

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

THE CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



CASES □ □ □ □ □

A Meaningful Sanction, A Real Opportunity

PROJECT: Annual Report

CLIENT: The Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services

ABOVE: Front Cover

FOLLOWING: Inside Pages & Back Cover

THE CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

"Education is more important than getting locked up and wasting time in juvenile detention."

- Ronald W., student at Community Prep, created this poster in the school's Arts and Economics class.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Court Employment Project
- GirlRising
- Community Prep High School
- Learning to Work/GED

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

- Nathaniel Project

CRIMINAL COURT PROGRAMS

- Day Custody Program
- Treatment Readiness Program
- Staten Island Community Service Project
- NYC Transit Community Service Project

PAROLE PROGRAMS

- Parole Restoration Project

Our Approach

CASES develops and operates alternative sentencing programs that serve more than 10,000 court-involved young people and adults in New York City each year.

■ **ASSESSMENT:** CASES court staff assess motivation, family support, and criminal history before advocating for a judge to sentence an individual to CASES.

■ **SUPERVISION:** CASES ensures public safety by requiring clients to report regularly to program staff. CASES submits written reports to the sentencing judge and notifies the court immediately in the case of noncompliance.

■ **SERVICES:** CASES programs help clients address problems in their lives, develop independent living skills, form new connections in their communities, and avoid future criminal involvement. In the past year, our services included onsite education classes, placements in paid internships, substance use counseling, support in managing mental illness, and referrals and escorts to community-based treatment and employment programs.

■ **OPPORTUNITY:** Successful clients graduate from CASES having achieved meaningful accomplishments such as a GED, completion of a paid internship, sustained sobriety in a community treatment program, and a move into permanent, supportive housing.



After a recent CASES' graduation ceremony, (from left) Judge Joseph Gubbay celebrates with Joseph McLaughlin, Director of the Court Employment Project, Linda Guzzo, Deputy Director of the Court Employment Project, and Joel Copperman, CEO/President.

LETTER FROM THE CEO

I am pleased to share our annual report with you. The pages that follow provide an overview of our programs, the clients with whom we work, and their achievements over the past year. When the court sends an individual to CASES, it is with the understanding that we will hold him accountable while helping him set and achieve new life goals. This is our core responsibility and challenge: to engage our clients in a network of supervision, support, and guidance. During the past year, thousands of court-involved individuals made their way toward a better life through participation in CASES programs.

CASES remains committed to implementing innovative solutions that improve the effectiveness of the justice system. This year, CASES launched two new programs: Day Custody and Learning to Work/GED. Innovative programs developed by non-profits cannot succeed without partnership and support, and CASES is grateful to the government agencies, corporations, foundations, and individuals who have partnered in and supported our work. I want to especially acknowledge and thank the judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys who believe in our programs. This report is dedicated to these men and women, who each day entrust CASES with preserving public safety while providing our clients with real opportunities.

Joel Copperman

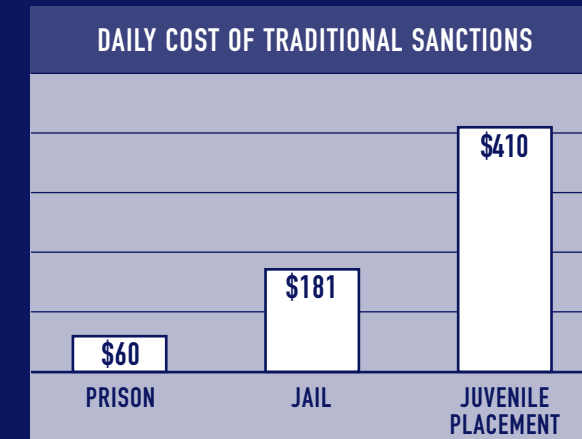
INNOVATION...

In the past decade, CASES has launched ten new programs for court-involved individuals, including:

- Gender-specific services for young women
- A transitional school for young people returning from juvenile custody to the community
- State-licensed services for adults with mental illness, many of whom are homeless
- Community service sentences and discharge planning for low-level offenders

... AND SAVINGS

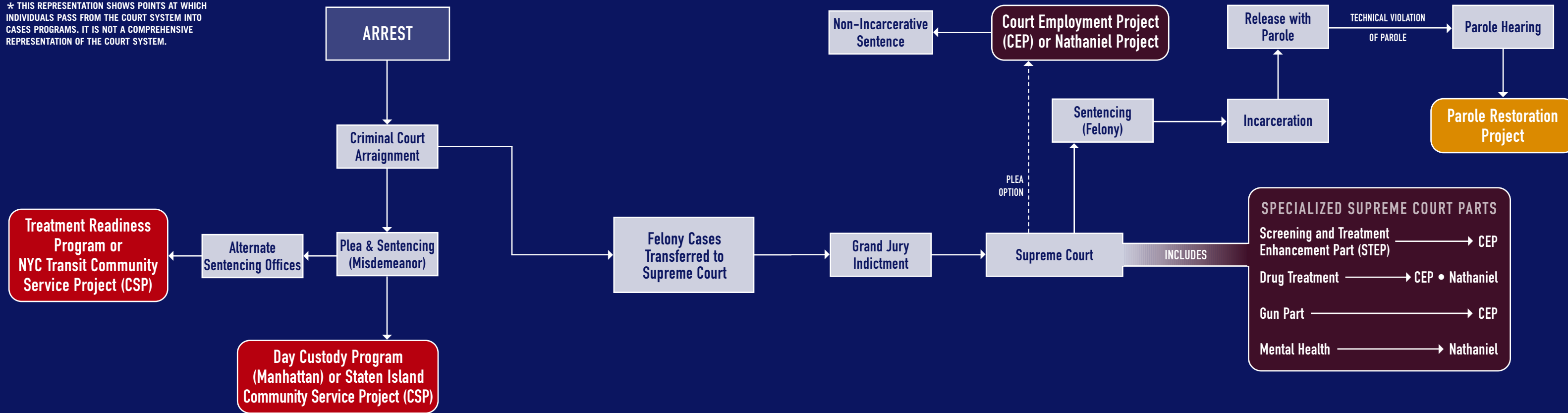
Most CASES programs cost less than \$50 per day. Our programs save taxpayer dollars while protecting public safety and providing needed services for some of New York City's most disadvantaged citizens.



City of New York (Fiscal 2006). Mayor's Management Report. NYC Independent Budget Office (2006). Inside the Budget (Number 148).

CASES COURT INTERVENTIONS*

* THIS REPRESENTATION SHOWS POINTS AT WHICH INDIVIDUALS PASS FROM THE COURT SYSTEM INTO CASES PROGRAMS. IT IS NOT A COMPREHENSIVE REPRESENTATION OF THE COURT SYSTEM.



CASES court representatives are present in courtrooms throughout New York City and work with judges, district attorneys, and defense lawyers to identify appropriate clients for our programs. In the representation above, ARREST appears as the first step in an individual's court involvement. However, factors that long predate arrest, such as poor education, a history of trauma, and a lack of community support, often contribute to criminal involvement. CASES programs help court-involved individuals to address these challenges, reducing the chances of future arrest.

FROM COURT TO CASES

CASES Participants FY 2006		
Program	Screened	Intakes
Court Employment Project	863	325
GirlRising	89	43
Community Prep	189	108
Nathaniel	140	49
Day Custody	2,506	400
Treatment Readiness	NA	1,458
Staten Island CSP	1,130	1,048
NYC Transit CSP	NA	8,747
Parole Restoration	802	239
TOTAL	5,719	12,417

- **IN THE COURTS:** CASES court staff review case files, screen and interview prospective clients, and advocate for eligible individuals to be sentenced to CASES.
- **INTAKE:** Immediate program intake maintains continuity between the justice system and CASES programs and highlights the serious and intensive nature of participation in CASES.
- **ORIENTATION AND SERVICE PLAN:** Orientation includes assessments that guide the formulation of each client's individualized service plan.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** CASES prepares regular written reports on clients' progress for review by the sentencing judge.

COURT EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

The **Court Employment Project (CEP)** helps young people address skill deficiencies and causes of criminal involvement as they identify and build on their strengths and talents. The program, lasting from six to nine months, includes onsite counseling, education, and employment services. In 2007, CEP will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Recent Achievements

- Approved as a GED testing site by the GED Testing Service of the American Council on Education and the NYS Department of Education
- Expanded onsite social work services
- Established a mentoring program with John Jay College of Criminal Justice



In the past year, the **Court Employment Project (CEP)** served 575 young people ages 13-19. CEP serves prison- and jail-bound youth charged in NYC Supreme Court. **GirlRising**, the City's first non-residential alternative-to-incarceration program designed specifically to meet the needs of young women, enrolls girls from NYC Supreme and Family Courts. Education classes like the one pictured above form a core element of CEP programming.

Program In Focus

Career Exploration: Lasting Impact

Career Exploration (Career Ex) recently completed a successful expansion and now serves one-third of all young people in CEP.

Career Ex Grads 2003-05	
Continued education	86%
Found employment	63%
Reconvicted on felony	5%



“Your life will change in ways you never thought it could possibly change. To most kids here, this is our last chance at a better life.”

- Carl M., CEP and Career Exploration participant, received a referral and escort to community-based treatment as part of CEP's expanded social work services. In the past year, CEP social work staff completed 110 comprehensive mental health assessments and successfully placed 58 participants requiring continuing treatment in community-based services. Of these participants, 69% have graduated from CEP. Overall, CEP participants with the most serious mental health needs now complete the program at almost twice the rate as similar participants prior to CASES' expansion of youth mental health services.

CORE SERVICES

Support

- Case management
- Substance use testing and counseling
- Mental health assessments
- One-on-one and small group therapy
- Referrals to community-based service providers

Education

- Literacy, Pre-GED, and GED classes onsite
- One-on-one tutoring
- Liaison services in schools
- College planning and assistance with applications
- Arts electives

Career Exploration

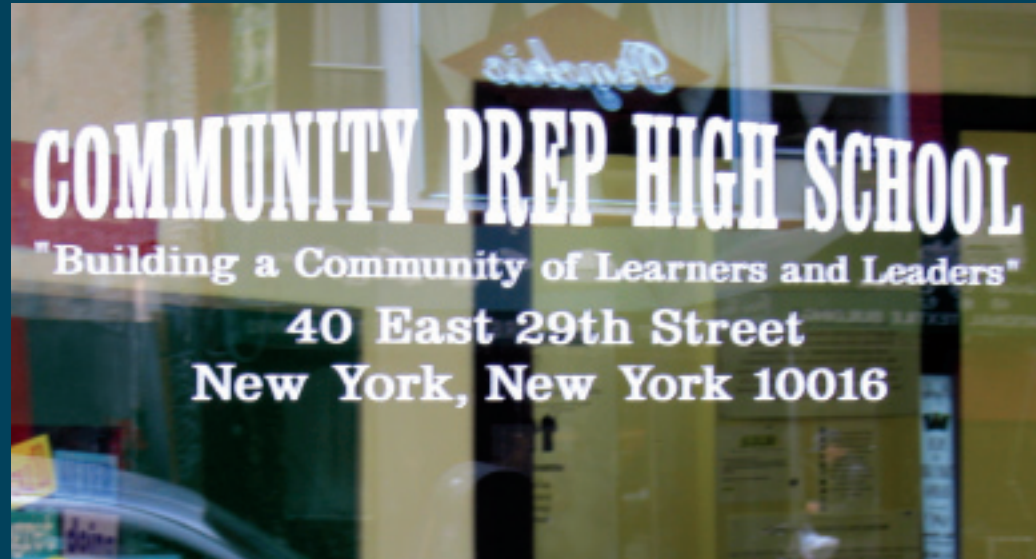
- Job readiness classes
- Career planning and goal development
- Ten-week paid internships at sites matching participants' interests
- Employment counseling
- Post-program services

COMMUNITY PREP HIGH SCHOOL

Created in coordination with City and State criminal justice and education agencies, **Community Prep High School** is part of the New Visions for Public Schools' New Century High Schools Initiative. Community Prep is a model program operated jointly with the NYC Department of Education. The school improves access to education and increases services for youth transitioning from custodial settings to the community.

Recent Achievement

In partnership with the NYC Department of Education, CASES launched **Learning to Work/GED** in fall 2006. The program provides GED instruction, education and employment counseling, and paid internships for students age 17-20. The program is operated during evening hours at Community Prep.



High school is a critical time in a young person's life. These challenging years are especially complicated for court-involved young people. Often over-age and under-credited, many of these teenagers have limited literacy skills, histories of poor academic achievement and disciplinary problems, and acute emotional and social needs.

Community Prep offers rolling enrollment throughout the school year and accepts youth upon their release from custodial schools. Community Prep serves more than 100 students each year through a combination of academic instruction and intensive support that helps young people make a new start.

"Most of our kids were never taught to value themselves as learners or as human beings. We have to teach them to value themselves. At the same time, we set the bar high. These students will rise to meet the expectation level."
- Eileen Istorico, Reading Teacher

"When I came here with my daughter for our first meeting and started learning about the school, it was like an answer for me. If my daughter can come to Community Prep, she can have the chance for something better. The staff here—it's not just their job, they put themselves into the kids. It's remarkable. I never knew anything like this existed."
- Community Prep Parent



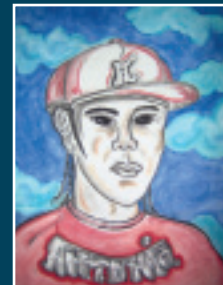
ACADEMIC COURSES taught by Department of Education faculty emphasize literacy and mathematics. Students build skills while earning high school credits and preparing for Regents and RCT exams. Coursework prepares students to transition to diploma-granting high schools and GED programs.

DUAL CURRICULUM

CASES COMMUNITY ADVISORS lead daily advisory sessions teaching accountability to the school community and positive social skills. Advisors hold regular, individual meetings with students to discuss academic and social development and strategies for overcoming challenges.



Student artwork created at Community Prep and displayed at **For the Record**, an art show planned by students and held May 2006 at Harlem's PCOG Gallery



NATHANIEL PROJECT

Launched in 2000, the *Nathaniel Project* was the first alternative-to-incarceration program in New York City for felony offenders with serious and persistent mental illness. Named for a homeless man whose schizophrenia went untreated for 15 years as he cycled in and out of the criminal justice system, the program has become a model for engaging mentally ill offenders in treatment and supervising these individuals safely in the community.

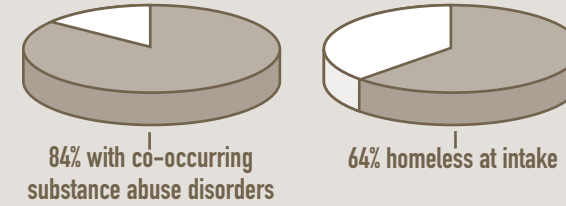
Key Achievement

In 2006, CASES completed the **EXIT Program**, a federally funded demonstration project. EXIT explored the use of mandatory treatment assessments and voluntary case management services for low-level offenders with mental illness. The project found judges welcomed alternative sanctions for these offenders and that participants who engaged in services were more likely to avoid future recidivism. CASES has begun planning to incorporate lessons learned from EXIT in our mental health programming.



The **Nathaniel ACT Team** provides a network of services to meet the needs of felony-level offenders with mental illness. These individuals often have serious health problems and co-occurring substance abuse disorders in addition to mental illness. Nathaniel ACT provides a minimum of two years of treatment and supervision in the community, generating significant cost savings to the public and dramatically improving the quality of life of our clients and their families. The team also provides court advocacy services, a distinct feature of the Nathaniel ACT model that includes educating the court about mental illness and substance abuse. The program is licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Health.

THE CHALLENGE: NATHANIEL CLIENTS 2003-06



Securing and retaining housing is a significant challenge for Nathaniel Project clients, in part because of stigma associated with their combined criminal and mental health histories. Nathaniel ACT places participants in transitional and permanent housing and engages them in wraparound, therapeutic support to ensure participants' retention in housing and treatment. From 2003-2006, 54% of clients who were homeless at intake were placed in supportive or family housing by the end of their first year in the program.



PICTURED: Felicia Barrow, ACT Peer Specialist, with residents of a supportive, temporary housing site opened by the Nathaniel Project last year.



Nathaniel graduate addresses friends and relatives as well as program participants, supporters, and staff at a graduation celebration last May.

“One day at a time, [the Nathaniel team] is showing you the better things in life so you can go forward, so you can function, and so you can think. It’s like having a new family. I don’t like to think about the past. When you’re addicted to drugs, there’s no life. It’s all stress and anger. All you think about is getting high. You have to think bigger and better for yourself. I can see good things happening now.”

AMERICAN PROBATION AND PAROLE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT'S AWARD • THOMAS B. WERNERT AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE • AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION'S SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD • HOWIE T. HARP COMMITMENT AWARD

CRIMINAL COURT/PAROLE PROGRAMS

Day Custody Program (DCP)

- Repeat Low-Level Offenders
- Community Service
- Counseling
- Discharge Planning
- Service Referrals

Treatment Readiness Program (TRP)

- 1st- and 2nd-Time Low-Level Drug Offenders
- Counseling
- Interactive Visits to Treatment Programs
- Immediate, Voluntary Enrollment in Treatment

Staten Island Community Service Project

- Low-Level Offenders on Staten Island
- Community Service for Non-Profits and Government Agencies

NYC Transit Community Service Project

- NYC Transit Quality of Life Offenders
- In-Court Screening and Intake
- Community Service Performed at NYC Transit Sites

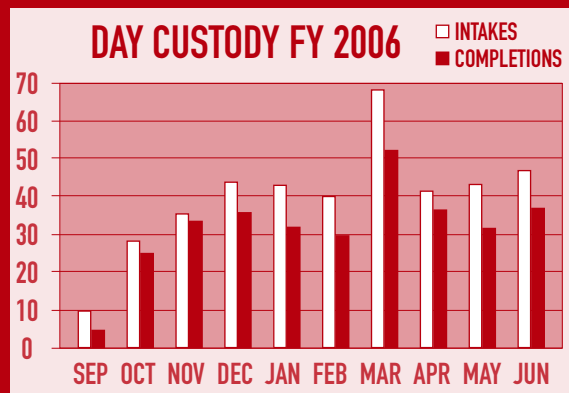
Parole Restoration Project (PRP)

- Technical Parole Violators with Special Needs (Jailed at Rikers Island)
- Escort and Immediate Admission to Community-Based Treatment



Because of our long experience working in the New York City courts, CASES is well-positioned to identify and respond to the service needs of various offender populations. For adults charged with low-level crimes, CASES Criminal Court Programs provide alternatives to short, expensive stays on Rikers Island that include little in the way of meaningful services.

In 2005, in partnership with the NYC Department of Correction, CASES launched the **Day Custody Program** for repeat low-level offenders. The innovative Day Custody model is a three-day sanction that includes substance abuse education, community service, and counseling. Day Custody helps individuals recognize causes of criminal involvement and reconnect to the community. Throughout the program's first year, participants achieved a high completion rate, supporting the viability of the Day Custody sanction.



“This program really cares. I know it made a difference in my life.”

- Steven B. committed to sobriety after receiving counseling in the Day Custody Program. After he completed Day Custody, staff referred Steven to an employment program where he is training to become a full-time freight driver.



“Their work saves money for our league and allows us to focus on running our programs. It makes the borough better.”

- Victor Torricelli, President of the East Shore Little League, Worksite for the Staten Island Community Service Project

PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

• **Treatment Readiness Counseling** includes an overview of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and drug and alcohol treatment.

• **Discharge Planning** and **Service Referrals** help participants sustain progress begun in our programs.

• By completing **Community Service**, participants develop a sense of accountability to the community and perform restitution for the harm caused by their crimes.

• **OUTCOMES:** Last year, CASES participants provided more than 200,000 hours of community service and received nearly 800 treatment and service referrals.

FY 2006 COMMUNITY SERVICE	
Program	Hours
Day Custody	4,919
Staten Island	26,000
Transit	171,312
TOTAL	202,233

FY 2006 DCP/TRP SERVICE REFERRALS	
Type of service	# Referrals
Drug/Alcohol Treatment	383
Employment	142
Medical	62
Basic Necessities	51
Housing	49
Mental Health	42
Education/Job Training	29
Public Assistance/Legal	22
Other	6
TOTAL	786

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT, NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY • CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION, NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES • JUNE 30, 2006

REVENUES:	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Grant Income	\$6,895,833		\$6,895,833
Medicaid Income	604,684		604,684
Contributions	284,672	426,620	711,292
Donated Facilities	743,261		743,261
Miscellaneous Income	32,307		32,307
Net Assets Released from Restriction	722,420	(722,420)	-
TOTAL REVENUE and PUBLIC SUPPORT	9,283,177	(295,800)	8,987,377

EXPENSES:			
Program Expenses	7,520,356	-	7,520,356
Fundraising	103,491	-	103,491
Management & Administration	1,631,398	-	1,631,398
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,255,244	-	9,255,244

Change in Net Assets	27,932	(295,800)	(267,868)
Net Assets, July 1, 2005	1,032,399	631,122	1,663,521
Net Assets, June 30, 2006	\$1,060,331	\$335,322	\$1,395,653

CASES depends on the partnership and support of government agencies, corporations, foundations, and individual donors. Thank you!

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS

NYC Council
 NYC Department of Correction
 NYC Department of Education
 NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
 NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
 NYC Housing Authority
 NYC Office of the Criminal Justice Coordinator
 NYC Sports Commission
 Office of the Manhattan Borough President
 NYS Department of Probation and Correctional Alternatives
 NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
 NYS Office of Children and Family Services
 NYS Office of Mental Health
 Bureau of Justice Assistance
 Corporation for National and Community Service
 Federal Emergency Management Agency
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 U.S. Department of Justice
 U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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 Morton K. & Jane Blaustein Foundation
 New Century High Schools Initiative/
 New Visions for Public Schools
 New Jersey Nets
 New York Community Trust
 New York Mets
 New York Times Company Foundation
 New York University Community Fund
 New York Women's Foundation
 Patrina Foundation
 Pinkerton Foundation

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CASES increases the understanding and use of community sanctions that are fair, affordable, and consistent with public safety. CASES programs provide court-involved young people and adults with meaningful opportunities to achieve positive and lasting change in their lives.

CASES □□□□□

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