



**Juvenile Court**

5501 Sixth Avenue  
Tacoma, WA 98406  
(253) 798-7900

**TJ Bohl**  
Administrator

January 15, 2020

Dear Community Partners,

As you may know, Pierce County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over juveniles within our community who violate the criminal laws of this state or who are in need of protection and advocacy as a result of abuse or neglect.

Pierce County Juvenile Court has been on the forefront of using research and data-driven approaches to improve youth justice over the last two decades. Consistent with this effort we have developed a new approach to supervising adolescents. Opportunity-Based Probation (OBP) utilizes research on adolescent brain development, which shows us that young adults whose brains are still developing are motivated through positive re-enforcement. In this new approach, Probation Counselors work with youth and families to set both long and short-term goals for making desired changes to their behavior. We have also introduced several Positive Youth Development (PYD) programs with community groups. PYDs include: yoga, boat building, bike refurbishing, art programs, etc. The goals of OBP and PYD are to teach youth new skills and motivate them to become a valuable member of their local community.

These programs rely on the support of volunteers from the community. Our court involved youth need advocacy, support and mentorship. Students majoring in the fields of social work, criminal justice, sociology, psychology and any other human services field will gain valuable employment experience while helping youth in our community. Some schools offer internship credit as well.

There are multiple volunteer positions available to students and/or community members that are open to all experience levels. A background check is required, and volunteers must be at least 21 (16 for the Community Accountability Board) and meet our application standards. Please contact me directly with questions or to set up an appointment to talk about what volunteer opportunity would be a good fit for you. Applications can also be submitted directly at: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=304566507>

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider the volunteer opportunities available at the Juvenile Court. Please forward this information to anyone you think may be interested.

Sincerely,

Carrie Willey, Volunteer Coordinator  
Pierce County Juvenile Court  
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