

LETTER FROM THE CEO

2022 was a year of growth for Justice Forward. We added members to our team, counties to our roster, and partners to our expanding network. Here is an overview of our tremendous progress:

Personnel: In February, we were fortunate to hire Leah Dozier as my Executive Assistant, and she turned out to be so much more. Incredibly organized and a natural with our clients, she surpassed her job requirements. In the hire of the century, former Board Member Mary Covington retired from Harris County and joined our team as Program Director in [September](#). Mary was instrumental in founding the Harris County Specialty Courts and has quickly proven herself an invaluable champion of Justice Forward.

Counties: We officially announced our presence in Galveston County in [March](#) at a press conference with Judge John Ellisor of the HOPE Drug Court and Judge Wayne Mallia of the Felony Mental Health Court, along with successful graduates and clients of each program. A few months later, we assembled an impressive Galveston Advisory Board, including County Commissioner Darrel Apfell, former District Attorney Mike Guarino, and other influential community members.

In [November](#), we announced our expansion into Fort Bend County at a press conference attended by judges and District Attorney Brian Middleton. We committed to supporting the Felony Mental Health Court, the DWI Court, and the CORE Program.

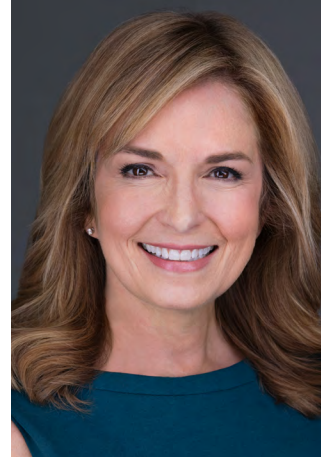
Partners: To support our clients and graduates, we seek new resources like safe and sober housing, excellent counselors, vocational programs, and second-chance

employers. We were incredibly proud to partner with [Menninger Clinic](#) in a pilot program providing grief and trauma counseling for Drug Court participants.

The Justice Forward team also co-founded the [Party Sober Partnership](#), a collaboration between 13 local nonprofits to provide fun, sober social events for individuals in the recovery and mental wellness communities to promote connection and long-term success. Since inception, we have hosted six events: two Sober Chili Cookoffs, the Rally for Recovery, and three family movie screenings.

Last year, Justice Forward expanded intentionally, carefully, and with one goal: to help as many people as possible. We placed clients in safe transitional housing, saving them from homelessness. We arranged trauma counseling for clients and graduates to learn productive coping strategies. We assisted with college tuition, GED testing, and vocational training to even the playing field for our clients. We gave our graduates a fighting chance at employment and housing by helping them clean up their criminal histories.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our donors and supporting foundations. As the number of courts we support continues to grow, so do the requests for assistance. Please consider a gift to Justice Forward today.



Devon Anderson

CEO and President, Justice Forward

OUR MISSION

Justice Forward breaks the cycle of incarceration and funds essential programs for individuals in Houston-area Specialty Courts to help them become independent and productive members of our community.

The first Strategic Alliance Initiative of its kind in Texas, Justice Forward is a collaborative effort to support clients in all 18 Harris County Specialty Courts in addition to courts in Fort Bend and Galveston counties. Our innovative program provides funds for transitional housing, counseling, transportation assistance, employment and education assistance, and other essential services that contribute to lowering recidivism rates and increasing family reunification rates, and in the process delivering fiscal savings to Texas taxpayers. Serving as a model for the nation, Justice Forward promotes collaboration among the courts as well as shared community resources.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS



7.6

YEARS
WORTH OF
TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING
PAID FOR



584

HOURS OF
COUNSELING
FUNDED
(\$70,118 SPENT)



\$12,228

IN TUITION
ASSISTANCE



3

FAMILIES
RELOCATED
AWAY FROM
GANGS
(\$2,290 SPENT)



9

CLIENTS
RECEIVED
EMERGENCY
HOUSING



25

BACKPACKS
WITH SCHOOL
SUPPLIES
DISTRIBUTED



275

BUS PASSES
DISTRIBUTED

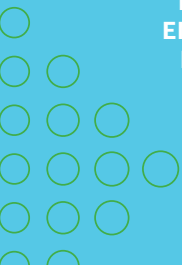


\$8,636

IN GIFT
CARDS

233

clients
served
in 2022



SPECIALTY COURTS WE SERVE

A Specialty Court is a problem-solving court designed to address the root causes of criminal activity and child neglect by providing a judicially supervised, individually crafted probation with mandated treatment. Specialty Courts bridge the gap between the justice system and therapeutic approaches for participants with drug dependencies, mental illness, and/or other societal challenges, with offenders receiving innovative and intensive individualized supervision and support from the court team and treatment providers.

HARRIS COUNTY

Felony Mental Health Court, which diverts defendants with a mental illness from incarceration while ensuring public safety and minimizing recidivism

Juvenile Specialty Courts

- **CARE Court**, which addresses the unique needs of youth who have been exploited in commercial sex trafficking
- **Court 360**, which addresses the unique needs of justice-involved youth with mental health issues
- **GRIP Court**, which focuses on eliminating delinquent conduct by reducing gang association in juveniles
- **SOAR Court**, which disrupts the patterns of drug use and abuse among youth 14 to 17 years of age

Positive Pathways Court, which assists parents and children impacted by substance use disorder and victimization

SOBER Court, which aims to reduce DWI recidivism by identifying and addressing the root cause(s) of clients' alcohol and drug abuse

STAR Drug Court, which treats non-violent, repeat drug offenders to reduce the costs of continuing drug abuse and possible future crimes

Veterans' Court, a pre-trial intervention program for clients arrested in Harris County who are Veterans of the armed forces



SPECIALTY COURTS WE SERVE

FORT BEND COUNTY

Mental Health Court is a collaborative, problem-solving arm of the Criminal Justice System in which individuals diagnosed with a mental illness or intellectual disability participate in a judicially supervised program monitored by the Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections Department. The goal of Mental Health Court is to reduce recidivism rates of those diagnosed with mental illness or intellectual disability and aid them in becoming stable. Judge J. Christian Becerra presides over Felony Mental Health Court in the 434th District Court.

DWI Court works with the goal of changing clients' behavior and effecting a reduction in DWI recidivism by identifying and addressing the root causes of the problem of abuse. It is an intervention for high-risk DWI offenders that includes a judicially monitored program of treatment and intensive community supervision within the Fort Bend County Criminal Justice System. The program is voluntary and participation is the client's personal choice. The DWI Court team guides and assists each client, but the final responsibility is the client's to learn and be motivated to make this change and commit to a sober and crime-free life.

CORE Court is Fort Bend County's court for sexually exploited juveniles. The mission of the program is to empower adolescents who have become or are at risk of human trafficking by providing healthy mentoring and support, professional counseling and educational activities designed to assist them in reclaiming their personal power over their circumstances, themselves and their future. The CORE program consists of specialized interventions developed for adolescents who demonstrate high-risk sexual behaviors and/or are survivors of sexual abuse, sex trafficking/victimization, as well as sexual trauma. Youth participating in the program receive weekly counseling from trained therapists, which includes individual, group, and family intervention services. Treatment interventions incorporate trauma-sensitive care, empowering adolescents and their families with the skills to acknowledge traumatic life events, process thoughts about those experiences, manage unhealthy belief systems, as well as resolve personal feelings related to the trauma.

GALVESTON COUNTY

H.O.P.E. Drug Court, a court-supervised treatment program for non-violent, repeat drug offenders with an addiction to drugs or alcohol. The mission of the Galveston County HOPE court program is to reduce recidivism, improve public safety, reduce costs associated with incarceration and re-arrest, and allow clients to move forward in their lives as a productive and successful member of their family, workforce, and the community.

Mental Health Court, which connects eligible defendants with community-based mental health treatment and assigns them to community-based supervision. The mission of the Galveston County Mental Health Court is to improve the quality of life for people with mental illness who are charged with crimes, and to increase access to and utilization of community mental health and other resources for court participants.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$25,001-\$100,000

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Ann Schmalz

\$10,001-\$25,000

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