

Every day is a new day



Northern Regional Juvenile Center A Public Report

NRJC residents return to visit or contact us, sometimes years after their time here:

- *Reporting that they have finished college and are starting careers;*
- *Telling us about their experiences in service to their country;*
- *Confiding that after time in adult prisons, they are employed, married, and on the road to a better life.*

The **Northern Regional Juvenile Center** is a program of Youth Services System. The Northern Regional Juvenile Center (NRJC), through a contract with the Division of Juvenile Services, West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety (MAPS), primarily serves Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzell, and Tyler Counties. The NRJC has 29 employees. Opening in 1986, this juvenile center has served **3752** youth in just the past 15 years. The Northern Regional Juvenile Center is unique in that we are the only private, non-profit juvenile center in the state.

During Fiscal Year 2012 (July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012), we served 161 youth—120 boys and 41 girls. The youth came from 13 different counties, 98 youth from the six Northern Panhandle Counties. Others came from Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Harrison, Mineral, Jackson and Wood Counties.

The Northern Regional Juvenile Center is here to serve our communities, our families, and our children. Our communities have a safe, nearby facility for youth charged with a crime. Families have a setting where they can be in contact with their children, meet with them, and join them for monthly family dinners and other activities. Children find a structured environment where adults work with them on their education, their behavior, and their lives. Without the NRJC, northern panhandle youth would be served by the nearest existing juvenile centers in Parkersburg, Salem, Davis, or Martinsburg West Virginia.

Youth at the NRJC attend school every day, year round, like their peers in public juvenile centers. Our work with each boy or girl centers around their education and giving them skills and opportunities during their stay with us. Our motto is that “Every day is a new day” – an opportunity to begin anew and to build a future that is different than and better than their past.

During the past fiscal year, 12 NRJC students received their GEDs and another graduated from high school. One student is being considered for a GED scholarship—he missed just one question on his test. NRJC students engage in community service work: for the past year, they have made 55 cards each month for local Meals-on-Wheels participants.

We make use of evidence-based programs like:

- ◆ Thinking for A Change which uses cognitive behavioral therapy as the basis for changing behavior in a positive way.
- ◆ Aggression Replacement Training is a program recognized by the federal Office of Ju

venile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This program helps teach pro-social skills they will need to relate to others, to express differences respectfully, and to listen.

- ◆ Students' strengths and needs, and those of their families, may be assessed through West Virginia's Comprehensive Assessment and Planning System (CAPS) assessment while they are with us.

Community partnerships benefit NRJC students and extend the community's care to them. Among our partners:

- ◆ Wheeling Symphony—a Wheeling Symphony musician offers music lessons weekly;
- ◆ Wheeling Jesuit University—twice a month, WJU students hold groups with NRJC students and spend time with them;
- ◆ Christian Fellowship Foundation—assistance with materials, exercise equipment and religious materials and programs;
- ◆ Banuum House—a program for federal parolees—sends their participants to talk with youth about the consequences they have faced for their actions;
- ◆ Harmony House educates them on child abuse, neglect, and its consequences;
- ◆ Sexual Assault Help Center talks with youth about date rape, relationships, and sexual assault;
- ◆ Prayer Hill Church of God offers religious services;
- ◆ River Hills Christian Bible Church also provides religious services;
- ◆ YWCA is working with youth on the issues of diversity, tolerance, and understanding.
- ◆ We offered 3 Vacation Bible Schools to interested students during the summer

These youth, from 12-21 years old, are a part of our communities. Their stay at NRJC varies depending on a youth's charges. Upon discharge, youth either go home or to a placement determined by the court system. Our goal is to support their positive behavior and accomplishments while they are with us and give them tools for their future when they rejoin their community.

