

# LOS ALAMOS JJAB ANNUAL REPORT

---

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020 (FY20)



## WHO WE ARE

Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that serves youth through prevention, intervention and diversion programs. It is an independent and voluntary board of community members who collaborate, leverage, and coordinate resources to support youth and families. JJAB works to reduce youth risk behaviors, facilitate positive youth development and build resiliency through responsive, effective programming.

JJAB fully manages and provides direct services and programs. In addition, JJAB also partners with community organizations, providing support and funding for programming.

**Our Vision:** We value, celebrate, and appreciate all the youth of our community, and help each develop resiliency, create meaningful connections, and build capacities to thrive.

**Our Mission:** We effectively facilitate the application of resources through innovative direct services and collaborative networks, to engage and support the youth and families of Los Alamos.

## CONTENTS

### Direct Service Programs

- Resource Specialist
- One Circle
- Restorative Justice (includes juvenile justice statistics)
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Support Groups
- Collaborations

### Partner Programs

- Family Strengths Network
- Los Alamos Public Schools
- YMCA/Teen Center

### JJAB Staff

### COVID-19 Response

### Community Projects

### Our Funders

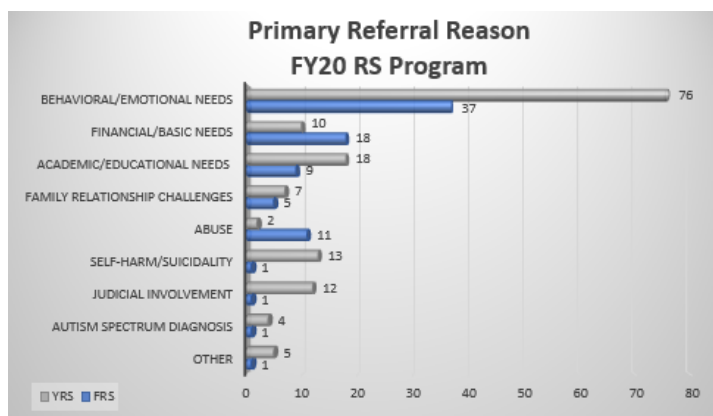
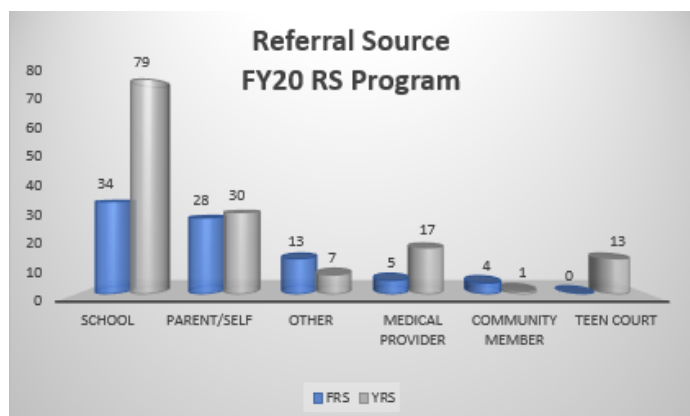
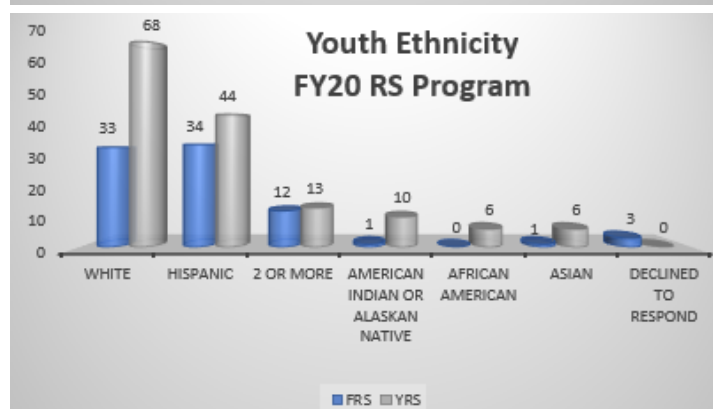
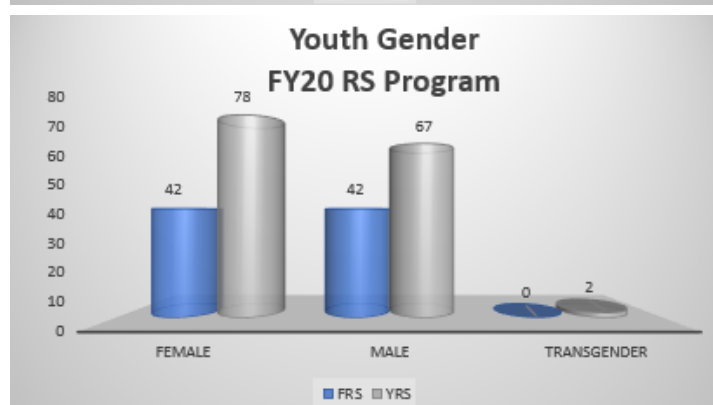
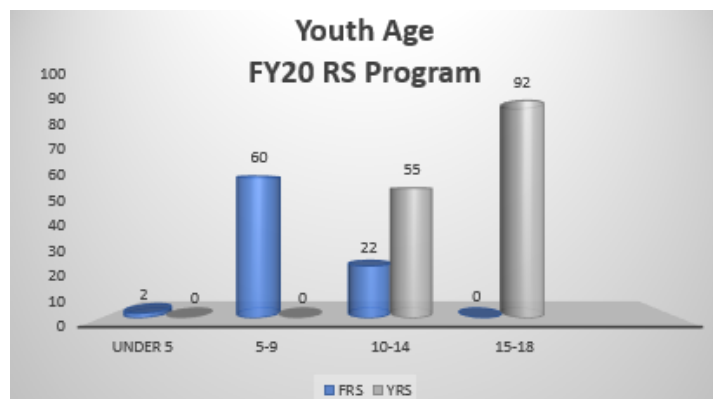


Photo to left - Art tiles created by youth during a One Circle group  
Cover Photo: One Circle: Girls Group at Aspen Elementary

## RESOURCE SPECIALIST PROGRAM

The Resource Specialist (RS) program provides case management and community resource services to at-risk youth (age 5-18) and their families. Youth and their family may have a hard time accessing and navigating the maze of public and private services. While there are resources in our community, the Resource Specialists are the connective tissue able to help coordinate them. Referrals are received from the schools, the police department, Teen Court, JPPO, medical professionals, and the community. The Resource Specialists have been vital in the schools and community in identifying at-risk youth and gaps in services. The Youth Resource Specialists have been in existence since 2012 and were expanded to include the Family Resource Specialists, who focus on elementary-aged youth, in 2014.

During FY20, the RS program served a total of 231 youth and their families. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was on track to have an increase in the number of youth served. During the pandemic closures, the program pivoted to serve youth and families remotely through phone, text, email and video conferencing. With that pivot the Resource Specialists were able to continue serving youth and take on new referrals, thus maintaining the number of youth served from previous years.



*"We contacted the RS after we returned from an inpatient stay of our youth in the children's psychiatric center at UNM. Things had gotten increasingly stressful and desperate at home since we did not know how to address the problems. The RS helped us to get ready for school meetings; patiently explained the process and pointed us to helpful resources. The RS also immediately returned phone calls when we had urgent questions how to correspond with the school. And, more importantly, the RS connected us with three mental health specialists. These were excellent referrals. They are helping us to improve the environment at home and to understand and address the underlying issues. Things have stabilized and are improving, and, after a long time, we are optimistic about the future of our youth and family." - Parent*



## Resource Specialist Program Facts

- Resource Specialists have made referrals to more than 50 different programs, services and organizational partners in their assistance to youth and families.
- In addition to the 231 youth served, the program also impacted 711 family members.
- 58% of referrals to the program come from the school district as a result of disciplinary issues and school counselor referrals.
- 32% of families served receive social services assistance.



*Three Resource Specialists assist New Beginnings Church volunteers in distributing holiday food boxes to families.*

## Resource Specialist Case Studies

A middle school youth was referred for assistance with basic needs for the family and to address emotional and behavioral needs. The Resource Specialist (RS) completed a strength-based intake to determine the needs of the youth and the family. The family was assisted in applying for free and reduced cost lunch, low-cost internet services, and was connected to CYFD subsidized child care services. The youth was referred to local and regional mental health supports in order to address emotional needs. During the course of the case, it was revealed that the family was in need of assistance with home repairs and beds for the children. Utilizing local community services, the RS was able to assist the family in meeting the needs. In addition, referrals to local activities that encourage community connection and a safe space to spend time after school were provided. Throughout the case, the RS provided culturally sensitive service to the family and collaborated with the service providers involved with the family to ensure seamless provision of resources.

A self-referral was received from grandparents who had learned about the program at a school event. The grandparents are raising their grandchild and experiencing challenges with meeting basic needs and helping the child thrive at school and in peer relationships. The child was connected to a therapist and the grandparents to support groups. Connections were also made to a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters, classes, camps, and fun activities in which the child could take part via scholarship, including LA STEAM Lab and The Gifted Horse. The grandparents were connected to Lion's Club to get eyeglasses, to discounted internet, the food commodity program, and a desktop computer was donated so that they could more easily read communications from the school. The grandparents were supported in communications with the school, learned about Barrios Unidos, a program that supports family members of those affected by addiction and found a community of support. The family is now better prepared and aware of a variety of resources in the community to help them in the future.



## ONE CIRCLE: GIRLS AND BOYS GROUPS

JJAB provided a total of 214 One Circle: Girls and Boys sessions (24 classes) for FY20, up from 191 in FY19. These included 14 classes for elementary-aged youth, 5 classes for middle school, and 5 classes for high school.

### *One Circle: Boys (Elementary, Middle, and High Schools)*

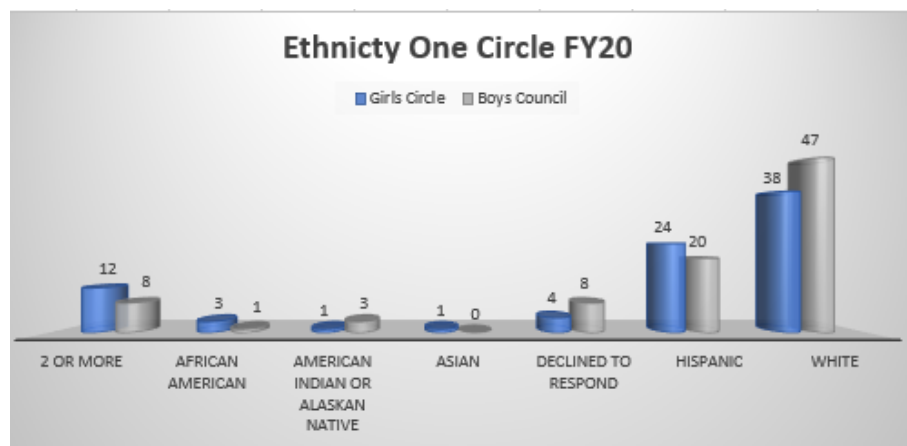
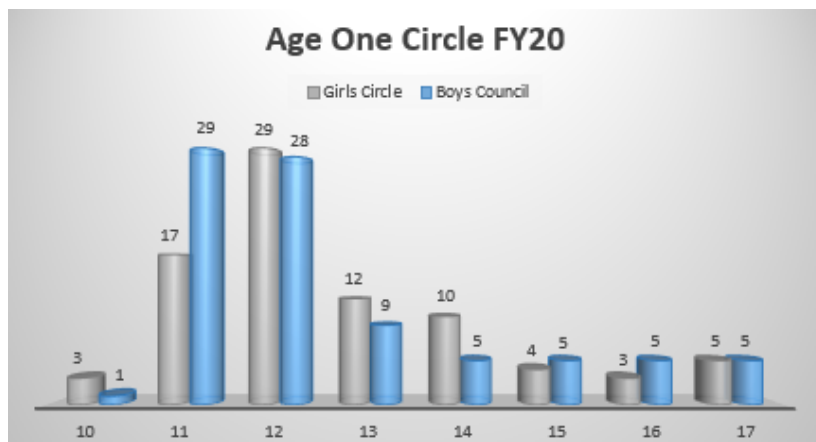
Boys ages 10-17 learn to set goals, identify their strengths and build decision making and communication skills. Provided 102 sessions of Boys Council, with 87 participants.

### *One Circle: Girls (Elementary, Middle, and High School)*

These programs empower girls ages 10-17 by providing them with a supportive environment in which to focus on improving decision-making skills, self-esteem and resilience. Provided 112 sessions of Girls Circle, with 83 participants.

In Spring of FY20, JJAB partnered with The LAB Jiu-Jitsu to provide a Community Partner group. The elementary-aged group was formatted to provide a Boys Council session, followed by an interactive Jiu-Jitsu class.

During the initial COVID-19 closures, group sessions for middle and high school youth were provided via video conferencing.



"We are thankful for the opportunity our son had participating in the sixth grade One Circle Boys collaboration program. We were impressed by the instructor's ability to engage each student while providing skills that built the boys' self-discipline, self-protection and confidence. Our son enjoyed being with his friends and learning new skills! I would highly recommend this class for all youth. Thank you JJAB!"

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM

Restorative Justice is an approach to justice in which the response is to organize a meeting (conference) between the victim, the offender, and representatives of the wider community. The program aims for offenders to take responsibility for their actions, to understand the harm they have caused, to give them an opportunity to redeem themselves, and to discourage them from causing further harm. For victims, the goal is to provide them an active role in the process.

In this first year of the Restorative Justice program, JJAB provided a total of 11 conferences. During the COVID-19 closure, conferences and pre/post work was provided via video conferencing. Referrals came directly from the Los Alamos Municipal Court Teen Court program. Of the 11 youth, 8 were male, 3 were female, and each conference involved an average of 6 community members.

Youth charges handled during the Restorative Justice Conferences were:

- Possession of Marijuana and/or Drug Paraphernalia—10
- Minor in Possession of Alcohol—2
- Operators/Chauffeurs Must Be Licensed—1
- Resisting/Obstructing Officer—1

Feedback received from parents indicated that they appreciated the in-person care that their youth received during the process. Each youth and family received a pre-conference meeting where the charges and situation were discussed and an outline of the Restorative Conference was provided. The community members participating were either connected to the situation or work closely with adolescents. The most impactful conferences were when a police officer was involved. Several youth came in with a negative relationship with the officers. During the conference the officers expressed their feelings around the impact the youth's actions had on the community, while being encouraging. The message was, "What you did doesn't define you, it's what you do afterwards that matters." After the conferences the youth reported feeling connected to the police in a more positive way.

## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE STATISTICS

**Los Alamos Teen Court** - Teen Court is affiliated with and funded by the Municipal Court. JJAB provides support and interventions for sanctions directed by the Court. This past year, 35 non-traffic cases were handled by Teen Court. 25 were charges related to possession of drugs or alcohol, 4 for shoplifting/larceny, 1 battery, 1 possession of a weapon, and 4 other.

Of the 35 youth who were involved in non-traffic cases, 24 were referred to JJAB programming such as the Resource Specialist program, Restorative Justice, and/or One Circle: Boys and Girls groups. The referrals were for higher level infractions such as weapons, alcohol or drug possession charges, shoplifting, and other offenses.

**Juvenile Probation Office (JPO)** - In the past year, the JPO received 47 referrals from Los Alamos County, with several youth having multiple charges. This is an equal number to FY19. The top charges related to Burglary (home or auto), receive stolen property, conspiracy burglary (20), truancy (7), assault or battery (7), minor in possession (5), graffiti (3), and shoplifting (2).



## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

The Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) course is designed for adults who regularly interact with young people, ages 10 - 18. The evidence-based course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

5 class sessions were held in FY20 with 71 adults trained. Community members working with youth were trained, along with staff from LAPS, Northern NM College, PEEC, Santa Fe Mountain Center, RAC Stop, TEWA Women, UNM-LA, LA Police, Pojoaque Valley Schools, and Strong in Nature.



*Facilitator Danielle Sutherland leads the YMHFA class in February 2020.*

## DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Children receive a free book in the mail every month from birth up to five years of age. The books are carefully chosen by a Dolly Parton Foundation book committee that consists of professionals selected to lend their expert recommendations and advice.

The eligibility criteria for the Los Alamos Imagination Library is defined by the child's age (birth up to 5 years) and residence (LAC). This program promotes and supports literacy, love of reading and learning for the youngest children in our community, adult-child engagement, appreciation of art and aesthetics, and connection to the community.

504 families were enrolled at the end of FY20, 631 families were served during the year, with 127 children aging out of the program.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Dads of Teenagers** is a facilitated group focusing on making connections with other dads who can relate to raising a teenager. The group virtually (due to COVID-19) met once per week for 8 weeks, discussing topics related to managing conflict, validation, the power of a good question, and listening and prioritizing. The group included 4 parents and the facilitator.

## COLLABORATIONS

**Tutoring Program for Monolingual Spanish Speaking Youth:** Provided through the Los Alamos STEAM Lab. Starting in February 2020, the program provided weekly after-school tutoring sessions to four middle and high school monolingual youth. The program was provided online following the COVID-19 closures.

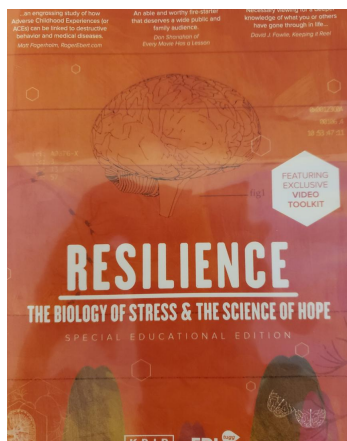
**Parenting University:** Partnered with UNM-LA and LAPS Healthy Schools Initiative to provide a parenting workshop on technology and youth resiliency. The movie Screenagers - The Next Chapter was shown, discussion held, and skill building exercises provided. 22 adults attended the three-hour session.

**Health and Safety Session:** Partnered with Los Alamos High School and the LAPS Healthy Schools Initiative to provide a parent session regarding substance use and vaping. 24 adults attended.

**Girls Discovery Workshop:** Sponsorship of Girls Discovery Workshop, in November 2019, a one day event to inspire and empower girls in grades 6 – 8. 40 youth attended and 15 adult volunteers.

**Youth Gift Making Event:** Partnered with Mesa Public Library, in December 2019, to provide LAMS youth with an after-school event to make holiday crafts and decorate cookies. 41 youth attended.

**Community Conversations:** Partnered with LAPS Healthy Schools Initiative and LAPS Prevention Program to hold the first Community Conversations event. The evening included the showing of the movie Resilience which focuses on how trauma and toxic stress impact our children. Table discussions followed and attendees were asked how they could use the information to make change in their organization, the community, and with youth. The event, held at the First United Methodist Church, included dinner, childcare and with the assistance of the Los Alamos Environmental Sustainability Board and Amanda MacDonald, was a Zero Waste event. Attendees: 45 providers that work with youth and 5 children for childcare.



*Community Conversations event held March 2020*



*PARTNER PROGRAMS***FAMILY STRENGTHS NETWORK****Parenting with Love and Logic**

This course teaches proven techniques that provide loving support from parents while reinforcing the expectation for kids to be respectful and responsible. The Love and Logic method encourages parents to approach parenting in a loving and empathetic way, while emphasizing the importance of being consistent regarding consequences for behaviors. 18 sessions of Love and Logic were provided during the year with 55 adults participating for a total of 217 interactions.

**Healthy Relationships**

This class presents specific curriculum, to eleventh and twelfth grade students, during health class that teaches skills needed to recognize and combat emotional, physical and sexual abuse, at home (domestic violence), at school (bullying), and in relationships with peers. 2 sessions were held in the Fall of 2019 with 123 students participating.

**Children's Safety Workshop**

Children ages 6-12 learn concepts of safety with strangers by practicing and role-playing scenarios and learning verbal and physical tools to end an assault and get to safety. Students gain tools to stop unwanted touch from people they know, as well as how to tell a trusted adult. The class also teaches how to deal with bullying and peer pressure without engaging. 10 children attended 2 sessions in Fall of 2019.

**Circle of Security**

A class focused on helping caregivers connect with the children in their lives. The Circle of Security figure is a central visual used as part of interventions for caregivers, all of which are focused on helping caregivers reflect upon children's attachment needs in order to promote secure attachment with a child. 5 sessions were held with 6 participating adults.

**Parenting Support Group: Chit-Chat**

Chit-Chat provides parents and caregivers of young children with a community of support. The year included parent discussion groups, a night event: The Birds & Bees, various speaker series, play group and beach party, discussion group on exercise and parenting, clothing swap event, live action board game about water cycle, and 19 virtual sessions during the COVID-19 closures. The total number of events for the year were 107, with 406 participants.

*PARTNER PROGRAMS***LOS ALAMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS****Risk and Resiliency Assessment Project for Students**

An opportunity for students to develop real-life leadership skills while making a positive impact in their community. Students come together to take a look at the YRRS (Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey) data, prioritize their strengths and concerns, and come up with reasons for the risk behaviors and how they might be able to work to improve these statistics. From this information, RAPS Leaders develop action items to increase community awareness and effect change. Participation included 20 LAHS RAPS students, most attending multiple meetings and helping with events. 14 additional students (6 LAMS and 8 LAHS) attended the LAMS-LAHS Data Analysis Retreat in February of 2020 (25 total participants).

*PARTNER PROGRAMS***LOS ALAMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONTINUED****Conscious Discipline Development**

JJAB provided support for the program to accomplish:

- Conscious Discipline books provided to all staff at Aspen and Pinon elementary schools.
- Aspen Social Emotional Learning staff study group continued through school year 2019-20.
- Professional Development workshop provided to Aspen teachers and instructional assistants - followed up per request with copies of the books *Creating the School Family* and *Managing Emotional Mayhem*.
- Purchased Feelings Buddies curriculum and teaching sets for 5 elementary schools, additional copies of *Managing Emotional Mayhem*, and story books for reading during classroom visits.
- Peaceful Parents Book Study Groups - 3 parent book study groups - 2 in White Rock and 1 in Los Alamos (the latter continued to meet during school closure and is now facilitated by a parent volunteer), 23 parents participated including facilitators.
- Introduction to Peaceful Parents at LAPS Staff Summer Institute - 19 LAPS Staff participated - 4 staff members borrowed books.
- Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline Parent Book Study Group-Purchased set of books (by Dr. Becky Bailey, Conscious Discipline) for continuation of parent book groups.

**Saturday School**

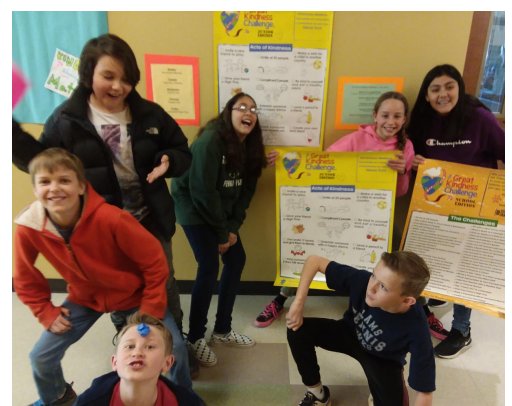
Students at LAHS and LAMS have the opportunity to attend Saturday School to receive additional tutoring, to make up academic assignments, or to make up missed days during the school year. The expectation is for students to improve grades, attendance, make up work, and to graduate on time. JJAB provided support to 22 LAHS sessions with 569 student interactions, and 11 LAMS sessions with 147 student interactions for the year.

**Natural Helpers Program**

Los Alamos High School held their annual retreat providing leadership training to participants.

Barranca Elementary School has integrated a leadership instruction program into Natural Helpers for the entire 5th and 6th grade. There were 23 group lessons on mindfulness, leadership, anti-bullying, and ready, set, respect, with 1,277 student interactions. Students in the program helped out in K-2 classrooms one morning per week to assist other students and be mentors. After the COVID-19 closure, the program held a virtual event related to random acts of kindness.

Aspen Elementary School held 4 school wide events including Unity Day, Kindness day, Kids for Peace, and Hello Week, providing 1551 positive student interactions. The group held an over night retreat for the helpers, and 42 meetings with 230 youth interactions. After the COVID-19 closure, the program held virtual events, check-ins, and hosted guest speakers.





## PARTNER PROGRAMS

## LOS ALAMOS TEEN CENTER

**Arts and Resiliency**

Ongoing therapeutic art program facilitated to encourage both personal and group reflection regarding the issues of diversity, differences, inclusion, and acceptance. Discussion topics included coping with stress, consent, friendships, grief, home life, pop culture, and world events. Due to COVID-19 closures, the program was not able to continue in April, May, or June 2020. Prior to that, 68 sessions were held with 90 youth served and a total of 254 interactions.

**Youth Mobilizers**

Working with the assistance of an adult mentor, Mobilizers participate in Teen Council meetings; plan, administer and work at youth events; and, address youth issues in a positive and proactive manner. The events planned by the teens are part of an effort to provide safe, alcohol and drug-free activities for youth as an alternative to parties/gatherings. Various events were held throughout the year, including laser tag events, cooking classes, safe homecoming event, Halloween black light party, holiday pool party, ice skating, and Valentine's Spring Fling party. Following COVID-19 closures, the program held online cooking classes, virtual town hall meetings, and a sidewalk chalk art event. The year included 26 Teen Council meetings, 19 cooking classes, and 21 small and large events with 672 youth interactions.

*"The YM have changed my life a lot and it allows me to meet people that I can connect with over the same subject. I love always having something creative and fun to do and I love that you can always be involved, no matter who you are. In short, I couldn't imagine Los Alamos without the YM and I hope that they stay for a long time."* - Teen Participant



## MEET THE JJAB STAFF

- Tara Adams, Family Resource Specialist
- Abbie Martin, Bookkeeping and Data
- Christine Martinez, Youth Resource Specialist
- Rachel Mohr-Richards, Youth Resource Specialist
- William High Eagle Sandoval, Youth Resource Specialist
- Santina Shije, Youth Resource Specialist
- Danielle Sutherland, One Circle Coordinator/Facilitator, Restorative Justice Facilitator, and YMHFA Instructor
- Lisa Zuhn, Executive Director

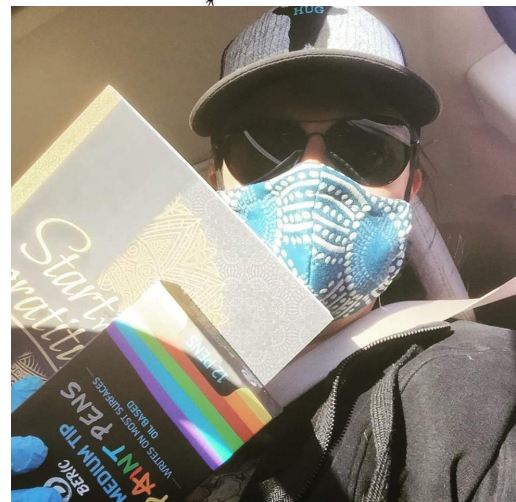




## COVID-19 RESPONSE

When the COVID-19 closures started in March 2020, the JJAB team leapt into action and pivoted to continue to provide services and programs.

- Resource Specialists worked remotely to continue to serve youth and their families. Processes were adjusted to assist with "quick cases", those families only needing one or two immediate resources such as internet access or food boxes. Intake and release forms were moved to an online format.
- Resource Specialist Tara Adams created a community resource list outlining closures, DOH regulations, new COVID-19 resources, and local resources for food, utilities, childcare, etc. The listing with updates was emailed several times per week to school staff, community members, non-profits, and County staff.
- One Circle: Boys and Girls groups moved to an online format and supplies were distributed to participants.
- Restorative Justice conferences were held via video conferencing.
- Youth Resource Specialist Christine Martinez started a "Snail Mail" Pen Pal program with youth.
- The Community Gift Card Program was created to assist community members in need, recognize helpers in the community, and support local eating establishments. The goal was to provide each recipient with funds for a meal for the entire family. JJAB received \$5,540 in donations, delivered 81 gift cards, impacting 235 adults/youth.
- Staff continued to have virtual meetings weekly (if not more) to discuss needs, resources, and ways to support the community and each other.
- JJAB Board of Directors continued to meet remotely to conduct business and discuss community needs.



Photos (clockwise): 1) Resource Specialist, Christine Martinez mails pen pal letters. 2) JJAB started the Community Gift Card Program. 3) One Circle Coordinator Danielle Sutherland delivers supplies to participants. 4) JJAB staff have a little fun with an art contest that required only the use of office supplies in their home.

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Each year, JJAB works with community partners and donors to coordinate two large community projects.

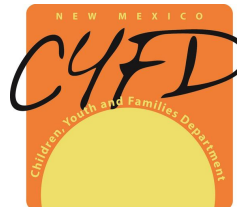


Through the Del Norte Credit Union Coat Drive, JJAB receives and distributes winter coats and gear to youth and their families in need.



The School Supply Project, in 2019 JJAB raised \$4,800 to purchase school supplies for Los Alamos students, teachers, and staff.

## OUR FUNDERS



In FY20, JJAB also received funding from the Delle Foundation, Emily Bradley Memorial Fund, LANL Foundation, and other local donors.



Los Alamos JJAB  
PO Box 4716  
Los Alamos, NM 87547  
(505) 709-8125  
[www.loslamossjab.com](http://www.loslamossjab.com)  
Facebook - @LosAlamosJJAB