



Legal Education



Leadership Training



Mentoring

Founded in 2000, Fresh Lifelines for Youth, Inc. (FLY) is an award-winning nonprofit dedicated to breaking the cycle of violence, crime, and incarceration of teens. Working with juvenile justice youth and those at risk of entering the system in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Alameda counties, FLY helps prevent juvenile crime and incarceration through legal education, leadership training, and mentoring.

Many children who end up in the juvenile justice system don't have the knowledge, skills, or support they need to lead productive lives. **They often believe that by the time they are 18, they will be in prison or dead.** But it doesn't have to be this way. FLY is committed to three goals:

- Helping youth **stay out of trouble with the law, get engaged in school, and begin to change their lives**
- Building **a community of people willing to support them** in the process
- Helping our **local juvenile justice systems become more effective**

FLY's services are only one-tenth the cost of incarceration and achieve measureable impact. Year after year in our Leadership Training Program:

- More than 80% of our youth **do not sustain a new charge** during the program year
- 60-80% of eligible seniors **receive their high school diplomas or equivalent**

Public system leaders consistently invite us to help develop solutions to complex problems in the juvenile justice system. FLY is part of a collaborative effort that has seen a **77% reduction in juvenile incarceration in Santa Clara County** and a **65% reduction in San Mateo County** since 2000. By giving youth a chance to transform into positive community leaders, **FLY helps create a safer, healthier, and happier community for us all.**

FLY's services were designed with the help of incarcerated youth, who told FLY's founder and CEO Christa Gannon:

"If only I had known how much trouble I would get into..."

"If only I had been given a chance to do something good for the community..."

"If only someone had cared about me..."

"I wouldn't be here."

She asked them what they would do to keep other kids from ending up there.

Their ideas became and remain the foundation of FLY: legal education, leadership training, and mentoring.