



CREATING A SAFE HAVEN FOR A MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY

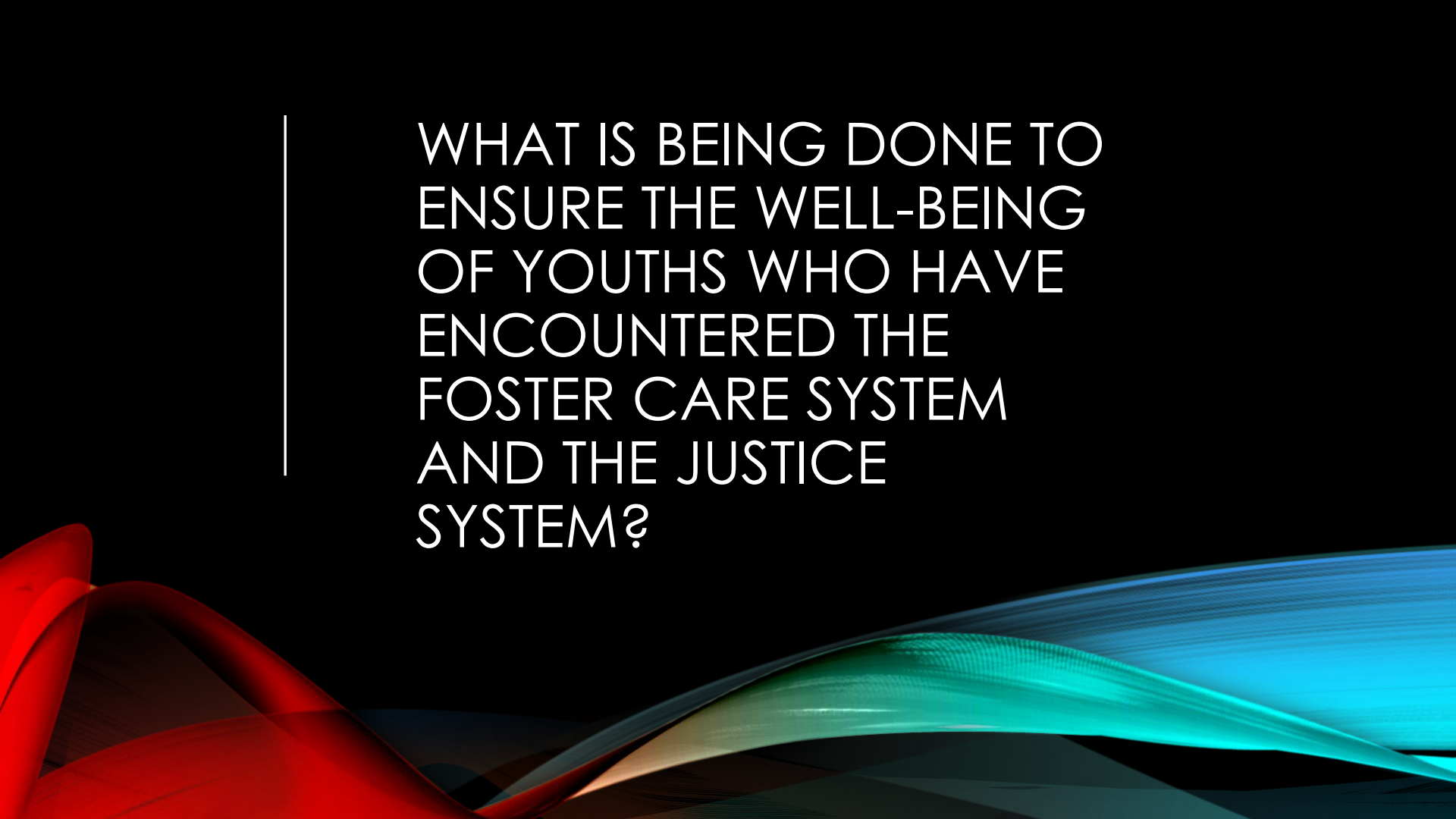


Pure Legacee



MISSION STATEMENT

Pure Legacee is a haven of healing. The organization is an alternative to incarceration program for young women from the ages of 16-21 facing homelessness due to being directly impacted by the criminal justice system, a parent who is currently incarcerated, or aging out of foster care.

The background features a dark, almost black, field. On the left side, there is a thin, vertical white line. At the bottom of the image, there are large, flowing, wavy shapes. On the left, a vibrant red shape curves upwards and then downwards. On the right, a bright cyan or light blue shape flows from the top right towards the bottom center, overlapping with the red shape. The overall aesthetic is modern and abstract.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO
ENSURE THE WELL-BEING
OF YOUTHS WHO HAVE
ENCOUNTERED THE
FOSTER CARE SYSTEM
AND THE JUSTICE
SYSTEM?



BACKGROUND

Researchers have found that well-being is a function of the control and power young people have in their schools and communities. These studies focus on concepts such as liberation, emancipation, oppression, and social justice and suggests that building an awareness of justice and inequality, combined with social action contribute to overall wellbeing, hopefulness, and optimism (Potts 2003; Prilleltensky 2003, 2008).



BACKGROUND

Children exposed to the foster care system and justice system need support and services to help them begin the transition to adulthood.

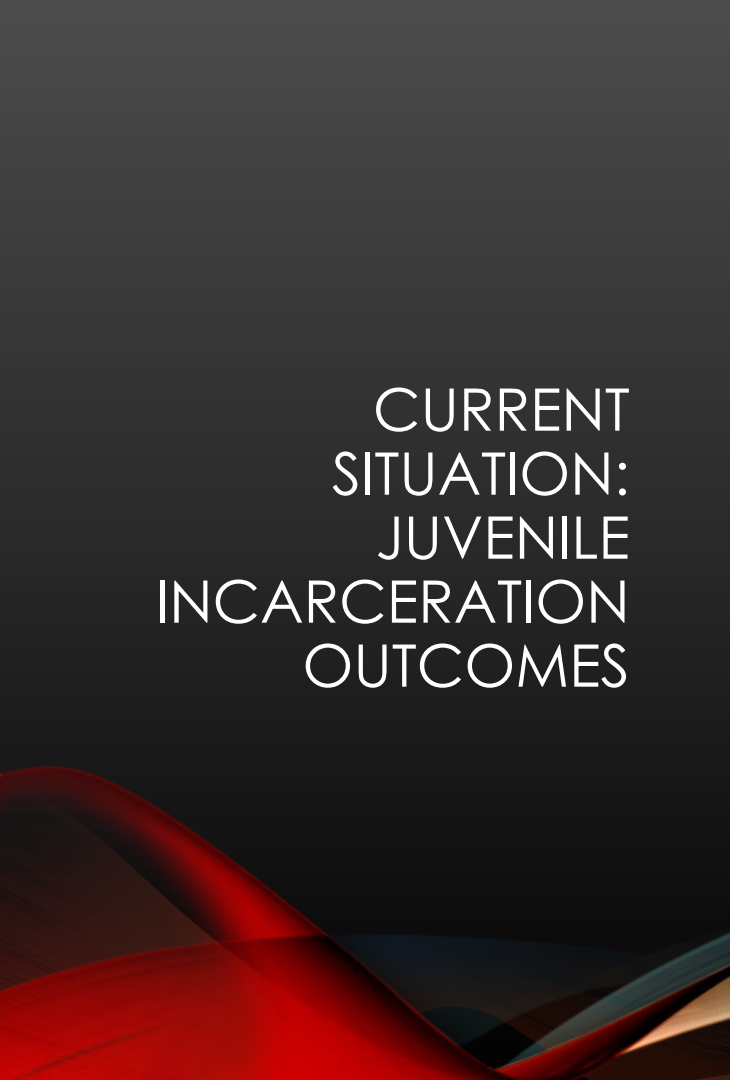
- Studies of youth who leave foster care without a safe, permanent family reveal consistently negative life outcomes. Former foster youth are not as stable as their peers in independently managing their mental and physical health and in finding and maintaining employment, education, and housing. These youth may find themselves in low wage jobs or unemployed, struggling with mental health and substance abuse problems, or spending time in the corrections or homeless systems.
- The US imprisons more young people at a higher rate than any other nation. At a tremendous cost, incarcerating juveniles only serves to reduce their educational attainment and increase the probability of incarceration as an adult.

CURRENT SITUATION: FOSTER CARE OUTCOMES

- Former foster care youth experience more than **7x the rate of drug dependence** and nearly **2x the rate of alcohol dependence** experienced in the general population.
- **High dropout rates, 3x more likely to lack a high school diploma or a GED.**
- Experience **PTSD at a rate nearly 5x** that of the general population.
- **25%** become **homeless.**
- **56%** become **unemployed.**

CURRENT SITUATION: FOSTER CARE OUTCOMES

- **Female** former foster youth are more than **10x as likely to be arrested** than the general population.
- At **high risk for pregnancy**— more likely to have sex as teenagers and less likely to use contraception.
- **2x as likely** as their peers to have a **child by the age of 19**.
- **2x as likely** to be reported for abuse and neglect and **have their children removed** from their care when compared to older mothers.



CURRENT SITUATION: JUVENILE INCARCERATION OUTCOMES

- **Criminal records** hinders future opportunities (e.g., in employment and higher education) and establish a **negative life trajectory, increasing the likelihood of incarceration** amid a host of other **poor academic, health, and behavioral outcomes**.
- Juveniles who experienced confinement were **more likely to dropout** of high school and to be **incarcerated as adults** than youth offenders who were not incarcerated.
- The **majority of females** in the juvenile justice system report having **experienced physical, sexual, or emotional victimization**.
- Many **females** first enter the system as **runaways**, or for other status offenses (offenses not considered illegal for adults), and cite **abuse at home** as a primary reason for leaving.
- **Females** often **do not receive adequate treatment** and often have **different needs** than their male counterparts.

- Nearly **13,000 children** live in the foster care system, majority between the **ages of 16 and 20**.
- More than **1,200** children “**age out**” of the foster care system **every year**.
- On any given day, **hundreds of youth** under the age of 16 are **incarcerated**.
- **High recidivism rates**, an average of **46% of the youth** released from DJJ facilities are readmitted the same year.
- Nearly **1/4 of homeless high school students** have been **sexually assaulted** in the last year-- This was more than **2x as high** as the rate for housed students.
- Teen survivors of dating abuse are **3x more** likely to have **high absenteeism**, **3x more** likely to **carry a weapon** to school, and **2x more** likely to **experience bullying** in school.

CURRENT SITUATION: NEW YORK CITY

- Approximately **4,100 youth over the age of 14 in foster care** in Maryland.
- Approximately **399,000 children live below 200% of poverty**.
- **65,000** young adults ages 18 to 24 were **not enrolled in school**, were **not working**, and **had no degree** beyond high school in 2015.
- **90% of all juveniles** arrested in Baltimore are **African American**.
- **1.2 million teens** end up in the **juvenile courts** system every year.
- Baltimore City has the **highest rates of HIV** diagnoses in Maryland.
- **Crime rate** in Baltimore is **3x greater** than the U.S. average
- 18.2 % of Maryland women have experienced rape in their lifetime; however, an estimated **22.3% of non-Hispanic black women** in Maryland have **experienced rape** in their lifetime.

CURRENT SITUATION: BALTIMORE

MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY?

- Non-Hispanic **black children** were **overrepresented** among children **entering foster care and living in foster care**. Although black children accounted for only 15% of all children under age 18, they accounted for **30% of children entering foster care**, and **42% of children living in foster care**.
- The neighborhoods with the highest rates of detention also have the **highest levels of poverty, poor housing and under-performing schools**.
- Black and Latino youth comprise **95%** of the youth **entering detention**, while they comprise less than two-thirds of all youth in New York City.
- Black individuals account for **71%** of all people experiencing **homelessness** in Baltimore City.

MARGINALIZED COMMUNITY?

According to a Georgetown Law study:

- **Black girls** experience “**adultification**”—or are **seen as older and less innocent** than their white counterparts
- Compared to white girls of the same age, black girls are perceived as **needing less nurturing, comfort, and protection.**
- Being **more independent** and **knowing more about sex and other adult topics.**
- Seen as **sexually mature**, even **sexually aggressive**, at young ages.
- Seen as **older and less innocent** than white peers starting as young as **age 5.**

The phenomenon of viewing black students as miniature adults means they are likelier to be **punished harshly** within the school system, and their cases are likelier to be passed along to the **juvenile justice system** rather than handled within the school. Young Black girls are the **forgotten survivors of sexual assault** and are **disproportionally targeted** due to the idea that they know more about sex and are more adult-like.

The most disrespected person in America is the black woman. The most unprotected person in America is the black woman. The most neglected person in America is the black woman — Malcolm X





WHAT PURE LEGACEE OFFERS?

- We give young women of color the opportunity to heal and develop themselves within a nurturing environment.
- Trained professionals work with participants in identifying areas of growth and link them to appropriate community resources such as public benefits, educational classes, mental health services and healthcare. Girls are educated on generational trauma, social justice conflict resolution, financial literacy, career readiness, sex education, and building a positive self-image.

Services Provided:

- Mental Health Counseling
- Mentorship Training
- Peer Support
- Emotional Healing
- Growth Plans & Goal Setting
- Personal Development
- Access to Services & Benefits
- Opioid Training
- Financial Literacy
- Job Readiness training/Resume Building

Need for Housing?

Most adult children are living with their parents primarily for financial reasons

Primary Reason Adult Children Live with their Parents

Showing all adult children (ages 18-34) living at home



29% say they are saving money while enrolled in school



23% say they do not have enough income to live in their own home



10% say they are not yet married



9% say they prefer to share the same home



8% say they are saving money for the future

- **More young adults living at home than during the Great Depression.**
- In 2014, living with one's parents became the most common living arrangement for Americans ages 18 to 34.
- By 2018, about 25 million young adults ages 18 to 34 were living at home.
- Millions more have moved back home during the pandemic.

Those without a safety net experience further disparities in positive outcomes.



Impact of Housing?

- Provide a safe residential space for young girls emerging from the foster care system or justice system so they can become independent, self-sustaining adults.
- Supportive housing for those who have experienced emotional abuse as well as neglect and are underemployed or unable to obtain affordable housing.
- Help empower young women of color to feel they have control and power over their lives and their communities.