

## about Reclaiming Futures

Reclaiming Futures is an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that offers a new approach to teenagers caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime. Housed in the Regional Research Institute for Human Services of the School of Social Work at Portland State University, Reclaiming Futures promotes improved standards of care in juvenile justice and behavioral health, develops judicial and community leadership, offers training and technical assistance, and disseminates research findings.

[www.reclaimingfutures.org](http://www.reclaimingfutures.org)

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## about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans. Helping people lead healthier lives and get the care they need—we expect to make a difference in your lifetime.

[www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org)

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RECLAIMING FUTURES  
Communities helping teens  
overcome drugs, alcohol and crime

collaboration hope  
care treatment youth  
success do you change  
solutions believe?  
trust reform family



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### Do you believe...

it's possible to reclaim the lives of young people who are caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime?

it's possible to change the juvenile justice system so that it helps young people and their families break this cycle?

it's possible to bring communities together to provide the accountability, treatment and support teenagers need to keep them from sliding back?

# we do.

At Reclaiming Futures, we're helping communities change the way we treat kids in the justice system with substance abuse problems.

We've learned how to make the reforms needed to help young people troubled with drugs, alcohol and crime. Not only is it possible—it works and it can be done in any community.

Through Reclaiming Futures, thousands of young people are getting the support they need—more treatment, better treatment and beyond treatment—to turn their lives around.

### We've shown it can be done. Here's how:

In 10 communities around the nation, we brought together judges, justice workers, treatment providers and community leaders to identify how juvenile courts can provide the substance abuse treatment teens need to help them be successful.

What we learned became the foundation for the six-step Reclaiming Futures model, which combines justice reform, treatment improvement and community engagement.

Reclaiming Futures developed, tested and evaluated the model over a five-year period thanks to a \$21 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In 2006, the 10 communities that piloted the model reported significant improvements in the quality of juvenile justice and substance abuse treatment services, according to research conducted by the Urban Institute and the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Center for Children.

### Change can happen where you live.

We're now spreading the Reclaiming Futures model throughout the United States. Supported by a new \$6 million, four-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, we are working in partnership with our original pilot sites and the federal government to develop a national learning collaborative that shares resources, ideas and information.

Starting in 2007, communities selected to become new sites will receive a toolkit, coaching, a comprehensive leadership program and membership in the Reclaiming Futures national network.

Communities that don't become full Reclaiming Futures sites can still take advantage of technical assistance available from Reclaiming Futures staff, faculty, judges, probation officers, treatment providers and community members.

To learn more about how you can bring Reclaiming Futures to your community and improve services and outcomes for young people, visit [www.reclaimingfutures.org](http://www.reclaimingfutures.org).

THERE'S A COST TO THE COMMUNITY. OUR KIDS ARE IN TROUBLE. WE CAN EITHER TRY TO REMEDY IT AT THE FRONT END OR REMEDY IT AT THE BACK END. WE'RE STILL GOING TO HAVE TO PAY FOR IT.

They sent me to treatment. Helped me get hooked up with people that changed my life.

# listen for strengths:

If we really want kids to succeed, we must recognize their strengths. Here's what young people in juvenile justice might say about their strengths:

I can be redeemed. I am changing and growing. I may relapse, but I will keep trying. I make mistakes, but I learn from them. I am ready to try to repair the harm I've caused. I will do better if people work together on my behalf. I am more than a statistic, risk score, diagnosis, label or pathology unit. I want to contribute; just give me the chance. I have a family that deserves your support and respect. I am part of a culture; learn about it to help me grow. I want to surprise you with my ability to succeed. I am the future.

it has taken me a long time to get over some of the things that have happened to me. as i look back over my journey, i think about all the kids in treatment who aren't as lucky.

I LOOK AT MYSELF AND I LIKE WHO I AM. I DON'T USE DRUGS ANYMORE. I FEEL SMARTER. I RESPECT MYSELF.

i sent some stranger into rehab and i brought my kid home. i hadn't seen him in a long time.

It's time to build on the strengths of our kids, families and communities. To learn more, visit [www.reclaimingfutures.org](http://www.reclaimingfutures.org).

Many thanks to Judge Patricia Clark, Beth, Tiffney, Cheyenne and Olivia for sharing comments about their experience with Reclaiming Futures.



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