

# Reports and Reflections from Inside and Outside

Hillbrook Youth Detention Center  
4949 Velasko Rd  
Syracuse, NY 13215-1930



**Above:** Recreation and Athletics Director of Save the Kids, Michael Bomasuto sets up the collapsible rope-course. With so many permanent rope-courses being highly costly and unattainable due to the insurance, lack of land, and unqualified staff, STK is now developing low-level collapsible rope-courses for community centers, schools, and youth facilities, with hands on training by our highly experienced facilitators.

**Right:** Kevin Grome, an amazing Senior Counselor who always loves working with the kids tries out the course.

**Bottom:** Bomasuto sets up the Web of Life group building course for kids to go through.



# Save the Kids Newsletters

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

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## Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) and Outdoor Empowerment (OE) Youth Workshop

Every Saturday morning from 9-12 Hillbrook residents start the day with an indoor HIPP workshop that promotes collaborative group-building skills with fellow residents. After lunch from 1-4 residents go outside and participate in activities that stress more advanced skills in collaborative group-building and trust. Many of the kids trust very few people, so for a few hours every week we try to let the kids be kids and begin to trust each other. HIPP and OE are experiential transformative programs that address issues of interpersonal violence, prejudice and injustice with a focus on trust and where everyone is a winner!

**Residents** who have completed the 8 hour HIPP workshop on August 7th include: Shakeith, Dylan, Alec, Stephon, Tyrone, Michael, and Maurice.

## Monthly Certified Mentor Training

Beginning on the first Friday of each month from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Free Library on Seneca Turnpike near Hillbrook Youth Detention Center, Save the Kids will be holding mentor training for youth. **Trainers will include probation officers, social workers, case workers, counselors, and teachers.** A certificate will be provided. To attend you must be 18 years of age and love kids and believe in peace, nonviolence, and social justice.

## Hip-Hop Music Studio

Save The Kids has established the **first music studio in a secure youth detention center in the country**, with a positive article supporting the work in the Syracuse Post-Standard. By providing expressive and experiential transformative programs which promote peace, nonviolence, and life skills for youth, STK is finding its niche in the community. Anthony Nocella, Executive Director of STK, donated \$1,000.00 to make the program happen with the assistance of Maria Miller, James Czarniak, and Nashon Council. Studio Director Nashon Council and Syracuse Jazz drummer John Betsey are volunteered to perform once a month at Hillbrook and through STK will be providing Music Expressive Therapy Workshops at Schools and Centers for youth. **Guitar Center** on Erie Boulevard in Syracuse, New York assisted with the studio by providing STK a very generous discount on all the equipment purchased. In celebration of the new studio, a special Hip-Hop issue of Behind the Walls will be out September.



## Minutes from August Meeting

The first issue of business was voting in Andre Douglas, Deborah Wright, and Terrance L. Works, who do amazing work with kids and will aid in the success of STK. Andre Douglas a long-time community leader and government employee currently works at Hillbrook Youth Detention Center as a full-time counselor. Deborah Wright very involved in her church and community is the Director of Social Work at Hillbrook Youth Detention Center. Terrance L. Works a very active and praised mentor is a youth probation officer in Onondaga County.

The next issue of business was the passing of the new by-laws for the organization. The three points that were changed in the by-laws were that the board can have up to 15 members instead of 10, which will allow the board to become more diverse and to have a minimum of one person from different populations within the community, such as: a victim of a youth offender, a former incarcerated youth, a parent of an incarcerated youth, probation officer, lawyer, judge, and administrator of a detention facility.



**Jackie DeNero at her retirement party.**

Another very important vote that was unanimously supported was to develop the **Jackie DeNero Scholarship** which will go towards covering the cost of college textbooks for a youth who has transformed their life from incarceration to education. Jackie DeNero, the former Director of Juvenile Justice in Onondaga County and the Director of Hillbrook Youth Detention Center, sat on many regional and state boards and was a national leader in youth involved with the criminal justice system, addressing issues such as race, class, gender, and geography. As a woman Jackie broke many barriers in criminal justice. Recently having retired last month, she will be dearly missed. But we are pleased that she will still be an active Advisor with Save the Kids while she enjoys traveling with the family.

## Announcements

August 10th | Auction and Dinner  
Josie's Restaurant  
Syracuse NY

August 21<sup>th</sup> | Food, Auction, and Music Rosie  
O'Grady's Sports Bar and Grill  
Syracuse NY

HIPP and Outdoor Empowerment  
workshops at Hillbrook Youth Detention  
Center every Saturday 9am to 4pm.

Expressive and Professional Skills are  
provided every evening at Hillbrook Youth  
Detention Center.

## Certificate Services

HIPP 1 to 4 hour workshop: \$100.00

HIPP 8 hour workshop: \$200.00

OE 1 to 4 hour workshop: \$200.00

OE 8 hour workshop: \$400.00

5 day facilitator workshop for OE or HIPP:  
\$1,500.00

Other workshops STK provides for centers,  
schools, colleges, agencies, etc. Workshops  
include: Mediation, Conflict Transformation,  
Poetry and Spoken Word Expression,  
Teaching Life Skills, and Music Expression.

*\*\*All workshops include two facilitators and  
have to cover travel and lodging if outside of  
Syracuse, NY. Workshops should have 6 to  
25 participates. Materials for activities are  
not included.*

## Materials

Poetry Behind the Walls \$5.00

Spoken Word Behind the Walls \$5.00

STK T-Shirt \$15.00

Hip-Hop Behind the Walls \$5.00

*Interested in materials or services? Contact:  
info@savethekidsgroup.org*

