



# 2019 Impact Report

## Restoring the Sacred Trust

**We all want** to live in communities where the adults who interact with our children—their teachers, doctors, neighbors, and police officers—protect and nurture them. This is the sacred trust at the core of our social contract, and an essential ingredient of healthy, safe and thriving communities.

But, in far too many communities, that trust has been breached. Cell phone videos have laid bare what many of us did not want to either believe or see.

When children are hurt by an adult whom they should trust, it can take years to regain their confidence and sense of self. Once they view law enforcement as the enemy, they make decisions that put them in physical, emotional, and legal jeopardy.

And morale of law enforcement sinks when they are viewed monolithically as monsters who hurt the most vulnerable.

When the social contract is broken, democracy falters.



**“ This partnership is paying significant dividends to the City of Cleveland.**

Strategies for Youth worked with the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) in Cleveland to ensure its *Recognizing and Responding Effectively to Traumatized Youth* workshop was customized to the needs of the Cleveland community and police. SFY provided a train-the-trainer workshop for local area mental health and substance abuse professionals to present the 4 hour training to Cleveland officers. ”

— from the Semi-Annual Cleveland Police Consent Decree Monitor's Report to the U.S. District Court for N. District of Ohio

# At SFY we work to heal those rifts, from both sides. *We are part of the solution.*

SFY equips law enforcement officers and agencies with developmentally appropriate, trauma-informed and racially equitable policies and practices. We teach officers how the adolescent brain thinks, feels and makes decisions, how trauma can affect behaviors, and how to de-escalate encounters with youth. We introduce them to community groups they can partner with and refer youth to as an alternative to arrest.

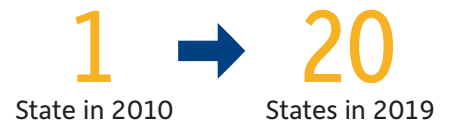
We work with youth to teach them about the legal consequences of engaging in risky behavior and help build their confidence for positive interactions with officers.

Our work improves police/youth relations and keeps thousands of children out of the juvenile justice system. Changing the behavior of one officer has a huge ripple effect. This year we trained 700 officers directly and trained 120 additional officers as trainers so they can train many more officers.

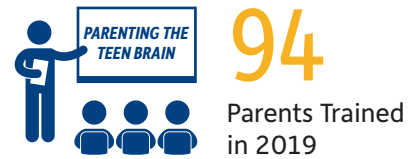
Each time we help a police officer or young person see through the eyes of the other, we restore a piece of that sacred trust that lies at the heart of our democracy.



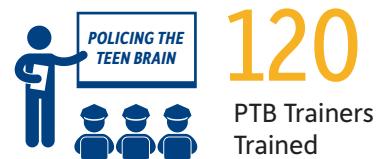
## Where We Work



## New Training Programs



## Policing the Teen Brain



SFY is part of the solution because we work in partnership with youth, communities, law enforcement agencies, and schools. Our success depends on these partnerships, finding common ground, and honoring the responsibility we all hold towards our youth.

We thank every donor for being part of our community, for sharing this vision of sacred trust and supporting our work. SFY's programs continue to be most needed in places that can least afford us.

Stay tuned for SFY updates in 2020. Oh, the places we will go!

Sincerely,



Lisa Thurau  
Executive Director



## Youth Engagement



350

Youth Played  
Juvenile Justice  
Jeopardy



75

JJJ Game Leaders  
Trained

## System Change



1

Report Published



18

Speeches &  
Presentations



9  
Op-Eds  
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11  
Media Stories  
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