



**NATIONAL
CONFLICT
RESOLUTION
CENTER™**

Avoiding the Pipeline to Prison

Alternatives for Youth



AVOIDING THE PIPELINE

WHAT

The Pipeline to Prison refers to the policies and practices that push the nation's youth, especially ethnic and racial minorities, out of the classrooms through suspension and expulsion, and onto the streets, leading them all too often into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. It also includes those youth who enter the juvenile justice system as a result of a criminal act. NCRC interrupts this pipeline, redirecting young people to productive and positive life paths. It helps them understand the impact of their actions and allows them to make appropriate restitution.

WHO

The program benefits youth at risk of becoming enmeshed in the juvenile justice system, including those who have already committed a crime, or who have been involved in a major disciplinary incident at school.

WHY

Youth who lack decision-making skills and engage in bad behavior often wind up in trouble at school or with the police. NCRC's program provides these youth with the skills to make better decisions, as well as a way for these teens to stay out of the Pipeline to Prison, and get back on track. NCRC's method addresses the roots of the problem. Offering young people the opportunity to be part of the solution gives them the chance to practice more positive decision-making and prevents negative behavior.

HOW

Through partnerships with schools, juvenile justice organizations, and government agencies, NCRC has instituted a comprehensive program to remove youth from the Pipeline to Prison. The program has had tremendous success by:

- Providing communication trainings that teach positive techniques for managing conflict;
- Intervening through a mediation process, when disputes arise that cannot be dealt with informally;
- Providing alternatives to suspension and expulsion ;
- Preventing formal involvement in the juvenile justice system, through an alternative community based restorative process that allows the youth to repair the harm caused to the victim and build relationships within the community; and,
- Helping youth who are reentering school after a suspension, expulsion, or incarceration in juvenile hall to stay in school.

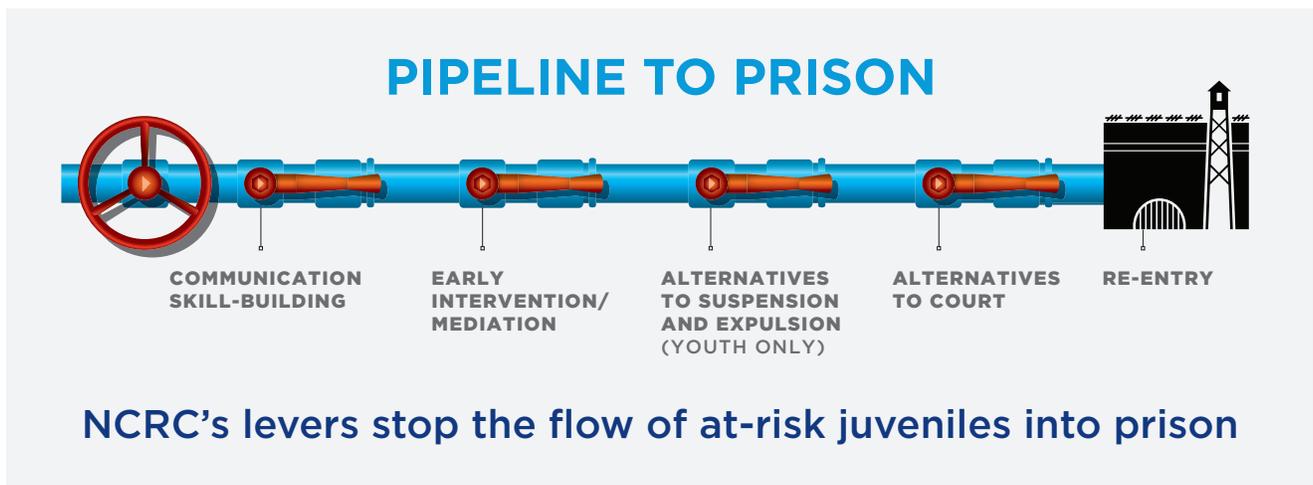
OUTCOMES

- Youth will remain in schools and not be consigned to the streets where they are more likely to be drawn into criminal activity.
- Youth will reflect on their offending behavior and come to understand its impact. Crime will decrease; incarceration of youth will decrease.

RESULTS

The Avoiding the Pipeline to Prison program has seen overwhelmingly positive results, including:

- 80% of all mediations result in an agreement;
- 60% reduction in the number of students expelled or suspended since the inception of this program; and,
- 95% of youth, who participate in the restorative process after becoming involved with law enforcement, complete a restitution plan under the guidance and mentorship of NCRC staff and volunteers and face no formal criminal charges.



ABOUT



With a budget of \$3.7 million, NCRC depends on the generosity of the community to fund this important initiative. NCRC's impact is deep and life changing, this year reaching nearly 10,000 people. The partnerships we create with our donors enable transformative, positive community change.

BULLIED GIRL FINDS HER VOICE



Lilianna was a new student at Morse High School in Southeastern San Diego. Being the new girl is always difficult, and Lilianna had an even tougher time because she did not understand the social mores on the new campus. Lilianna stood out so badly that she soon became the target of bullying.

Michelle, a student at Morse known to stir up trouble, had a large group of friends. These friends noticed that Lilianna did not fit in, and

began targeting her. Known for being a good fighter, Michelle felt pressured and compelled by the other girls to fight Lilianna.

Michelle did initiate a fight with Lilianna and as a result, both girls ended up injured and in trouble. They received a referral from the school to work with NCRC, talk about the incident, and fix the harm they had caused.

Along with their families, school faculty, and community members, Lilianna and Michelle met to resolve their conflict and determine how to move ahead in a positive, forward-looking manner.

Michelle took responsibility for the fight and apologized to Lilianna and her family. She opened up, saying that she did not have an adult at home to talk to, and that her friends encouraged her to misbehave. Michelle decided that she could volunteer in the community and develop a bullying awareness training for schools. Michelle also stopped spending time with her former friends.

Both Lilianna and Michelle reported that the meeting was a positive experience. Neither girl felt blamed for the fight, and both felt their voices had been heard. Michelle is now spending time with a healthier group of friends, and Lilianna has moved on to a new school for a fresh start.

“Lilianna and Michelle met to resolve their conflict and determine how to move ahead in a positive, forward-looking manner.”

YOUNG MAN REDEEMED

Mike is a 17 year old who had a tough childhood. His mother was addicted to drugs and from a very early age, Mike had to fend for himself, often stealing what he needed to survive.

One day Mike was riding the trolley with his friends and saw Gwen, an elderly lady, with her purse on the seat beside her. He noticed she was not paying attention to him or her purse. When the train stopped, Mike jumped up, grabbed Gwen's purse and exited the trolley. To Mike's surprise, Gwen jumped up to give chase, yelling for help. Two men on bikes heard her, chased Mike, and tackled him. Mike was subsequently arrested for stealing.

After a few weeks had passed, Gwen felt that talking to Mike and forgiving him would be best for him and would allow her to move on. Concurrently, Mike felt regret for what he did, and wanted to apologize to Gwen in person. However, neither of them knew how to get in touch and start the conversation.

Mike's probation officer referred him to NCRC, allowing him to be a part of the plan for his rehabilitation, including completing restitution to Gwen. NCRC arranged for Mike and Gwen to meet. This service is offered in place of traditional juvenile justice proceedings. The meeting was set to address what had happened and help both determine how to move forward.



At the meeting, Mike apologized to Gwen. He shared that he had considered how he would feel if this had happened to his grandmother, and the thought made him very unhappy. He admitted he wanted money from Gwen's purse to buy new shoes. Gwen told Mike that if he turned his life around now, he could have a bright future.

Gwen also wanted to meet with Mike so that she could forgive him, an act of great importance to her. She wanted to see Mike turn his life around, so that he could be successful and would not continue to steal from others.

Mike is now completing his GED, and has secured a job in the construction industry. What's more, Mike's mom is engaging in family counselling to help heal the damage caused by her addiction. NCRC staff followed up with Mike throughout this process, ensuring he had the resources he needed to be successful, including a volunteer mentor. As a result of his efforts, all criminal charges against Mike were dropped, allowing him to continue on a positive path.

FUNDING

Total Expenses (2014-2018)	\$4,500,000
Committed as of 8/1/2015	\$2,786,188
Additional support needed	\$1,713,812



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- \$300** provides training for one young person in critical decision making skills
- \$1,000** underwrites early intervention mediation services for a troubled youth
- \$2,500** allows NCRC to teach school administrators alternative approaches to discipline for an entire academic year
- \$5,000** helps a troubled child remain in school through the use of alternatives to suspension, expulsion and/or court
- \$15,000** funds training for all faculty and staff at a single campus in alternative approaches to school discipline
- \$70,000** doubles the number of young people NCRC can help by adding an additional program facilitator

PARTNERS



D.W. HEARST, JR. FOUNDATION



SAN DIEGO COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION





NATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER™

There is a Solution.

Since 1983, the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC) has been empowering people and transforming cultures.

Whether on a college campus, in the community, or in a business, NCRC has a conflict resolution service designed to reveal the common ground among any controversy. There is a solution to every problem, and we can help find it.

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