

# LA PLAZITA INSTITUTE

# J4Y

## Justice 4 Youth

"The Collaborative's work is both healing and creative—holding public systems accountable for harm they inflict on communities, holding each other accountable for our complicity in that harm, and continuing to develop culturally-grounded and community-based supports and opportunities, especially for young people of color. We come together to build a collective partnership and work toward a new, community-defined vision of youth justice for generations to come." - Year 1 Documentation Team Report

*"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."*  
 Bishop Desmond Tutu

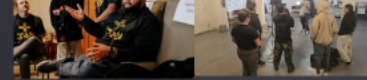
## Grassroots Perspectives on Juvenile Justice in New Mexico

### Call to Action

Based on our shared personal and professional experiences, we call for a collective call to action. We urge all stakeholders to join us in our commitment to ending the cycle of incarceration and supporting the success of our youth. We call for a collective call to action to end the cycle of incarceration and support the success of our youth.



### Better Big Homies



#### Peer Mentorship and Credible Mentors

The Better Big Homies program focuses on mentorship and community engagement, aiming to create supportive relationships that help support and guide youth through challenges. This unique approach fosters trust and accountability among participants, leading to lasting and meaningful connections.

#### Youth Engagement and Leadership

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### Stronger Together Never Alone Initiative

Supporting and empowering families of incarcerated youth!

#### Family Support

#### Community Impact and Advocacy

#### Prevention, Healing and Community Restoration



La Plazita Institute, Inc. (LPI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the cycle of incarceration. We are committed to providing culturally-grounded and community-based supports and opportunities for young people of color. We call for a collective call to action to end the cycle of incarceration and support the success of our youth.



# Justice 4 Youth Community Collaborative

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- The Justice for Youth Community Collaborative is a network-building, solutions-based collaboration movement for youth justice policy and systems reform designed and initiated by La Plazita Institute in 2020 with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

- The Collaborative is made up of community-based stakeholders—local grassroots organizations, youth justice advocates, and young people and families who have been directly impacted by the juvenile justice system.



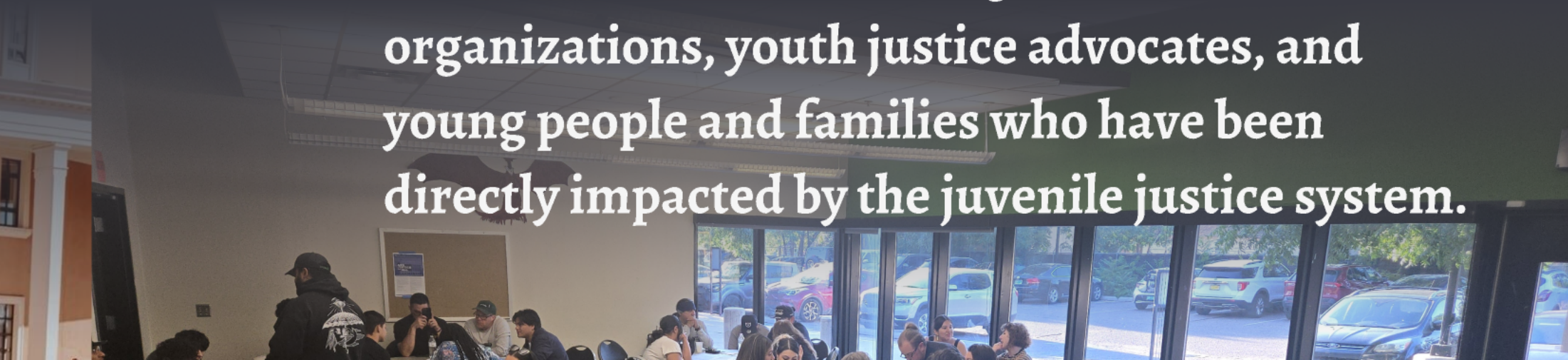




YOUTH   
EMPOWERMENT  
NOT IMPRISONMENT!



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# 28 organizations serving thousands of New Mexicans every month!

- La Plazita
- SouthWest Organizing Project
- Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps
- T-Net
- Together 4 Brothers
- Maize Skateboards
- Frontline Resurrection
- YDI
- Pegasus Legal Services for Children
- Consulting Success
- The Haven
- Millions for Prisoners
- Families United for Education
- Stronger Together Never Alone
- Vizion Sankofa

- 
- Future Focused Education
  - New Mexico Re-Entry Center
  - Keshet Dance Company
  - De-Serving Life
  - GLSEN
  - Community Engagement Center
  - New Mexico Dream Team
  - New Day
  - NM Asian Family Center
  - Centro Savila
  - Serenity Mesa
  - New Mexico Black Leadership Council



La Plazita Institute, Inc. (LPI) mission is using a comprehensive, holistic and cultural approach designed around the philosophy of “La Cultura Cura”, to engage with youth, elders and communities to draw from their own roots and histories that will express core traditional values of respect, honor, love, and family





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# Better Big Homies



## Peer Mentorship and Credible Messengers

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## Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development

By developing deep relationships with youth and families who are directly impacted by the system we are building the next generation of leaders. Better Big Homies leaders are transforming lives and communities by getting young people active and involved in their communities through education, civic engagement, community building and leadership development.



# Call to Action

- **Invest in our state's greatest natural resource!** Youth need quality education, treatment, diversion programs, and opportunities such as job training before, during, and after incarceration.
- **Dignity in detention!** End strip searches and ban the use of cameras in showers and restrooms.
- **No new facilities!** Costly and problematic, often leading to worse outcomes vs diversion and intervention programs for a much higher price tag.
- **Follow the brain science!** Amenability, age of prosecution, and delinquency statute need to be reviewed.
- **Transparency!** Community, families, and young people deserve to know what is happening and deserve to have a voice.



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La Plazita Institute, Inc. (LPI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to using a comprehensive, holistic and cultural approach to address the needs of the youth of color. LPI is engaged in a variety of programs and initiatives that aim to support and empower young people, address their needs and provide them with the resources and support they need to thrive. LPI is committed to creating a more just and equitable future for all.

