

June 2005

YTFG Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 5

Spotlight on AGING OUT Documentary

Aging Out, a documentary chronicling the obstacles veterans of foster care experience when leaving the foster care system, premiered on PBS on May 16, 2005. In the documentary, vulnerable youth courageously tell their stories, and encourage the audience to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the public systems in which these youth are involved. Did you miss the documentary? [Click here](#) for a listing of the next showing in your area. You can also order a tape of the documentary online. **Aging Out** was produced with support from **Jim Casey Youth in Opportunities Initiative, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Casey Family Programs**, which are three YTFG member institutions.

Learning By Connections

This month, YTFG launched its **Learning By Connection s: A Teleconference Series for Funders** with a panel discussion on the "school-to-prison pipeline" that young men of color disproportionately run up against. **Constancia Warren** of Carnegie Corporation of New York

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

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Out-of-School Youth/Struggling Students

Denver's Rocky Mountain News released a special report of the graduation gap in Denver's high schools. The report suggests that youth who dropped out of high school cost society approximately \$200,000 each. Further, gaps persisted when disaggregating the statistics by ethnicity. For a copy of the special report, [click here](#).

Education on Lockdown, a report of the Advancement Project, shows the growing trend of schools turning to law enforcement and juvenile courts for minor disciplinary matters -- administering a double dose of punishment. The report examines the schoolhouse to jailhouse track in three sites; there are commonalities: students are arrested for minor acts, and Black and Latino students are disproportionately impacted by these practices. Please go to www.advancementproject.org for more information.

The Civil Rights Project at Harvard just released "Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis in the South." [Click here](#) to access the report online.

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Juvenile Justice

The Juvenile Justice Work Group released **A Platform for Juvenile Justice Reform** this month. This **Platform for Juvenile Justice Reform** portrays the array of

Corporation of New York and **Rosa Smith** of the Schott Foundation for Public Education were the featured guests. **K.C. Burton** of The Annie E. Casey Foundation served as the moderator. This teleconference was co-sponsored by **Grantmakers for Children, Youth & Families (GCYF)**. For more information on the teleconference, www.ytfg.org. YTFG extends a special thanks to GCYF for co-sponsoring the event. For more information on GCYF, go to www.gcyf.org.

Next YTFG Meeting in November 2005

Mark your calendars! The November meeting for YTFG action group members will include an evening dinner on Wednesday, November 16th, and an action group session on Thursday, November 17th. The Meyer Foundation will serve as the host institution.

If you are a GENERAL MEMBER of YTFG and would like to learn more about criteria for action group membership, please email Lisa McGill at lmcgill@ytfg.org for more details.

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Investing to make sure that all youth are

for Juvenile Justice Reform portrays the array of exciting opportunities to help improve the administration of justice for youth across the country. It highlights jurisdictions promoting innovative reforms and partnerships between foundations and public systems. It also provides a partial list of resources in the field. [Click here](#) for a copy of A Platform for Juvenile Justice Reform.

The Juvenile Justice Work Group will co-sponsor a membership briefing on why foundations should care about reforming the juvenile justice system on June 10, 2005, at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York. For more information, go to the YTFG calendar at www.ytfg.org/events.html.

Foster Youth

According to the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study, foster alumni suffer higher rates of depression, panic disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder than their peers. For more information on the findings, [click here](#).

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Cross-Cutting Issues

YTFG held its first meeting of 2005 at the Hotel Monaco in San Francisco, May 10-13th. The meeting included presentations on structural racism and how it impacts youth in juvenile justice, foster care, and public schools from James Bell (W. Haywood Burns Institute) and Karen Fulbright-Anderson (Aspen Institute). The meeting also included interactive discussions on how structural racism impacts the funding strategies of YTFG members and key partners, and how YTFG can focus on solutions. Karen Fulbright-Anderson provided copies of the latest edition of the **Structural Racism and Youth** report from the Roundtable on Community Change, which can be ordered at www.aspeninstitute.org. Short meeting notes are available to YTFG members by [clicking here](#). YTFG action group members can access meeting highlights and presentations by [clicking here](#) (password required).

In May, YTFG introduced **Beyond the Tunnel Problem: Addressing Cross-Cutting Issues that Impact Vulnerable Youth** as our briefing paper series for 2005. This series examines how the systems of public education, juvenile justice, and child welfare can work in better coordination to

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address the needs of youth who are often impacted by more than one system at a time. The series provides information on the scope of the "tunnel problem" and recommendations for how funders and policymakers can support better collaboration between systems and youth-serving organizations at the federal, state, and local levels. The series is sponsored by Youth Transition Funders Group in partnership with The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Briefing Paper #1 is written by Tim Ross and Joel Miller. Tim and Joel are researchers at the Vera Institute in New York, New York. [Click here](#) for a downloadable copy of the Briefing Paper #1. Check out the YTFG website, www.ytfg.org, for the second installment to the series in late June 2005.

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Full Links for Featured Information:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/agingout/index-hi.html>

http://www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/research/dropouts/dropouts_south05.php

http://www.ytfg.org/documents/Platform_Juvenile_Justice.pdf

http://www.ytfg.org/documents/Beyond_the_Tunnel_Problem_1.pdf