

## Crawford County Community Service Youth Correspond with Wounded Vets

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nator

Saying thanks for protecting our freedom and for sacrificing so much, the children of the Crawford County Juvenile Probation Community Service Program sent nearly a thousand Christmas cards, with personal letters in each, to hospitalized vets at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. The veterans were recovering from wounds received in Iraq and Afghanistan. The cards were donated by various businesses in the county.

Forty community service youth signed cards and enclosed letters of thanks, best wishes and personal stories of their own family members in the military that the youth composed themselves—with only limited supervision. Some of the children wrote about how they would like to serve in the military when they became old enough to enlist. The children were encouraged to send their names and addresses if they wished for a possible pen pal relationship.

An excerpt from just one of those letters reads.....

*"I am writing to thank you for serving our country and protecting our freedoms. My father served for ten years in the United States Air Force. He was a jet engine mechanic. My 20-year-old cousin Karl just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq.*

*I think that it is important to support and thank our veterans and soldiers because if it weren't for them we wouldn't have the freedom we have today. So, I would like to personally thank you for putting your life on the line for my family, my friends and me.*

*I thank you for your many years of service. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."*

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## 2008 JCJC Awards Program

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 JCJC Awards Program. This year, the award categories will include:

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR- honors any public or private sector program serving alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth in a residential setting.

COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAM OF THE YEAR- honors any public or private sector program which provides community-based non-residential services to alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

JCJC MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD- honors a volunteer who works with alleged and/or adjudicated delinquent youth.

JCJC VICTIM ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD- honors an individual who works on behalf of crime victims as a victim advocate in county government or in a community-based agency.

JUVENILE COURT SUPPORT SERVICE AWARD – honors an individual who provides secretarial support services to the juvenile court.

JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER

JUVENILE PROBATION SUPERVISOR

CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER

Chief Juvenile Probation Officers may nominate programs or employees for all of the aforementioned award categories. However, individuals must be nominated from the county in which they are employed, and **all nominations must be submitted by county juvenile probation departments.** Providers may contact chief juvenile probation officers in an effort to have a program nominated. **Nominations must be postmarked by April 25, 2008.**

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission will also once again sponsor a **Youth Awards Program** to honor the youth selected as winners in the Poster, Creative Written Expression and Outstanding Achievement Contests. The Awards Committee encourages all juvenile justice professionals to

present the awards theme and requirements to all youth under your jurisdiction for participation in the contest. **Youth Awards materials must be postmarked by May 9, 2008.**

Thank you for your interest and support of the 2008 JCJC Awards Program. Please contact [Arlene L. Prentice](#) at (717) 783-7836 if you have any questions or desire additional information. Visit the [JCJC website](#) to download Youth Awards materials and view conference updates.

## Governor Proposes FY 2008-09 Executive Budget

Governor Rendell presented his proposed FY '08-'09 Executive Budget to the General Assembly on February 5, 2008. The Governor's Executive Budget includes funding for the regular Grant-In-Aid and Specialized Probation Services appropriations at the FY '07-'08 levels of \$5,918,000 and \$13,793,000 respectively. The Governor's Executive Budget requests an appropriation of \$2,544,000 for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) personnel and agency operations, an increase of \$144,000 from FY 2007-08. The proposed operational budget represents only 9.7% of the proposed general fund appropriation for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University.

Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by email or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs.

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# Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rules on Allegheny County Search and Seizure Case

On December 27, 2007, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held, in the case of [In the Interest of J.E., A Minor, 937 A.2d 421 \(Pa. Supreme 2007\)](#), that a juvenile probation officer did not have “reasonable suspicion,” as required by §6304 (a.1) of the Juvenile Act, to conduct a warrantless search of a juvenile and his immediate surroundings. The Supreme Court concluded that, while in general, probationers and parolees have a diminished expectation of privacy, and even when a consent to search form has been signed, such consent applies only when supported by reasonable suspicion that the probationer possessed contraband or other evidence of a probation violation.

Under §6304 (a.1)(4)(i), a personal search of a child may be conducted by any probation officer if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the child possesses contraband or other evidence of violations of the conditions of supervision. A personal search may also be conducted when a child is transported or taken into custody, or when a child enters or leaves a detention center, institution or other facility for alleged or adjudicated delinquent children.

The term “personal search” is defined under § 6304 (c) as a warrantless search of a child’s person, including, but not limited to, the child’s clothing and any personal property which is in the possession, within the reach or under control of the child.

On February 10, 2005, a juvenile probation officer, along with several other juvenile probation officers and police officers, arrived at a residence with an arrest warrant in search of J.E.’s stepbrother who had failed to appear for a hearing. The officers, upon entering the house, found J.E. in his bedroom sitting on a bed watching television. J.E., who was also on probation, was asked to stand up. The probation officer conducted a pat-down search of J.E. to ensure the officers’ safety. During the pat-down search, it was noted that J.E. appeared very nervous and was shaking. The probation officer believed J.E. was hiding something so he lifted up the mattress on the bed and found a gun, which was seized.

J.E. was charged with possession of a firearm by a minor and possession of a firearm without a license. Following the filing of the charges, J.E.

filed a motion to suppress the gun as evidence. The probation officer testified, at the hearing on the motion, that he was the probation officer in charge of warrants for the county and knew J.E. was on juvenile probation, but that he had no prior dealing with J.E. or his brother. The probation officer also testified that all probationers are required to sign “Conditions of Probation”, which includes consent to search a probationer’s person at any time. The probation officer also testified that the fact that J.E. was shaking during the pat-down search was “a pretty good indication that somebody is trying to hide something.” The juvenile probation officer further testified that he heard from an informant that J.E. may have been involved in a shooting, although he could not articulate who specifically provided this information to him. The motion made by J.E. to suppress the gun was subsequently denied by the trial court.

J.E. was adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm by a minor and possession of a firearm without a license, and found to be in violation of probation. He was committed to a Youth Forestry Camp.

J.E. appealed, and the Superior Court held, in [In the Interest of J.E., 907 A.2d 1114 \(Pa. Super 2006\)](#), that the trial court erred in denying the motion to suppress the gun, as the juvenile probation officer lacked reasonable suspicion that J.E. had engaged in criminal activity or was in violation of his probation. The Superior Court reversed the trial court’s commitment order and remanded the case. The Commonwealth appealed the Superior Court’s decision, and the Supreme Court subsequently granted the petition for allowance of appeal.

In affirming the decision of the Superior Court, the Supreme Court concluded that § 6304 of the Juvenile Act requires reasonable suspicion that a probationer possesses contraband or other evidence of a probation violation. The Supreme Court noted specifically that the officers made no observation of suspicious behavior on J.E.’s part prior to commencing the search. The Court further noted that the fact that J.E. began shaking after the search commenced cannot be deemed part of the suspicious conduct necessary for the search in the first place.

## *Highlights of the 2006 Disposition Report*

- The 43,939 delinquency dispositions in Pennsylvania in 2006 represent a 3.4 % decrease from 2005. Probation continues to be the most frequently utilized disposition, representing 18.4% of all delinquency dispositions, followed in descending order by Consent Decree (17.1%), Informal Adjustment (15.6%), Placement (8.4%), Complaint Withdrawn (7.6%), Fines/Costs (7.4%), Warned/Counseled/Case Closed (5.5%). (See pages 3 and 4)
- Delinquency placements to private institutions, including those resulting from disposition reviews, comprised 38.1 % of the 7,421 total delinquency placements in 2006, followed in descending order by placements to drug and alcohol programs (11.8%), boot camps (11.6%) and group homes (11.1%). (See page 23)
- Juvenile court dispositions in Pennsylvania continue to primarily involve males. In 2006, males accounted for 76.1 % of all juvenile court dispositions, 81.0 % of probation dispositions, 87.5 % of dispositions involving placement, and 98.1 % of transfers to criminal court. (See page 39)
- Of the 33,449 juvenile delinquency dispositions involving males in 2006, 48.8% involved White, Non-Hispanic youth, and 39.9% involved Black, Non-Hispanic youth. Similarly, of the 10,489 dispositions involving females, 48.9% involved White, Non-Hispanic youth and 39.4% involved Black, Non-Hispanic youth. (See pages 41-44)
- In Pennsylvania, the majority of the 43,939 delinquency dispositions involved White youth (57.1%), followed in descending order by Black youth (41.4%) and Asian youth (0.7%). (See page 45)
- 25.4% of the 43,939 delinquency dispositions in 2006 involved seventeen year olds, followed in descending order by sixteen year olds (21.8%) and fifteen year olds (18.0%). (See page 51)
- 20% of delinquency dispositions in 2006 reported a family status of the biological parents of Married, while 55.8% reported a family status of the biological parents of Never Married or Divorced. (See page 59)
- 19.5% of delinquency dispositions in 2006 reported the juvenile living with both parents, while 43.9% reported the juvenile living with only the mother. (See page 61)

\*Note regarding Philadelphia dispositions: The reader is cautioned when comparing the figures presented in this report to the figures presented in the 2003 "Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions." Dispositions reported by Philadelphia in 2003 as case reviews that resulted in probation or placement, were included in the 2003 data as dispositions of new referrals to more accurately reflect the court process. This adjustment should be taken into consideration when comparing 2003 data to that of other years.

## Staff Development News

As we continue to move forward into the CJJT&R Spring 2008 Training Schedule, several programs are expected to reach capacity based on the early return of registrations. However, there are other promising training opportunities, many of which are entirely new to the Center's training agenda, which have space to accommodate additional registrants. In fact, eleven of the programs involve new trainers or content designs never before offered by the Center. We hope that seasoned veteran staff, who may be searching for new and different training opportunities, will consider attending one of these new workshop offerings.

Our new web-based registration system simplifies the registration process (including adding or modifying registrations). Please note: we are forced to make decisions on moving forward with programs or cancelling them based on registration response, four to six weeks prior to the start of each workshop. Therefore, waiting too long to sign up for a program may result in a cancellation. With this in mind, we urge you to register as early as possible!

Among the early workshops that have additional room are:

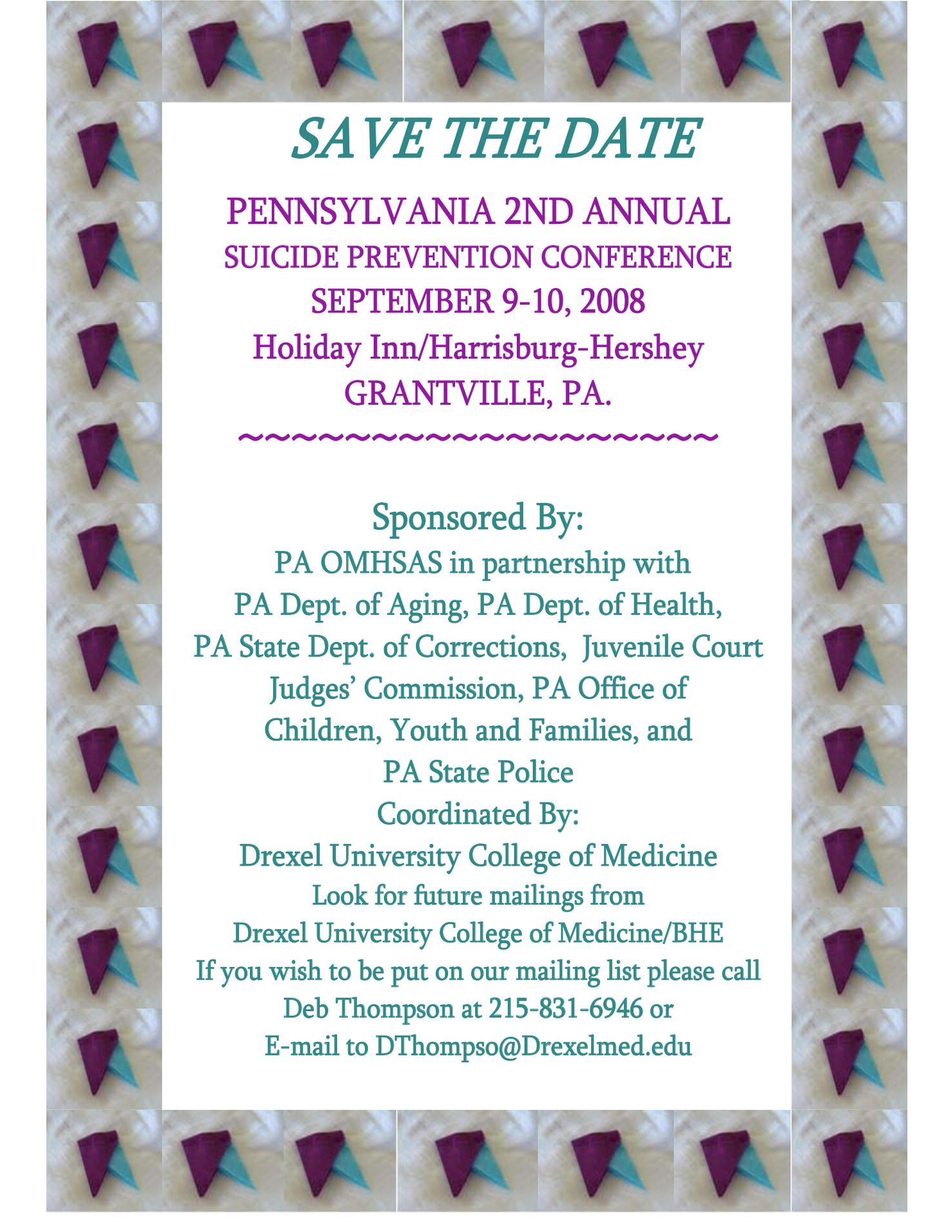
"Beyond Awareness and Sensitivity: Culturally Competent Juvenile Justice Professionals" will be led by Daniel Welliver on March 6-7, 2008 at the Days Inn Penn State. Daniel Welliver is currently Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Juniata College. Prior to that, he served for eight years as Director of the Division of Education and Community Services for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Daniel brings a rich personal and professional background to his cultural competency training – including working with youth and families in very racially, ethnically, economically and religiously diverse communities. Utilizing a wide variety of stimuli and activities, this will be a highly interactive workshop in which participants can enhance intercultural skills.

Barbara Ulmer, who has twenty-five years experience working with juveniles and their families as an inpatient counselor, juvenile probation officer, outpatient therapist, and family therapist at the Lancaster County Juvenile Probation Department, will lead two sessions entitled "Adolescent Mental Health and Intervention Strategies". The first program will be held on March 27-28, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Lehigh Valley, PA. The second session will be held on April 8-9, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh in Monroeville, PA. This workshop is designed to highlight and examine some of the most salient mental health difficulties/diagnoses and accompanying behaviors/symptoms that helpers are likely to see in their work with adolescents.

On April 2-3, 2008 at the Days Inn Penn State, Douglas Ramm & Jeremy Olson will lead a program entitled "Enhancing Decision-making Competencies with the Facts of Life Seminar". *The Facts of Life Seminar* is a program designed to develop the capacity to act on principle and motivate adolescents to do what's right when making choices in daily living. Douglas R. Ramm, Ph.D. is a board certified clinical psychologist who has been working with juvenile offenders for nearly 30 years. Jeremy Olson, MS, is a former Juvenile Probation Officer who served on the first DACUM panel for JCJC and CJJT&R, helping to develop requirements of competencies, skills, and expectations for practitioners in the field of juvenile justice. In addition to working with Dr. Ramm on *The Facts of Life Seminar*, Mr. Olson is a certified private practice mediator and an adjunct Professor of Psychology at Seton Hill University.

"Advanced Skills for Assessment, Treatment, and Supervision of Youth Who Sexually Act Out and Offend" will be led by Jane Yeatter, MHS, MS, LPC, on April 3-4, 2008 at the Days Inn Penn State. Jane has been working with youth and adults who sexually offend since the mid-1980s. She is a Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider since 1998 and has been a Clinical Member of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) since 1999. Jane was first appointed to the Sex Offender Assessment Board in December, 2001 and she has continued to complete assessments for the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole under the law commonly known as Megan's Law. This workshop is designed for probation

*Staff development cont'd on page 7*



# *SAVE THE DATE*

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## **Models for Change Survey Results Show Public Support for Juvenile Justice Reform**

The results of a recent survey commissioned by the Center for Children's Law and Policy as part of the MacArthur Foundation's *Models for Change* initiative, show that the public supports efforts to rehabilitate juvenile offenders rather than incarcerating them in adult jails. The surveys were conducted in the four *Models for Change* states: Pennsylvania, Illinois, Washington and Louisiana.

The results of the survey revealed that the public has faith in a young person's ability to change, in spite of past criminal behavior. The results also show that the public supports the transfer of state dollars from incarceration costs to programs that assist youth in developing skills which would enable them to become productive citizens. Moreover, providing treatment and other services to youth was viewed as a much more effective rehabilitative effort than incarceration. Housing non-violent youth in large residential programs, far from home, was viewed unfavorably; there was support for community-based services and small local residential programs for these offenders.

A majority of the respondents believe that the system treats minorities and low-income youth unfairly in situations where they are arrested for the same offense. The public favors developing programs for these youth, including the development of programs to overcome language barriers for Hispanic youth. Click here for [survey results](#).

*Crawford County cont'd from page 1*

This is yet another example of a creative application of community service that embodies restorative justice principles by having youth perform work that emphasizes civic responsibility, is perceived as having value, and is meaningful in that they can feel good about what they have done.

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staff who have completed the "Building a Foundation for Work with Youth who Sexually Act Out and/or Offend" workshop (presented in Allentown and Monroeville in October 2007) as a prerequisite. At the completion of this workshop, participants will be able to: identify multiple risk factors for sexual recidivism; Demonstrate knowledge of risk assessment tools and processes; demonstrate knowledge of the role of the probation officer in assessing risk, as well as supervising youth in treatment and working with treatment staff; and, identify a variety of specialized interventions and approaches related to the supervision and monitoring of youth who have sexually offended.

For more information on these and other Center sponsored training programs, hotel rates and information, and to register, please visit the [Commission's website](#), and then click on "Training".

