



# SAFE CHOICES

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT "Connections" PROGRAM

### Program Overview

Once youth face school-based disciplinary action and/or enter the justice system, it's a difficult road ahead for them, their families and their communities. It has an impact on their physical and mental health and they are less likely to finish high school or gain employment.

The purpose of the "Connections" program is to provide an opportunity to impact youth recidivism and redirect young lives toward reaching their full potential.

Through our innovative, evidence-informed "Connections" program, youth and young adults impacted by disciplinary measures or the justice system have a unique chance to make positive human connections and develop essential life skills.

*"I do not know what it is like to walk a day in the shoes of the youth I encounter, but I want them to know they matter, their choices matter, their well-being matters."*

*~ Senior Director of SAFE Choices at SAFE Project*

**33%**

Likelihood of felony recidivism in a young person who has been to juvenile detention

**\$1 Billion**

The yearly cost of temporarily confining youth

**1 in 3**

Odds of confinement when a young person is arrested and referred to court

Source: The Anne. E. Casey Foundation

**The Youth and Young Adult "Connections" Program = An Empowering Personal Growth Experience!**

## "Connections"

focuses on the critical needs that all youth have in common:

Respect

Acceptance

Security

Inclusion

Importance

**Learn more**

## Program Learning Objectives



Master "The Flourishing Formula" leading to positive personal development, a greater sense of self-identity and finding power in meaningful connections



Develop essential life skills for adaptive and positive behaviors



Apply the "Stages of Change" through interactive journaling and self-expression



Gain clearer insight into personal passions through participation in meaningful service hour opportunities



Develop skills to make positive decisions which will reduce the likelihood of recidivism and support young lives in achieving their full potential



## About SAFE Choices

SAFE Choices is the youth and young adult-centered body of work at SAFE Project within the SAFE Communities initiative. SAFE Choices supports the vision of youth reaching their fullest potential through innovative programs. Its goal is to ensure young people have the information and support needed to make SAFE Choices while recognizing that every person is one choice away from a different life and aims to decrease risk while increasing personal resilience.