

IMPACT REPORT 2023

Innovation & Expansion



Strategies for Youth

Our Work at a Glance: 2023

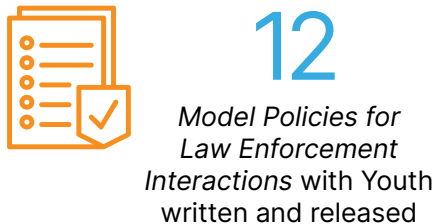
Juvenile Justice Jeopardy™



Policing the Teen Brain™



Policy Reform Efforts



SFY In the Media



Innovation and Expansion

We are thrilled to share the progress *Strategies For Youth (SFY)* has made in 2023, thanks to the dedication of our team, the support of foundations and individual donors, and collaborations with researchers, law enforcement and youth-serving organizations. With the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us, SFY has renewed its commitment to improving interactions between young people and police, thereby strengthening communities nationwide.

This year, we focused on innovations and expanding access to our programs for law enforcement officers and youth. And we redoubled our efforts to lead policy change with the publication of our groundbreaking *12 Model Law Enforcement Policies For Youth Interactions*, aimed at bridging the critical policy gap that exists in safeguarding children while supporting law enforcement.

Many Americans assume that adequate policies already govern youth-police interactions, yet we know this is not the case. We believe that establishing developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, and equitable policies is essential, especially given the unique behavioral dynamics of youth compared to adults. The consequences of poorly managed youth-police interactions can be significant, both socially and financially. With our model policies, SFY aims to better protect youth and provide law enforcement officers with the polices, tools, and strategies they need to interact effectively with youth.

In addition to our advocacy efforts, we have expanded our training initiatives to enhance youth-police interactions across the country. We launched 17 new *Juvenile Justice Jeopardy* games, trained over 200 new game leaders, and introduced the *Know Your Triggers* game, which received recognition and funding from the Morgan Stanley Alliance for Children's Mental Health. Our professional training program, *Policing The Teen Brain*, continued to address gaps in police training in many communities, reinforcing our commitment to effective collaborations with law enforcement.

Thanks to your support, Strategies For Youth is not only improving the lives of young people today through developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed and equitable training but also laying the groundwork for a brighter future with informed policy advocacy. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in our communities.

Georgie McClelland

Dena Enos



Georgie McClelland
Co-Chair, Board of Directors



Dena Enos
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Georgie McClelland,
Co-chair

Dena Enos, *Co-chair*

Abe Aly, *Treasurer*

Nanda Prabhakar, *Clerk*

Eddie Burns

Jessie Cronan

Benita Miller

Alyshia N. Perrin

Derby St. Fort, *Captain*

Molly Stifler

Duval M. Thompson, *Esq.*

Lisa H. Thurau, *Esq.*,
Executive Director,
Ex Officio

2023 Highlights



Jan 2023

SFY selected as a Shannon Community Safety Initiative Partner in Brockton, MA.



Feb 2023

SFY receives Morgan Stanley Alliance for Children's Mental Health Innovation Award.

JJJ Program Updates

Trauma and LGBTQ+ Jeopardy games

In 2023, SFY was a recipient of The Morgan Stanley Alliance for Children's Mental Health Innovation Award for our trauma-focused *Jeopardy games*. One of only five organizations selected out of 700 applicants from across the country, SFY received multi-year support to launch and implement *Know Your Triggers: Understanding and Managing Trauma* and *From Stress to Success: LGBTQ+ Youth Experiences*. Through its engaging and popular game format, SFY is empowering youth in schools, detention centers and community-based programs to recognize trauma and ultimately develop healthy coping strategies to disrupt the "trauma to prison" pipeline.

JJJ game for foster youth

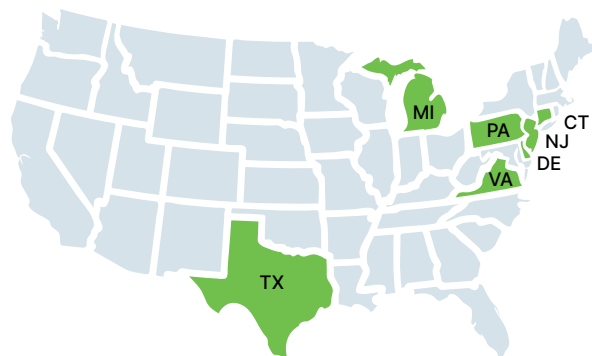
SFY was selected as a Shannon Partner in Brockton, Massachusetts to prevent youth from becoming "crossover" youth from the child welfare to the juvenile justice system. To address the fact that 1 in 5 foster care youth report being incarcerated in the years immediately after "aging out" of care, SFY designed *You Got This*, a *Jeopardy* game on

the law and life skills that help youth prepare to exit foster care as successful, independent adults.

Statewide adoption in NJ

JJJ continues to roll out street and school versions of the game across the state of New Jersey through a partnership with the State Attorney General's Office and the Juvenile Justice Commission. This is SFY's first 'all-state' approach to JJJ. The games will be used in schools, detention centers, community-based programs, probation departments, and law enforcement outreach programs.

New locations for JJJ in 2023



SFY implemented JJJ games in new sites including Arlington, VA, Bridgeport, CT, and Philadelphia, PA. We also expanded implementation of the games statewide in Delaware, Michigan and New Jersey.

2023 Highlights (cont.)



Feb 2023

Peer review study of JJJ released in *Justice Evaluation Journal*.



Nov 2023

SFY releases groundbreaking [12 Model Law Enforcement Polices for Youth Interaction](#).

PTB Program Updates

A year of transition

2023 was a year of transition in the U.S. for both our signature law enforcement agencies and reform advocates. We were post-Covid, post-George Floyd, and, in many ways, post-reform. Before 2020, we routinely encountered law enforcement agencies that were operating 10-25% under “full staff complement.” After 2020, these numbers increased. One urban police department we’ve worked with had 40% of its patrol officers leave for surrounding areas that offer higher salaries.

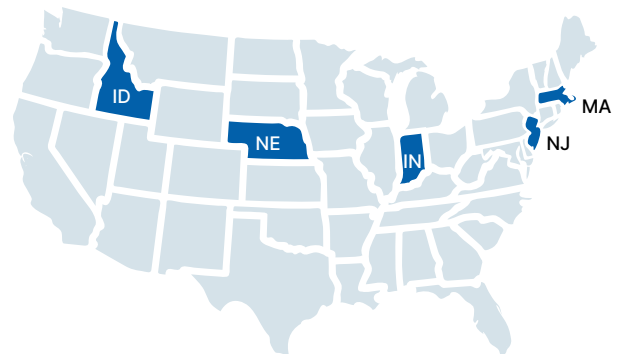
For SFY, this has meant that it is harder to fill our classes with officers from a single agency. Increasingly, we train officers from multiple law enforcement agencies across a county—officers who often serve communities with very different demographic profiles. This has led to very rich discussions about which policing tactics work where, differences in community resources for youth, and the range of possible law enforcement responses available to officers.

In 2023 we worked closely with officers in Cumberland and Monmouth counties in New Jersey offering Train-the-Trainer sessions in June and coached trainings in September. Additionally, we presented a [Policing the Teen Brain in School](#) training in Granite School District in Utah.

Training campus officers at Creighton University

We also tried something new. College and university campuses are increasingly faced with issues similar to those experienced by patrol and school resource officers. Officers who had seen the success of SFY’s [Policing the Teen Brain](#) at the Omaha Police Department, recommended our training for campus officers at Creighton University. We adjusted our training to reflect some of the data about youth aged 18 and up, and found our training was very positively received.

New PTB trainings in 2023



California, Idaho, Indiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey.

12 Model Law Enforcement Policies Released in 2023

In November, Strategies for Youth released [12 Model Law Enforcement Policies](#) for Interactions with Youth. SFY's *12 Model Policies* represent the first of their kind in the nation. The policies provide a valuable roadmap for law enforcement leaders, agencies, and officers, as well as communities seeking transparent relationships with law enforcement that are based on developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed, equitable principles.

We have sent the *Policies* to all American law enforcement agencies. We are excited by some of the feedback we've received. There's interest and realization that it's important to, as one chief put it, "Get it right with youth."

But not all law enforcement leaders "get it." Some don't see the necessity, others don't have the resources to adopt new policies, and still others are waiting until a higher authority mandates their adoption.

It should come as no surprise that most agencies don't provide their officers with training or policies to guide their interactions with youth. That means a lot of interactions between youth and law enforcement are based solely on officers' "common sense" or the approaches used with adults.

And while most agencies lack these policies for youth, we found in a survey of US residents that 56% of the poll respondents believe they do—and 71% think those policies should be made public.

Policy authors, Shelly Jackson and Lisa Thurau, conducted a series of media interviews as part of the effort to disseminate the [12 Model Law Enforcement Policies](#) after their release.



Shelly Jackson, Esq.
SFY Law Enforcement Policies Attorney



Lisa Thurau, Esq.
SFY Executive Director



Foundation Sponsors



Gardiner Howland Shaw
Foundation



Individual Donors in 2023

FOUNDER \$5,000+

Geordie McClelland
George McClelland
Liliane Thureau

LEADER \$1,000 TO \$4,999

Abe Aly
William B. Asher
Scott D. Carpenter
Jessie Cronan

Dena Enos
Deborah Lashley
Holland & Knight, LLP
Nanda Prabhakar

Duvol Thompson Thoma &
Renee Thureau
Linda K. White

PARTNER \$500 TO \$999

Arlene Bryer
Kathleen Carey
Gay S. Colyer
Anthony Cortese

John D Elliott
James B. Golden
Dianna Knothe
Stephen A Landsman

Alyshia Perrin
Alan Schildkraut
Adam Shapiro
Derby StFort

Natashia Tidwell
Jack & Blanche Valancy
Robert Zeigler

SUPPORTER \$100 TO \$499

Ramona Benitez McClelland
Jay Blitzman
Eddie Burns
Cecil Canady
Deborah Dickinson
Christine Fantacone
Joel Feldman

John Gibbons
Michael Gray
Joanne Lawrence
Maria Letunic
Samara Marion
Benita Miller
Patricia Mitchell

Frank and Tammy Mowen
Mike Putnam
Joseph Rappaport
Joy & Ned Robinson-Lynch
Christina Ronai
Jack Sammons
Avron Taichman

Sachin Trivedi
David Richardson
Romana Vysatova
Karen & Victor Weisberg
Chris Wooster

FRIEND \$5 TO \$99

Jenn Allen
Tanya Barton
Theodore Blumoff
Allan Cabaniss
Euness Cirino
Richard A. Cohen
Janet Fink

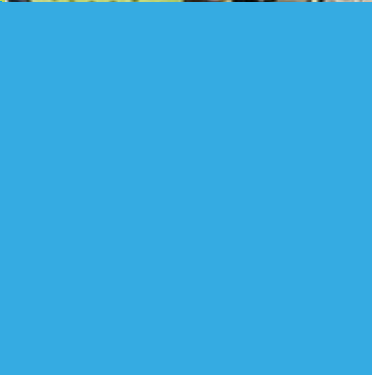
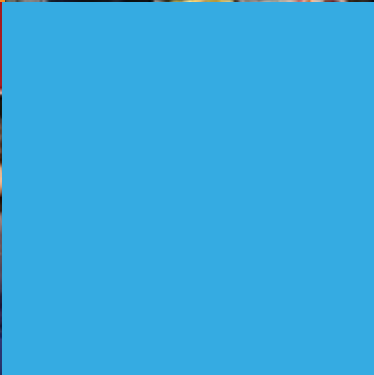
Steven Gil
Zeina Grenier
Natalie James
Jerome Kaplan Shane Keats
Risa Lieberwitz
Nathan Lockwood
Rachel Lynch

Ellen E Martin
Liz Mulligan
Muna Ndulo
Elisa Pepe
Alan Rubin
Lauri Shultis
Simon Singer

Andrea St. Germain
Jane A Wetzel
Ben Wilson

Board Members are listed in bold.

Donors listed here have made a commitment as of December 31, 2023. We have made every effort to include donors in the appropriate lists and by their preferred names. For questions or concerns, please contact Lisa Thureau at lht@strategiesforyouth.org.



Strategies for Youth

P.O. Box 390174, Cambridge, MA 02139
617.714.3789 strategiesforyouth.org