AERC News!

Recently, AERC was awarded a \$25,000 grant, from the Widger Family Foundation as our own Kelly Laysears, AERC Program Director was chosen as an Emerging Leader. Congratulations to Program Director, Kelly Laysears and the entire AERC staff for a job well done! Read all about it in our Staff Spotlight section.



## Community Day Is Here!

Community Day will be on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11 AM - 2 PM. We will have games, giveaways, food, music and lots of resource tables! Join us for some Fall festival fun! Staff: Please use the Sign Up Genius to sign up for your special area of focus that day.





# Program Success Story Spotlight

At JJC Family Services, parents are discovering that the Parenting Empowerment Program is more than just a class — it's a life-changing journey.

Martha Bey-McKee (retired early childhood professional)  
"At first, I thought I didn't need parenting classes or therapy..."  
She realized her emotional well-being had been under attack.  
With compassion + support, she gained strength and new parenting skills.  
Most of all, she found healing from self-blame and emotional struggle.  
"The program rescued me and gave me the love & concern I needed to move forward."

Jose Caraballo  
The program gave him practical tools for parenting.  
"It helped me become a better person and a better father."  
His insight: the lessons work as long as you apply them every day.

Together, these voices show the heart of the Parenting Empowerment Program:  
Emotional healing  
Practical guidance  
Support + empowerment  
Stronger families

Empowering parents. Strengthening families. Changing lives. ★

#ParentingSupport #FamilyFirst #ParentEmpowerment #HealingJourney #ParentingTools  
#EmotionalWellbeing #StrongerTogether #LoveInAction  
#JJCPhilly #JJCFamilyServices #CommunityStrong #YouthAndFamilies  
#JJCSupportsFamilies #PhillyCommunity





## Program Success Story Spotlight

At JJJC Family Services, every success reminds us why we do this work. Here is one story to make you believe silver linings are possible!

Recently, our Truancy Program supported a single mother and her children who had been experiencing homelessness and facing truancy challenges for over a year. With the dedicated support of a JJJC Truancy Case Manager, the family was guided step by step toward stability: ✨ Securing safe, permanent housing 🏠 ✨ Receiving essential furniture and clothing 👕 👗 ✨ Transportation to and from Truancy Court 🚍 ✨ Job search support, including interview prep and clothing 🗂️ Because of these efforts, the children are now enrolled in school near their new home, and the family is building a stronger future together. 🎉 This story is a powerful reminder of the lasting impact compassionate, coordinated intervention can have on families in need. ✨ 🙌 A huge thank you to our Truancy team for their tireless work in helping families overcome barriers and thrive!



#JJCStrong #FamilyFirst #TruancyProgram #YouthSuccess  
#BreakingBarriers #PhiladelphiaFamilies #SupportAndSuccess #JJCPhilly





# JJC Programs



## Read here to know more about what services we offer at JJC Family Services!

**Adoptions:** JJC's Department of Permanency Planning (DOPP) has been facilitating child adoptions since 1994 through the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN).

**Foster Care:** JJC's Foster Care Program licenses and certifies resource homes to provide temporary, supportive care for children and youth from birth to age 21 who cannot remain with their birth parents or guardians due to circumstances such as loss, incarceration, or poverty. The program's primary goal is permanency—whether through reunification, kinship care, adoption, or legal custodianship—and JJC is currently seeking resource parents for older youth, LGBTQIA youth, and youth with specialized behavioral and emotional health needs.

**AERC:** JJC's Aftercare Evening Reporting Center, launched in March 2020, serves justice-involved youth ages 16-20 who are completing probation requirements or working to prevent re-placement in the juvenile justice system. Operating Monday-Friday from 4-8 p.m. (with community service on select Saturdays), the program provides case management, life skills, education and employment coaching, pro-social activities, and behavioral health linkages to help participants remain arrest-free and successfully transition forward, with referrals made through probation officers, judges, public defenders, or district attorneys.

**CERC:** JJC's Community Evening Resource Center in Germantown serves youth ages 10-17 from 7 p.m.-2 a.m., providing a safe space with structured activities that promote positive development through creative, educational, and wellness programming while addressing violence prevention and life skills. It also supports curfew-violating youth referred by Philadelphia Police in the 5th, 14th, 35th, and 39th districts, offering guidance, safe transport, and resources for families to help youth make healthier choices.



**Intensive Behavioral Health Services:** JJC's Behavioral Health Program provides children and adolescents in Philadelphia County with psychiatric and psychological services, including evaluations, therapy, and behavioral rehabilitation, using trauma-informed, evidence-based practices such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. For nearly 20 years, as a licensed outpatient provider, JJC has offered comprehensive supports including medication management, group and individual therapy, family psychotherapy, Parent-Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT), and wraparound services delivered in homes, schools, and community settings.

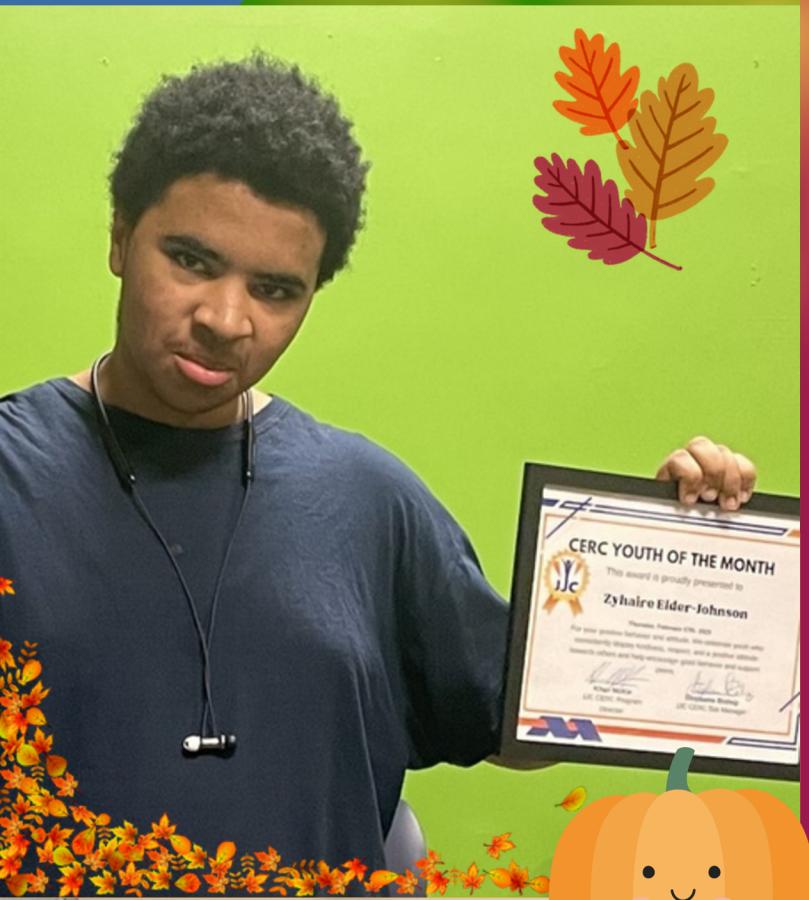
**Home Based Detention Services:** JJC's In-Home Detention (IHD) program, in partnership with Philadelphia Family Court, has served justice-involved youth for over 30 years by providing intensive home-based case management and mentorship. Youth spend up to 22.5 hours per week with a dedicated case worker, engaging in one-on-one and group sessions focused on goal setting, life skills, leadership, education, employment readiness, cultural awareness, community service, and character building to address underlying issues and support positive development.

**Intensive Prevention Services:** JJC's Intensive Prevention Services (IPS), launched in 2011, serves youth ages 10-19 who are at risk of drifting into delinquency by providing in-home family counseling, site-based programming, and community service engagement. Offered four times a week, the program partners with schools, diversionary programs, and police districts to reduce the school-to-prison pipeline, while teaching life skills, character development, and the 7 C's curriculum—competency, connections, coping, compassion, character, control, and confidence.

**Parent Empowerment Program:** JJC's Parent Empowerment Program is designed to empower parents of all ages to build their confidence and competency skills as parents. The mission of the program is to help parents recognize and respond lovingly and appropriately to their children's developmental needs at various ages and stages of child development. Our classes are designed to strengthen the relationship between parents and their children and reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.

**Truancy Intervention and Prevention Services:** JJC provides a rapid three tier intervention and prevention service to children and youth that have been identified as being truant or at risk of being truant from school. JJC provides case management services to families whose children are experiencing problems with attending school on a regular and consistent basis. Our case managers work within schools in the Northwest region of Philadelphia. JJC truancy case managers work in collaboration with the identified schools, the Department of Human Services, and Regional Truancy Court to help eliminate the barriers impacting school attendance and adhering to Pennsylvania's Act 138.

# Youth Spotlight: Zyhaire Elder-Johnson



Zyhaire has been a shining star in our program, showing incredible leadership, teamwork, and dedication every single day. From actively participating in workshops and activities to helping out staff and peers whenever needed, Zyhaire embodies what CERC is all about - support, growth, and community!

We appreciate your positive energy and commitment to making CERC a welcoming space for everyone! Zyhaire says he would like to be a motivational speaker and we know that he will be successful in reaching his goals! Keep shining, Zyhaire!

# Youth Spotlight: Ayanna



Ayanna, a determined young woman from Philadelphia , just walked across the stage to receive her high school diploma – a moment she once thought might never come. Growing up, she faced more than her fair share of challenges: personal hardships, academic setbacks, and the weight of responsibilities far beyond her years. There were days when giving up seemed easier, but Ayanna refused to let her circumstances define her future. With late nights of studying, the unwavering support of a few loved ones, and a deep belief that she was meant for more, she pushed through every obstacle. Her graduation is more than just a milestone – it's a symbol of resilience, strength, and the power of perseverance. Now, with her cap and gown put away, Ayanna is ready to step boldly into the next chapter of her life, proving to herself and others that no dream is too far out of reach.





## JJC IN THE COMMUNITY

JJC employees were out and about in the community in September helping to support two fall festivals, The Men Who Care of Germantown and the Family Literacy Fair!



# Kelly Laysears AERC Program Director

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



We are proud to announce that Kelly Laysears, Director of our Aftercare Evening Reporting Center (AERC), has been chosen by the Widger Family Foundation as an Emerging Leader.

When Kelly first joined JJC, she did not imagine one day leading a team or directing a program. Over time, however, she has shown all the hallmarks of true leadership—curiosity, commitment, and a deep desire to help the youth she serves. Her steady quest for growth, along with her dedication to helping young men become productive citizens, has made her stand out in remarkable ways.

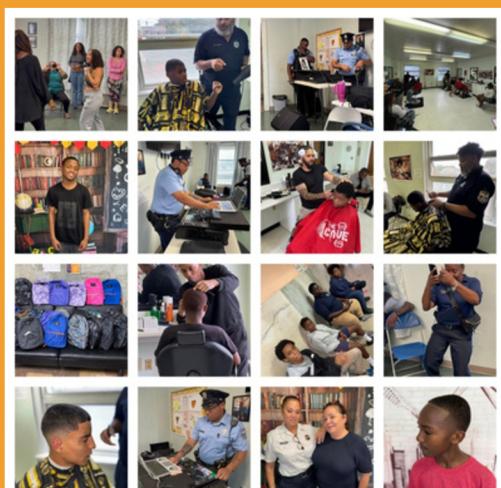
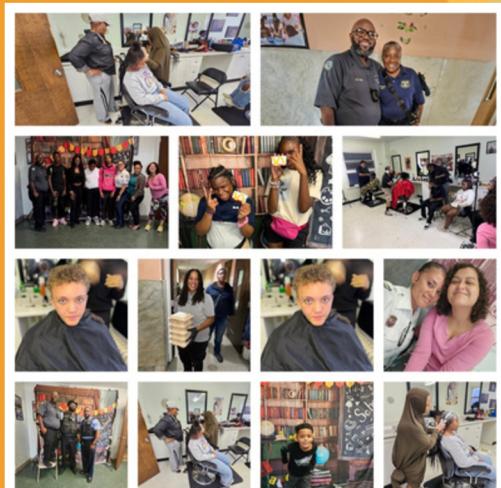
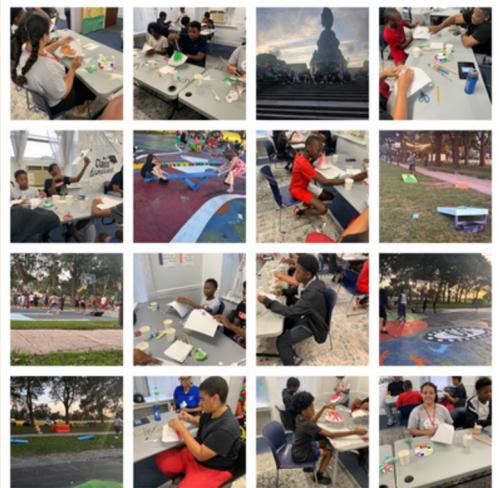
Through this recognition, Kelly will embark on executive leadership workshops and connect with other nonprofit leaders, strengthening her skills, vision, and impact. In addition, the AERC program has been awarded \$25,000 from the Widger Family Foundation to be used toward programming, youth needs, and creating more opportunities for success after discharge.

This honor affirms what we at JJC already know: Kelly is inspiring, determined, and deeply committed to her work. We are truly grateful for the recognition of the Widger Family Foundation and look forward to seeing Kelly continue to grow—both as a leader and in advancing the AERC program she so passionately guides.

# Photo Gallery



From fishing 🎣, to Eakins Oval for movie night 🎥, to no bake cheesecake 🍰😊 and the Back to School party 🎉🎶  
— our CERC kiddos had a blast this summer! 🌟  
Check out the photo highlights below! 📸📱





Scan the QR  
Code to  
Donate Today!



**DONATE** ❤

Make a Difference Today

At JJC Family Services, every contribution fuels our mission to uplift youth and families across Philadelphia. From after-school programs and mentorship to community events and essential resources, your support helps us provide a safe space, build brighter futures, and create lasting change.

>Your donation isn't just a gift—it's an investment in hope, resilience, and opportunity. Join us in strengthening our community, one child and one family at a time.

## WAYS TO DONATE

Support JJC — Your Way

There are many ways you can help us continue serving youth and families across Philadelphia:

- **Online Donations:** Give securely through our website with just a few clicks.
- **By Mail:** Send a check payable to JJC of Philadelphia directly to our office.
- **In-Kind Contributions:** Donate new coats, sneakers, school supplies, or other essential items for our drives.
- **Sponsorships & Partnerships:** Collaborate with us to support programs, events, and community outreach.
- **Workplace Giving & Matching Gifts:** Double your impact by checking if your employer matches charitable contributions.

No matter how you give, every contribution directly supports our mission to empower young people and strengthen families.