

# PROJECT RISE

## CHANGING LIVES. CHANGING COMMUNITIES.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE STILL MATURING AND DEVELOPING, WHICH IS WHY WE'VE CHANGED OUR APPROACH TO YOUTH JUSTICE. MORE THAN A MODEL, PROJECT RISE IS A MOVEMENT TO HELP KIDS REWRITE THEIR FUTURES AND CREATE SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY.

### CHANGING FUTURES

We know that youth who commit crimes have brains that are still maturing and developing, making it hard for them to sometimes regulate their emotions or control their impulses. Also, many of these youth have experienced trauma. Which is why we focus on what happened to a youth, and not just what they have done. Using research-based practices, trauma-informed care and wraparound services that match each youth's individual needs, we are able to provide integrative solutions that teach life skills, provide school support, job coaching, financial advice and more.

### A SAFER MILWAUKEE

Our approach paves a positive future for our kids and it creates safer neighborhoods. It's our goal to reduce the number of kids in the youth justice system, and ensure all kids, regardless of background, experience safe, healthy, and meaningful lives.



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## BUILDING SUCCESS

Milwaukee County has spearheaded numerous initiatives to transform our approach to youth justice. We established a Racial and Ethnic disparities (RED) committee to help identify areas that need the most assistance and determine fair and restorative solutions. In order to help reduce the amount of repeat offenders in the system, we've added more programs focused on rehabilitation and community-based alternatives to incarceration. And to better guide case planning, supervision, and placement of youth, we've implemented decision-making tools focused on each offenders individual needs.

## I FOUND RESPONSIBILITY



"I was 14 when my parents split. My dad moved to Chicago with my brothers. Mom and I moved, I had to start a new school and make friends. When I was 15, I got charged with driving without owner's consent, armed robbery and party to a crime. I thought my life was over, but DYFS didn't. They helped me. Made me go to school while

I was at the detention center. They gave me a job I learned a lot from. I made new friends and played a lot of basketball. They helped me talk, think through, and own my problems. I know I messed up, but now I'm focused on going to school, and being a good dad too. With the help and guidance DYFS gave me I know I can rise above anything."

*Rothel*

Rothel