

Your Quarterly News & Updates Vol.11 Issue 2/Spring 2026
From The National Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CHILD AND YOUTH CARE
PROFESSIONALS

THE CYC ADVOCATE

"I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail." --- Abraham Maslow

CELEBRATING OUR



ANNIVERSARY



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[America 250's America Gives Initiative](#)

So, tell your colleagues, friends, students, and anyone who has the interest of child and youth care workers at heart, about the NACYCP and the CYC Advocate. You will be doing them a big favor. To renew or join NACYCP simply go to: www.acycp.org today!

Past issues of the CYC Advocate are archived on the NACYCP website. Readers can subscribe by contacting the editor at: propman46@gmail.com

Please, let us know what you would like to read about more.

Happy Reading! ♦

Consider This (From the (Human) Editor):

"The power of the people is stronger than the people in power."
— Wael Ghonim, Author & Activist

IN MEMORM - honoring an unsung hero, Amy Morrell, a child and youth worker

Staff worker at Meadowridge Academy in Swansea dies after altercation with student

The Herald News

SWANSEA, MA – A 53-year-old female staff worker at [Meadowridge Academy in Swansea](#) has died after being kicked by a student at the therapeutic school for youths and young adults.

[READ MORE](#)



**ARE YOU USING THE ACYCP JOURNAL OF
CHILD AND YOUTH CARE WORK?**

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Our Mission: NACYCP's mission is to engage practitioners in building the child and youth care profession. We build collaborative partnerships, promote innovative training and education, shape public policy, and inform developmental practice through research and scholarship.

Our Vision: We envision a society which recognizes, understands, and supports the essential role of child and youth care work in ensuring the well-being and success of children, youth and families. NACYCP aspires to excel as an influential and innovative organization advancing child and youth care practice throughout the profession.

Our Value Proposition: There is probably no undertaking more essential to the stability of humanity than the nurturing of each generation into mature self-actualizing adults. This task, after parents, falls mainly to youth and childcare workers. Often underpaid and overworked, these professionals are society's first responders to the many crises, which can impact human development in

the most formative years. Primarily through its professional certification program, the National Association for Child and Youth Care Professionals, Inc. (NACYCP) supports these care providers in the acquisition and use of best practices. Employing research-based methods, plus personal dedication, ensures strong measurable outcomes. NACYCP bolsters both the individual and the collective field through communication, education, and advocacy. These activities encourage individual live-long learning, selfcare and career dedication. As such, NACYCP seeks the financial support of its Vision and Mission, which guide its daily practices. NACYCP reaches every community of care across the entire spectrum of youth and childcare services, with proven results. Through the prudent stewardship of its resources by an all-volunteer staff and board, NACYCP has maximized its direct benefit to its members and the profession at large for over 45 years. An investment in NACYCP is an investment in the quality of tomorrow's citizens.

HOW HAS THE CYC ADVOCATE HELPED YOU PROFESSIONALLY OR PERSONALLY? SAY AND SHARE HERE... WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Yes, YOU! And while you're at it, please forward this issue to colleagues, peers, friends and any stakeholder who has the interests of youth and child care workers at heart. You'll be doing them a real service.

Would you like to write for the CYC Advocate? OF COURSE YOU CAN! Share your CYC experiences, expertise, perspectives, and opinions!

Next Issue: Copy for the Summer issue is due July 1, 2026 to: Michael Mitchell, propman46@gmail.com (608-846-2860) Madison, WI (CT)

NACYCP is on social media! Follow us on Facebook using **The-Association-for-Child-Youth-Care-Practice-Inc-186063394783003/** and Twitter using **@ACYCP** and on Instagram using **@ACYCP_Inc** . We look forward to hearing from you!

Illustration: Pixabay.com



IN THIS EXCITING ISSUE:

- **NACYCP PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**
- **CYC PRACTICE METHODS**
- **DEI SPOTLIGHT ON THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE**
- **CYC RESEARCH, REPORTS, AND RESOURCES**
- **REFLECTIONS FROM THE JJ SIDE**

- **FAMILY SUPPORTS & RESOURCES**
- **CYCCB & PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION**
- **WHAT ABOUT ME? (BEING AWARE WITH SELF-CARE)**
- **GET HELP HERE WITH YOUR CYC CERTIFICATION APPLICATION!**
- **THE OTHER HALF OF THE JOB**
- **THE ACCIDENTAL PRACTITIONER**
- **WHY WE STAY?**
- **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON YOUTH AND CHILD CARE WORK**
- **FROM CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY**
- **PROFESSIONAL CYC CERTIFICATION WORKBOOK IS KEY TO SUCCESS!**
- **CYC & NONPROFIT ADVOCACY**
- **HEALTHY KIDS...HEALTHY ADULTS**
- **FROM THE YOUTH PERSPECTIVE**
- **YOUTH LEADERSHIP FRONT AND CENTER**
- **FROM THE SOAPBOX...AGAIN!**
- **FROM BOYS TO MEN ALOUD**
- **YOUR AGENCY NEEDS THIS MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT NOW!**
- **JOB OPPORTUNITIES - Workforce Connection**
- **YOUR AD CAN GO HERE! (More CYC Resources)**

Editor's Note: We regret to announce that, due to professional and personal commitments, columnist JULIA HOLLINGS has had to step away from doing the OH CANADA! column. We thank her for her past contributions and wish her the best of success in the future.

Are you a Canadian CYC worker looking to let the world know about the great things going on in your country? Well, come on down! Just contact Editor Michael Mitchell at propman46@gmail.com or call (608) 846-2860 Central and let's talk.

Check out our display ad section at the end of this issue for more valuable CYC resources.

What Our Readers Are Saying

"I think the range of [articles] in the [CYC] Advocate is truly impressive...[each] issue...looks extremely professional...the [CYC] Advocate does a good job of appealing both to the most advanced workers and to workers just getting started."

"Great! Lots of links to valuable resources. Again, so well done!"

"I'm really looking forward to the new issue and want to congratulate you in advance—I'm sure it will be excellent!"

"Once again I am SO IMPRESSED by the depth and scope of the [CYC] Advocate. I've never seen anything better in our field!"

"Wow that is quite a newsletter! Very impressive work."

PLEASE NOTE: While we happily understand if you regard the CYC Advocate as you might a good book, you don't have to finish this entire issue in one sitting,

as much as you might like to (LOL). We know there's a broad range of CYC information and resources in each issue, which reflects the scope and depth of service activities within our CYC field. After all, it took us 3 months and 400 news items to compile this issue, so we suggest you take an initial scan, read what grabs your attention, then come back for a deeper dive later.

We're all very busy. But doesn't real life-long learning, best practice, and professional and personal development deserve more than the usual three-minute attention span and 15-second sound bite? (This seems to have become the norm for most of today's social media messaging.) After all, isn't this what you would expect from your professional doctor, dentist, lawyer, professor, etc.? We believe you'll be glad you did.

REMEMBER: IF YOU ARE NOT STAYING CURRENT WITH NACYCP ONLINE PERIODICALS, YOUR SKILL SETS MAY BE LESS THAN YOU'D LIKE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH YOU SERVE. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? FEEL FREE TO SHARE, ANNOUNCE, PRINT AND POST AS YOU SEE FIT. FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS AT propman46@gmail.com REPRINTS?- See terms and conditions at end of this issue. Comments, questions, or concerns? Contact Michael Mitchell propman46@gmail.com, or (608)846-2860 Madison, WI (Central Time)

IF YOU LIKE THIS QUARTERLY CYC ADVOCATE...Join NACYCP and get the monthly NACYCP Membership Memo, as one of many membership benefits!

TO JOIN NACYCP OR RENEW YOUR INDIVIDUAL, STUDENT, AGENCY, or ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP, GO TO: <https://acycp.org/membership-overview>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

NACYCP PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



By Jody Rhodes, CYC-P, MS, Board President

Dear NACYCP Members, CYC Colleagues, Allies, Friends, and Stakeholders

Welcome to the Spring edition of the CYC Advocate's 10th Anniversary year!

Lots of exciting things are happening in the world of youth work - our one day celebration, Thank a Youth Worker Day is coming up on Thursday May 7th. Celebrate with your fellow youth work colleagues. Post your celebration and gratitude for the great work youth workers do every day for the youth and families on social media and tag the NACYCP, Inc on your posts.

We are also excited to debut our new national logo - adding "national" to our existing name truly gives us the national presence we have. Be on the lookout for the launch of our new website too. A much-needed rebranding as we get close to our 50th anniversary (in 2027).

Our board is also configuring into new working committees, and all members of the NACYCP are welcome to join a committee. We have these options, and if you are interested in joining, you can email me directly so I can get you connected.

1. Professional Development Committee
2. Advocacy Committee
3. Advancement Committee
4. Communication & Marketing Committee
5. Community Engagement Committee
6. Board Development Committee
7. FICE USA Subcommittee
8. Youth Engagement Committee

As usual, this issue is full of resources and information you can use. Read a lot - read a little - save for later- whatever works for you!

Happy reading and exploring!

Jody Rhodes
NACYCP Board President

YOUR AGENCY NEEDS THIS NACYCP MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT NOW!



Yes, believe it or not, **CYC agencies SAVE a whopping 40% on individual staff NACYCP memberships**, when firms join as an Agency Member!

When your agency joins NACYCP, it received 20 Individual Memberships, among many other benefits. That represents a 40% savings over the cost of the same number of solo

memberships. This, in turn, meets the individual CYC association membership requirement for Certification.

How great is that!?

NEWS BREAK!

But that's not all! Organizations with 42 or more employees for membership get a further discount as a Corporate Member. Just contact Michael at the information below for further details.

Want to know more? [Follow this link..](#)

Questions?

Just contact:

Michael Mitchell, MAT
propman46@gmail.com
(608) 846-2860
[Madison, WI]

Join today and show your hard-working staff that you're invested in their professional growth, development, and future!

NACYCP BREAKING NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Treasurer- Jessica McKinley

Board Member- Luke Van Denend

Board Member - Annette Craycraft

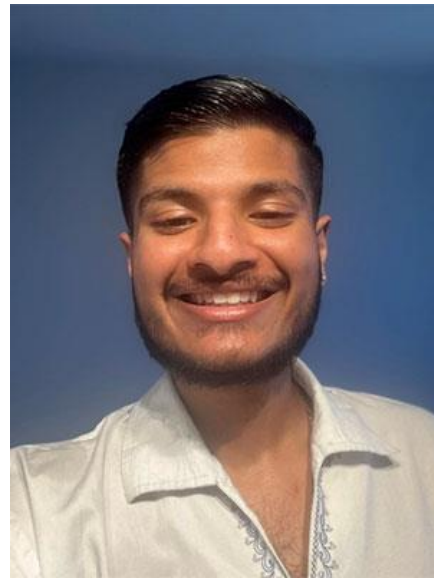
Board Member - Tristan Love

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Jeananne Reich

Jeananne Reich, CYC-P, has worked in non-profit youth work for over 20 years. With a passion for professional development, she has supported hundreds of Indiana practitioners with training resources and coaching in the CYC certification process. Her experience includes administrative and direct care roles in out-of-school time, residential, and substance use disorder programs. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology/Sociology from Hope College and a Graduate Certificate in Instructional Design from Bowling Green State University. Outside of work she enjoys time with family, skating, and cross-stitch.



Pranav Sharma

Pranav Piyush Sharma, HBA, CYC-P (Prov.), is a bilingual Child & Youth Care practitioner with over eight years of experience supporting children and young people with diverse intellectual and learning needs. His practice focuses on inclusive education and culturally responsive support. Pranav is also a writer and editor for scholarly work, with current research exploring Caribbean youth culture and law. In his insurance roles, Pranav engages with crisis response and regulatory frameworks, strengthening his interest in accessibility and policy structures affecting vulnerable youth and families. Pranav is also completing his bilingual law student and interests himself in hypersensitive legal topics, especially those involving young people.



Tara Nelson

Tara A. Nelson is the Program Director for Project Rebuild, a transformative program that addresses school attendance challenges and supports the needs of families.

Known as both a connector and an advocate, Tara works tirelessly to bridge resources, strengthen relationships, and champion equity for her community. A graduate of Roosevelt High School (Class of 1991), Sawyer Business College, and Calumet College of St. Joseph, Tara brings decades of experience in law, government, and nonprofit leadership. She spent nine years at the Law Office of Charles H. Graddick, followed by 12 years as a courtroom clerk at the Gary City Clerk's Office. Later, as Office Manager for the Indiana Parenting Institute, she facilitated cultural competence training, worked directly with families, and led professional development initiatives. Tara now also serves as the Northwest Indiana Outreach Coordinator for My School Options, expanding educational opportunities across the region.



Youth Voice- Alicia Campbell

I'm Alicia Campbell, a student and aspiring pediatric neurosurgeon! Through years of student activities and leadership roles, I've learned how to balance multiple responsibilities sustainably, because being an involved leader only makes me a better one.

[Editor's Note: See her "On Beginning" column below.]

Her leadership extends into numerous community roles, including:

- President of Clark Road Genesis Family Center
- Ways and Means Chair for the National Hook-Up of Black Women
- Advisory Board Member for Indiana 211 and Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church
- Member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Alpha Sigma Sigma Alumni Chapter

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO VOTED IN OUR ELECTION.
EXPECT GREAT THINGS.**

----- NACYCP Board of Directors

BREAKING NEWS!

**SAVE THE DATE!
[GO HERE!](#)**

NATIONAL THANK A YOUTH WORKER DAY

MAY 7 2026

Thank a Youth Worker Day is a joint effort of community partners, youth work organizations, youth and child care workers, and individuals who have signed on to declare an international day of celebrating youth workers.

acycp
ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD AND YOUTH CARE PRACTICE

www.acycp.org





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please also take a minute to see that your membership is current, so that you continue to receive your full menu of membership benefits and services, including the monthly NACYCP Membership Memo.

[Follow this link to renew](#)

NACYCP ENCOURAGES OUTREACH TO ALLIED CYC ORGANIZATIONS

For 45 years, the National Association For Child and Youth Care Professionals has worked hard to lift up the recognition, status, and compensation of child and youth care workers. They have done this primarily through professional Certification, supported by webinars, workshops, trainings and conferences, not to mention awards, scholarships, and media recognition.

Now, NACYCP is reaching out to potential allies in every community of care, with a cost-free reciprocal promotional exchange program, with other social service organizations focused on the welfare of youth, children, and families.

Collaborator

- ◇ Exchange of logos and links to website homepage on respective websites Partner
- ◇ Exchange of logos and link to website homepage on respective websites
- ◇ Exchange of promotional advertisement in newsletters and online periodicals

Associate

- ◇ Exchange of logos and link to website homepage
- ◇ Exchange of promotional advertisement in newsletters and online publications
- ◇ Exchange designation of liaison person for on-going communications
- ◇ Reciprocal endorsements of respective Mission and Vision Statements

[GO HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

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CYC BEST PRACTICE METHODS



TIPS, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES ON DAILY CYC PRACTICE

**DOWNLOAD THE NACYCP BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS OF CARE
HERE: <https://acycp.org/best-practice-standards>**

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the authors and The Trace and was posted on December 18, 2025.]-

HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF DRUGS

In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies reassured the medical community that patients would not become addicted to opioid pain relievers and healthcare providers began to prescribe them at greater rates. Increased prescription of opioid medications led to widespread misuse of both prescription and non-prescription opioids before it became clear that these medications could indeed be highly addictive. In 2017 HHS declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency. HHS is deeply committed to improving the physical and mental health and well-being of every American as we work to address the evolving crisis. HHS continues to support science- and community-based efforts to combat the opioid crisis.

[Collection Site Locator](#)

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BONUS FEATURES

[Recognize This SOS Hand Signal, It Can Save Lives](#)

[Drugs, Alcohol, Pregnancy & Children Who Are Vulnerable-2026 Virtual Training Series](#)

[From Childhood To Midlife And Beyond: How To Handle Anxiety At Every Age](#)

[20% Of U.S. Children With Special Health Needs Are Missing Out](#)

[WEBINAR: Early Puberty Among Girls with ADHD](#)

[New Pill Approved for Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder](#)

Illustration: FreeImages.com

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL: A DEI SPOT LIGHT ON THE CYC COMMUNITIES WE SERVE



"MUTUAL IGNORANCE BREEDS MUTUAL DISTRUST."-- ANDREW CARNEGIE

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and The Atlantic and was posted on March 27, 2026.]

THE SURPRISING REASON FOR THE NEW HOMOPHOBIA

By Spencer Kornhabe

Long ago, the bright-eyed Disney Channel star Shia LaBeouf entered adulthood and set about to become a great man. He studied method acting; he worked with edgy directors; he groaned and screamed like Al Pacino. But those ambitious days are now a distant memory. LaBeouf hasn't anchored a box-office hit in more than a decade, and little of his 2020s art-house work has drawn buzz. The most notable thing he's starred in lately was a clip of him on a podcaster's couch, hunched and diminished, talking about his fear of gay people.

LaBeouf recently spent a night in jail after getting into a series of bar fights in New Orleans. Videos and images of what looked like a belligerent bender spread across the internet, and police reports allege he threw around the word faggot during his arrest. "Big gay people are scary to me," LaBeouf said, addressing the incident in an interview with the YouTuber Andrew Callaghan that was posted in late February. "When I'm, like, standing by myself and three gay dudes are next to me touching my leg, I get scared." Callaghan asked for details, and LaBeouf physically crumpled, trying to stop himself from saying more. But soon he brought up gay people again, then again. He summed up his feelings by paraphrasing what the Bible says about homosexuality: "Nah."

[READ MORE](#)

BONUS FEATURES

[This Is How We Beat Censorship](#)

[The Racial State of the Union](#)

[How One Tribe Is Fighting Youth Suicide](#)

[Facing an Uncomfortable Truth: The Forced Sterilization of Native Women](#)

[Jonathan Bailey Raises Over \\$42K To Help Empower LGBTQ+ School Kids](#)

[The Suffragist Who Took On Christian Nationalism](#)

[Cesar Chavez Is Not The Labor Rights Movement](#)

[Adaptive Clothing Line Designed By And For Disabled People](#)

[The Scouts Are Too Woke, According To Pete Hegseth](#)

[A Bit About Epilepsy \[humor\]](#)

[Vivian Wilson Turns Elon Musk's Anti-Trans Comment Into Fundraiser For LGBTQ+ Youth](#)

[WSU Inspires Native Youth To See Themselves In Health Careers](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI):The NACYCP Position

The National Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals (NACYCP) stands in solidarity with all who seek social justice and equality. We are grateful to be associated with Black Lives Matter and others, who demonstrate their commitment to these ideals and to a vision of a future that recognizes the value and worth of all human beings irrespective of their race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, national origin, economic status, or religious beliefs. These are fundamental values upon which the child and youth care field is founded. It is the foundation upon which we humbly stand.

As an association, we strive to uphold these values but know that we, as a board and as a profession, have fallen short of living up to this vision. The recent tragic events connected to the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and others, have brought to light just how big this gap is in our country as well as in our field. We promote diversity and inclusion, but racial disparity and exclusion are still prevalent. We proclaim justice and equality, but injustice and inequality are everywhere we turn.

As child and youth care practitioners, we meet our youth where they are at and accept them for who they are. We are the foundation of society, helping to raise the next generation of leaders. If we don't take this seriously, who will?

We can start making changes to better the world we live and work in – for the youth, children and families we serve, as well as our own lives. It won't happen overnight, but if we do this together, it will happen. ◇

Illustration: jarmoulk on Pixabay.com

CYC RESEARCH, REPORTS & RESOURCES



STAYING CURRENT WITH THE LATEST DISCOVERIES IN CYC WORK

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and The Trace was posted on March 17, 2026 To subscribe [GO HERE](#)]

PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE MEANS HELPING YOUNG MEN CHANGE THEIR THINKING

By Mensah M. Dean

Participants in a city-funded program attend therapy sessions, build job skills, and rethink decisions that could lead to violence.

As a drizzle fell on a recent Friday morning in North Philadelphia, several dozen men sat inside a renovated warehouse talking through their problems and commitments. Leading the conversation in one classroom was Will Latif Little, a facilitator with Pushing Progress Philly, a community violence intervention program that local officials have credited with curbing shootings.

"I got kids. They depend on me," one of the men said. "If I don't work, I won't have money. I might have to sell drugs or do something else."

"What makes you committed to things?" Little asked. "How do you stay committed to that commitment?"

This was a cognitive behavioral intervention session designed to help the men hone their critical thinking skills. It is a key component of Pushing Progress Philly, or P3. Most of the men enrolled in the city-funded program have spent time behind bars. Little, who has worked at P3 since May, said his goal is to encourage the men to think before making bad decisions. "I try to help them overcome any trauma that they're dealing with," he said.

[**READ MORE**](#)

BONUS FEATURES

[**WEBINAR: Designing Transition IEPs That Reflect Real Futures**](#)

[**Study Flags Gaps in PrEP Use Among Youth at Risk for HIV**](#)

[**The Awake "Sleep" Loop: Why Attention Lapses Occur in ADHD**](#)

[**New Breakthrough In Multiple Sclerosis**](#)

[Detecting Language Difficulties](#)

[Protect LGBTQI+ Youth in Foster Care](#)

[New Adoption Resources Are Ready For You!](#)

[New State Resources Are Ready For You!](#)

[Latest In Autism Research](#)

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- Reclaiming Wisdom of Indigenous Cultures
- Positive Climates in Residential Care & Juvenile Justice
- Trauma, Resilience, and Thriving



For more information
& to Register



Join Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg,
Steve Van Bockern, and Mark Freado at the
Reclaiming Youth Seminars in Sioux Falls, South Dakota!

[**GO HERE**](#)

REFLECTIONS FROM THE JJ SIDE



By Felix Brooks, MS & Carol Cramer Brooks, MS-CYC Advocate Staff Writers

WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Yes, YOU! See our contact info below. * ◇

A COUNTRY OF UNFORGIVING PLACES

What if we're wrong? What if the policies and programs we've put in place to curb gun violence in America have made the problem worse? How can we solve this if we don't really understand the full complexity of it?

In his book, *Unforgiving Places: The Unexpected Origins of American Gun Violence*, author Jens Ludwig (University of Chicago Crime Lab) explores these questions. His work has been named among Bloomberg's and *The New Yorker's* Best Books of 2025.

The following summarizes the author's main points. If you're seeking a fresh perspective on America's gun violence crisis, we recommend reading the book.

Gun Violence = Guns + Violence

America has a lot of guns (400 million for a population of about 330 million) and a high murder rate. This abundance of guns, combined with violence, creates this crisis.

However, reframing how we understand the gun violence issue can point us to a solution involving two strategies: regulating guns and reducing violence. While America has mainly focused on gun control with limited success, it is just as important to understand and address the violence itself. America must pursue both approaches.

Conventional Wisdom or Behavioral Economics

The author uses the term "conventional wisdom" to describe common beliefs about why some people resort to violence; gun violence is seen as caused by bad individuals or poor economic conditions. It also claims that people choose violence after rationally weighing the costs and benefits. Influenced by these ideas, laws and policies over the past fifty years have often worsened the problem. America has built the world's largest prison system; zero-tolerance policies have limited opportunities for proper behavioral learning; widespread gun ownership—justified by self-defense—has made it easier to obtain illegal guns for crimes; and many gun control laws have failed as a result.

Ludwig suggests, "If gun violence = guns + violence, and the conventional beliefs and subsequent gun control efforts aren't going anywhere, it is time to focus on reducing violence" (Ludwig, 2025, page 53).

Reducing violence will require new ideas, policies, and practices based on the latest research, data, and facts. The author believes that the behavioral economics framework offers an alternative to traditional wisdom and provides a new perspective on human behavior, especially why people participate in violent acts. Understanding the beliefs and actions of behavioral economics depends on understanding how the brain functions during decision-making.

Behavioral economics recognizes that human beings have two minds: the deliberate, conscious, thinking mind that requires effort, and the automatic responses that develop to effortlessly handle situations seen as routine.

Kahneman's System 1 and System 2

Viewing gun violence through the lens of behavioral economics involves two types of thinking, based on Daniel Kahneman's concepts of System 1 (fast thinking) and System 2 (slow thinking). Kahneman's System 1 includes automatic responses that happen quickly. People are essentially on autopilot, relying on System 1 for everyday tasks and routine situations. They also depend on System 1 during times of stress and trauma when their mental bandwidth is limited, and they cannot fully process their current circumstances. Decisions made while someone is in System 1 are often black-and-white, dichotomous

choices. System 1 is known as the pattern detector. While it serves an important role, System 1 can sometimes lead people astray, especially in complex social interactions or unfamiliar and stressful situations.

System 2 responses are slow, effortful, and more analytical. While using System 2, people can solve problems, handle uncertainty, exercise self-control, develop and use language, think about the future, and imagine alternative scenarios that might have happened but didn't. System 2, also called the fact-checking system, is often called on to correct decisions made in System 1.

Conventional wisdom views gun violence in America as a "System 2 problem." Violence is effortful, premeditated, deliberate, and rational. Behavioral economics suggests that gun violence in America might be more of a problem of "System 1." Violence is intuitive, automatic, below conscious awareness, fast, coherent, effortless, and adaptable to situations we encounter daily and repeatedly (Ludwig, 2025, pp. 153-154).

SODAS

SODAS is a tool in behavioral economics to address violence and its prevention. SODAS stands for the quick assessment that happens in our brains when we face social interactions and decisions.

S – What situation am I in?

O – What is my objective for that interaction?

D – A – S – What are the disadvantages and advantages of different solutions?

Conflict and violence often result from errors in navigating the SODAS steps during challenging situations, such as when a person may misinterpret the situation by catastrophizing while in System 1. These mistakes are more likely to happen when dealing with nonroutine and complex scenarios or under high stress and traumatic conditions. Any error at any step in the SODAS assessment can lead to additional mistakes in the following steps.

The Central Argument

Throughout the book, Ludwig makes and supports the following central arguments:

1. Many of the policies America has implemented to try to reduce gun violence may have made the problem of gun violence worse. "Policies have created far too many unforgiving places" (Ludwig, 2025, page 241).
2. Gun violence is a problem of fallible human beings making automatic System 1 mistakes in key ten-minute windows.
3. Progress is made possible by changing the decision-making environments that people must navigate, and by directly helping them to better navigate those difficult situations.
4. The problem is not hopeless. The behavioral economics perspective provides multiple pathways to success; "To make, in other words, more of our unforgiving places into forgiving ones" (Ludwig, 2025, page 244).

Citation:

Ludwig, J. (2025). *Unforgiving places: The unexpected origins of American gun violence*. The University of Chicago Press.

The author:

Jens Ludwig is a Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, the Pritzker Director of the University of Chicago's Crime Lab, and codirector of the National Bureau of Economic Research's working group on the economics of crime.♦

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269.377.1605 (ET)

[Editor's Note: Readers can find past columns in archived issues of the CYC Advocate at www.acycp.org]

BONUS FEATURE

["Songs From The Hole" Is A Powerful Visual Album And Documentary](#)

[Kids Deserve Better: Why Juvenile Detention Reform Matters](#)

[What 20 Years With Court-Involved Youth Has Taught Me](#)

[Parents of School Shooters Are Being Prosecuted. Should They Be?](#)

[Youth Crime Continues Decades-Long Decline](#)

Illustration: Authors

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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Child & Youth Care
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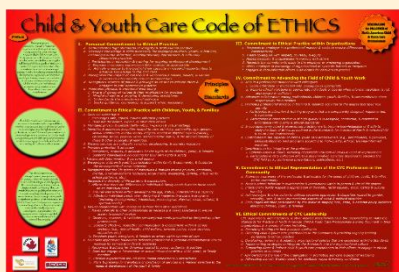
Frank Eckles, BA, CYC-P

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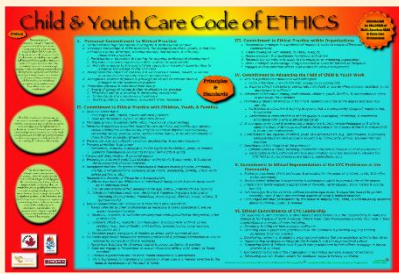
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[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and MedPage Today and was first posted on November 17, 2025.]

U.S. FERTILITY RATES HIT RECORD LOW IN 2025

By Jeroslyn JoVonn

The U.S. birth rate fell to a record low in 2025, with experts pointing to why starting a family has become "less desirable" among younger women.

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows U.S. fertility rates reached a record low in 2025, with experts pointing to the reasons behind the decline.

The CDC released provisional data on April 8 showing U.S. birth rates have reached a new record low, extending a nearly two-decade decline, Reuters reports. Since 2007, the general fertility rate has dropped by nearly 23%. The trend mirrors global patterns, as fewer women are choosing to have children amid shifting social dynamics.

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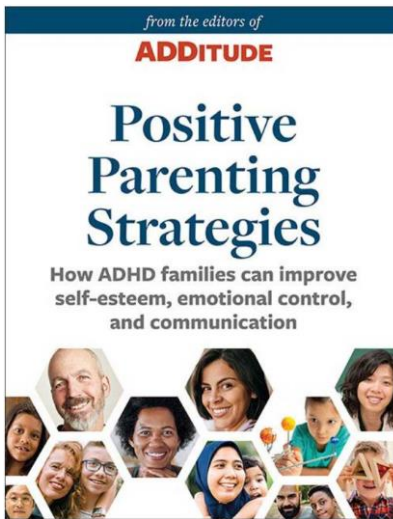
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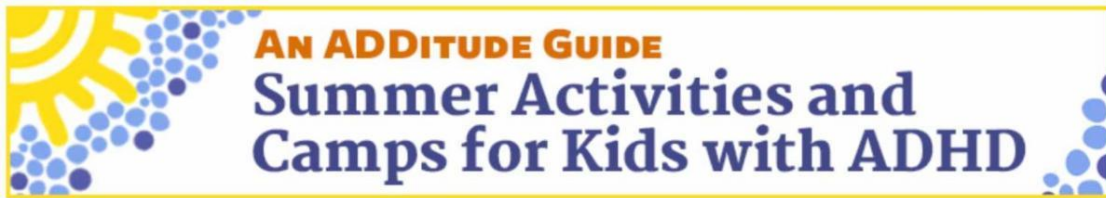
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Illustration: Omar Medinal Films on Pixabay.com

WHAT ABOUT ME?



"IF YOU DON'T MAKE TIME FOR YOUR WELLNESS, YOU'LL BE FORCED TO MAKE TIME FOR YOUR ILLNESS!" --- Matt Jenkins

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and MedPage Today and was posted December 31, 2025. This editor also copes with partial blindness attributable to untreated sleep apnea.]

HETEROSEXUAL CONVERSION THERAPY

[Adult Comedy]

By Jim Jefferies

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[Colorectal Cancer Is Now The Most Common Cause Of Cancer Deaths In The US For People Under 50](#)

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[Massive Undercount of Early COVID Deaths in the U.S.](#)

[Editor's Note: "Under Trump/MAGA control, our federal government no longer acknowledges National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. We observe this day [March 10] under protest because we refuse to let it be erased in pursuit of a patriarchal agenda that devalues the health and autonomy of women and girls. #ItsStillINWGHAAD" Source: CHLP: Center for HIV Law & Policy @hivlawandpolicy.bsky.social"]



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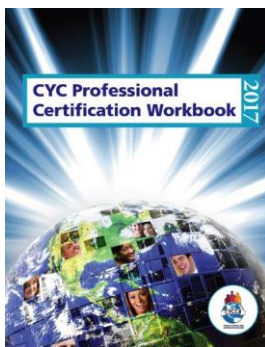
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—Abraham Maslow



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BUSINESS TIPS FOR CYC AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted in part with thanks to the authos and The 74, and was posted August 15, 2025.]

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MARKETING AND ADVERTISING?

By Jamie Johnson

Marketing and advertising focus on promoting products and services, but they do it in different ways.

Large companies often have separate marketing and advertising departments, but small business owners often manage both functions single-handedly. Understanding how marketing and advertising differ from one another and when to prioritize each one will make it easier for you to manage your time and money.

Although there are some similarities between advertising and marketing, they aren't the same thing. Here are some of the main differences between the two:

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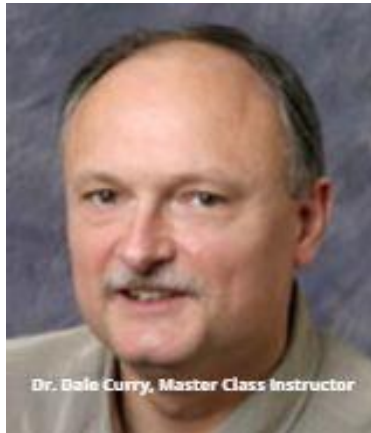
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THE ACCIDENTAL PRACTITIONER



**By Dale Curry, Ph.D., LSW, CYC-P, Professor Emeritus-Kent State University;
CYC Advocate Staff Writer**

AM I A CHILD AND YOUTH CARE (CYC) DINOSAUR?

How many of us stay in the field for a life-long career? I don't think anyone knows. But I know that even with the extremely high turnover rate, there continues to be a core segment of career practitioners who stay. These professionals provide years of wisdom and organizational memory that enhance program stability for those we serve. What are some of the things we have witnessed over the years?

This column will reminisce a bit about a few things that long-time career practitioners have seen go by the way of the dinosaur-or have they?

- In-patient children's psychiatric hospitals – I started my career as a child and youth care practitioner in a psychiatric hospital. While these programs have not completely

disappeared, far fewer exist today. Those that exist provide much shorter periods of service.

- Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) – I have memories of ECT being used with young children and adolescents. My initial reactions upon seeing it being conducted were emotional “shock” and sadness. Then I saw what I thought were amazing positive effects on a significantly distressed teen. Finally, saddened again as the positive effect was short-lived. Feelings of frustration and anger followed for me as there was no guidance provided for CYC practitioners beyond the ECT and the young person was transferred to a longer-term state facility. ECT is still being used today-though there are stringent regulations and often age restrictions regarding its use. But, I wonder what guidance CYC practitioners receive today regarding before, during and post ECT.

- Live-in CYC practitioners – My first supervisory and administrative CYC role required me to live on-campus and carry a beeper for emergencies. There was no “getting away” from the job. It was stressful for me and my family but I continued to learn a lot. My daughter was born while we lived on campus. So, I still have powerful memories of those live-in experiences. There are still programs today that have a “live-in” model of service but the vast majority of CYC practitioners work within a “shift” model of practice. The definition of CYC practice has also moved beyond being limited to a setting or a specific funding stream and expanded to a vast number of life and practice spaces (e.g., residential treatment, day care, in-home, shelter homes, in school and out-of-school time, etc.).

- Conscientious Objectors – Several of my early colleagues were “sentenced” to alternative service with the young persons in care during the Viet Nam war era to avoid the draft. With the current war with Iran, I am hoping that scenario is not re-created. Though, a sense of deja vu is becoming more pervasive.

- Seclusion rooms and physical restraint – When I first started my career, physical restraint and seclusion were part of the discipline and behavioral guidance continuum. It was a significant part of “limit setting.” I became extremely skilled in the use of physical restraint, but should have been encouraged to better develop my prevention and de-escalation skills. Although seclusion and restraint still exist in many settings, fortunately the field has progressed to where their use is under stricter regulation and only used when necessary for protection of the young persons and others. Increased training in prevention and de-escalation strategies are also a major part of CYC practitioner training. However, incidents of injuries and even deaths from restraint and seclusion still happen today on a far too regular basis.

- The advent of CYC professional associations and affiliated CYC Conferences and publications I served as an officer in the Pennsylvania Association of Child Care Workers (PACCW), conducted my first workshop in a swimming pool at the Inter-Association Child and Youth Care Conference in Valley Forge, PA., and wrote my first article in the PACCW newsletter. Today multiple CYC publications exist. Some CYC associations and conferences still thrive. But some have also “died off.” The PACCW and Inter-Association Child Care Conference which helped start my career no longer exists. Even the once strong Ohio Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals to which I belonged is gone. Fortunately, the national Association for Child and Youth Care Practice continues to thrive today.

- Professional association or unionization? – As an officer in the PACCW in the mid to late 70’s I visited many CYC organizations and promoted the importance of CYC practitioners becoming part of the PACCW. One of the biggest barriers I heard from administrators was

the fear of unionization. In spite of my efforts to clarify the difference between a CYC professional association and collective bargaining, the fear persisted for many administrators. The development of the CYC field was largely rooted in the quest for professionalism by identifying core values (e.g., a developmental, life space and relational focus) with a code of ethics and delineating core competencies for professional practice.

While we have made significant progress since the 70's, much has not changed (e.g., low wages and high turnover). I sometimes wonder what would have happened if the leaders in the field at that time focused on organizing through unionization and collective bargaining. Would salaries, benefits and career longevity increased significantly? What if today, the vast field of 6 million CYC practitioners in the U.S. across the various fields of practice, went on strike? The impact would be pervasive! There would be widespread service disruption. Most importantly, it would adversely affect the immediate care and longer term outcomes for young persons and families. It would also have a direct and indirect affect on the overall workforce and economy. Individual CYC practitioners would likely have conflicting ethical choices to make regarding the immediate care of young persons and the importance of advocating for better long-term working conditions for self and future practitioners. I once worked for an organization during a months-long labor strike. It was the most stressful period of my professional career! Here is a link to a discussion thread on CYC-Net regarding unionization in CYC. <https://cyc-net.org/threads/unions.html>.

- In-person conferences, training sessions and meetings – In-person professional conferences were a significant part of my developing professional identity. Distance technology has saved time and resources but it has also limited interpersonal interaction in an interpersonal field of practice. We are a relational field of practice where it is critical that our workforce also embrace the relational element in passing on the knowledge base and promoting identification as a CYC practitioner.
- Funding challenges – These challenges will likely always exist. At least there is increased awareness of the need to fund strategies to deal with the workforce crisis. There are significant federal funds to support, recruitment, training and personnel retention activities in CYC related areas such as child welfare. Many CYC practitioners have been able to benefit from this funding and the workforce knowledge gained.
- Little CYC training and no CYC trainers – When I entered the field, there was very little training for CYC practitioners and the training that was provided was conducted by professionals from other fields of practice. Today, CYC education and training has advanced significantly often leading to certification by the North American Child and Youth Care Certification Board. (CYCCB). CYC specific competencies have been identified and an increasing number of higher education and training programs have aligned their curricula with the these competencies. Both in-house and independent CYC trainers currently provide training on numerous competency areas.
- Accidental CYC practitioners and professional identity confusion – A multitude of titles still exist in the various CYC practice settings. Most of us still enter the field accidentally. Personally, I was first hired as a psychiatric aide before being interviewed for a CYC position (which was called a child care worker). I was referred to the children's psychiatric program because I had a water safety credential and the program had an indoor swimming pool. There was no structured pathway into the CYC field. Few high school counselors ever mentioned CYC as a possible career choice for young persons and the title CYC practitioner was not in their vocabulary. Recent developments include efforts by the CYCCB to unify the various CYC fields into a unified profession as well as outreach

activities and programs focusing on high school students to facilitate a more planful and less accidental entrance and ongoing career in the CYC profession. The CYC community has also identified essential competencies and methods for successful CYC practice. Perhaps Garfat & Fulcher (2011, p. 16) best describes our CYC identity: Our work with children and youth "... represents a way of being and working in the world. It is, therefore, about how one does what they do, not a question of what one is called or where they are located."

A CYC "way of being and working in the world:" I'm hoping the CYC way of being continues to live on and never becomes extinct! ♦

Reference

Garfat, T., & Fulcher, L. (2011). Characteristics of a child and youth care approach. *Relational Child and Youth Care Practice*, 24(1-2), 7-19.

[Editor's Note: The genius, Sir Isaac Newton famously said, "If I have achieved great things, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants." I note that he did not say what kind of "giants." Perhaps he meant dinosaurs? LOL]

[Editor's Note: Readers can find past columns in archived issues of the CYC Advocate at www.acycp.org]

Illustration: Dale Curry, Ph.D dcurry@kent.edu /Frank Eckles (lower)

WHY WE STAY



By Angelo "Chip" Bonsutto, Ed. D., CYC Advocate Staff Writer
ambonsutto@zoominternet.net

HOW TO TALK WITH OUR CHILDREN ABOUT WAR

"Good night, Chet. Good night, David." was the nightly sign off signaling the end of the Huntley-Brinkley Report and the beginning of dinner most nights in my household during my formative years. Most nights, my mother would turn on the old black and white TV in

the living room as she prepared the evening meal and listen to and watch NBC's national news. As I recall, most nightly reports routinely started with a report on and recap of the events of the on-going Vietnam War. She would stand, apron on, often with a cooking utensil in her hand, while she adjusted the rabbit ears antenna to get a slightly better picture on, even then, the old flickering tube. She would sigh when they reported the number of dead and wounded. Though I was only young child, I can still see her in my mind's eye pausing when Chet or David reported the America soldiers, or boys as she called, that were killed.

As she heard my father's car pull in the driveway, she would turn off the tube telling my sister and I to go wash our hands and come to dinner. My father, a Korean-era veteran, did not want to hear about the war when he came home from work. I do not recall them ever discussing the war in those days. At most, I was 8 or 9 but I do recall the simple graphics, in today's terms, on the screen showing the "boys" that were wounded or died. Those death graphics have stayed with me throughout my life.

My parents didn't really talk to me about the Vietnam War until after May 4, 1970. I grew up in Northeast Ohio. Many older siblings of my friends or teenagers that lived in the neighborhood went to Kent State University. The events at Kent State shook the country, Ohio, and my neighborhood. By then, my parents became much more critical of the government's actions. My mother was always opposed to the war and by 1970, my dad had become much more vocal about his deepening concerns. Young teens during World War II, they now openly question America's involvement in foreign entanglements. I recall a few weeks later our copy of Life Magazine's famous issue arrived that spurred further conversations between them. However, my parents rarely broached the subject with me though, as the told in years later, they were very fearful that I would be drafted at some point.

As a very young teenager, Kent State brought the war home. It brought home America's protests. It brought home America's divide. The magazine and news reports made it "much more real" for me and my friends. We talked about it, worried about it, and over that summer, as a few of my friend's older brothers entered military service, it frightened us. It really frightened us.

In 1973, the Vietnam War ended for the United States. Sadly, as a country we did not welcome our soldiers home but we did all let out a collective sigh of relief. America's longest war, at that time, was over. We hoped and prayed that we wouldn't have to go through it again. We were assured that our government and its people learned from our mistakes in Vietnam.

For the next few decades, we, Americans, were insulated from traumatic world events. Sure, there was Granda or the first Gulf War, but these were quite short with limited societal impact—At least in the United States. The children that I worked with didn't think about wars.

This all changed with national tragedy of September 11, 2001. For most, if you were alive that day, the events left a scar, a deep emotional one. Like me, you carry and share the national trauma of that day, much in the same way my parents carried Pearl Harbor and the assigation of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., or Robert Kennedy. For several years, I taught a course at Kent State University. The impact of trauma on children was part of this course. Students who were young children on that day could vividly recall the events of the 9/11 and the impact on them and their family regardless of what city, state, or even county they were raised.

On September 11, 2001, I was the director of a large residential treatment center for youth. I remember the day in its entirety. Rarely does a day go by that something doesn't remind me of the events, my co-workers I shared that day with, and wonder, often wonder, if I could have done anything different for the youth in my care.

And, then once again, we entered two long and prolonged military conflicts. New shows and politicians celebrated our quick victories. Based on the events and knowledge of 9/11, people understood our primary reasoning and rationale. In the initial days, then the first few years, pride and patriotism regarding the War on Terrorism was elevated, but as the wars and military actions stretch into decades, we, once again, questioned our on-going involvement. Again, we rarely spoke with our youth about it. Children were still frightened, still confused. In my personal conversations with many college students during that era, many were concerned about our continued involvement.

Today once again, we have entered another war. As of late March, 2026, for how long and the final outcome are unknown. In the day of the 24/7 continuous news cycle, the potential damage and trauma we cause today's children, those not actually in the respective war zones, is unknown as well.

Talking to children and teenagers about war is one of the hardest things a parent or caregiver can do, and there's no single perfect script, no single correct way. However, there are principles and practices that can make these conversations healthier, less frightening, and more meaningful for children and teens. The goal of these conversations is not to shield them from reality of the situation. In today's world of social media and streaming, this may be near impossible. Our goal is to help them feel safe, heard, and grounded in a world that can often feel chaotic.

Children and teens often know more than adults in their life assume that they do. I often told staff that "children are not furniture" – they have ears and eyes absorbing what is going on around them. Regardless of age, they hear adults talking, they learn from friends, school, social media, and the news playing on the radio in the car. Therefore, it is important to start the conversation by asking them what they already know. They often will surprise you. On September 11, 2001, upon picking up our 6-year-old from school, my wife asked her what she knew about the events of the day. What she knew was astonishing. The elementary school tried very hard to keep things low key but, as she told me later that night, she overheard teachers talking to each other about planes crashing into buildings in New York City. She reported that she was upset by the teachers crying. It is important to ask children and teenagers what they are feeling about the event or situation. Ask them what they have heard from school, friends, or overheard conversations. This lets you correct misunderstandings without overwhelming them with information they didn't ask for. Going off on tangents, or political explanations can only confuse and frighten children.

During 9/11, I remember being asked by multiple staff if we were safe. Our facility was outside of Cleveland and our downtown offices were required to evacuate. On 9/11 fear was real. I even remember one staff asking if we should evacuate. I assured him that we were as safe on the campus as anywhere else in Ohio. Little did I know at the time, but Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania made its turn back towards Washington almost directly above us.

For children and teens, let them know that they are safe as well. Today, let them know that Iran is very far away from mainland USA and that adults in the community, school,

and residential centers are working hard to keep them safe. It is important to be honest but calm.

For children under six years of age, it is important to offer simple assurances of safety. Avoid details, graphic images, or news clips. Be cautious when you are watching or listening to news reports to ensure that children do not hear or witness things that are not age appropriate. Children that are a few years older can manage clearer facts but avoid political complexity or overload them with complex histories. Going back to our actions in the 1950s with Iran or the Hostage Crisis of the late 1970s would confuse and, possibly, frighten children and younger teenagers. By all means, avoid graphic descriptions of the carnage of war for even the oldest of teens. As teenagers tend to be more inquisitive, monitor internet access a bit more closely. Very disturbing and violent images or "gore porn" exists and can be easily view by even the least internet savvy or overly inquisitive teen. With the recent advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), extra precautions should be taken. AI created Images and real war photos/videos can create emotional trauma for many youth and adults. AI blurs and distorts the lines between what is real and fabricated.

For younger children, keep your explanations of war simple and as factual as possible. Give factual explanations of why countries chose war to solve or attempt to problems. When I was a younger child and youth care worker, I was responsible for a residential unit of boys under 10 years of age. One summer, an older teen from another unit was discharged home and subsequently murdered by his mother a few days later. It made the local news and was a topic of conversation between staff when they thought children were not listening. This young man was looked up to by the younger boys because he was friendly and a good athlete. The boys of my unit found out about his death through the grapevine in the on-grounds school. I remember a boy in my unit plopping down in my office and asking me, "If you believe in God, how can you kill someone?" The young 20-something me stumbled over words and abstract concepts regarding mental health and such. He calmly looked at me at me and said, "You don't know either" and quietly left the room. Frankly, I still don't know the answer. With hindsight and further training, I now know that I should have told him he was safe and validated his feelings. During times of war, regardless if children are directly in the battle zone or thousands of miles away, they are often scared, sad, angry, and/or confused. As a child and youth care professional, I know that I cannot fix feelings but I can acknowledge them. One's feelings are one's feelings. Having painful feelings about a war are normal and appropriate.

Recently and in some circles, empathy has become a political debate or argument. However, all major religions hold empathy as a core ethical concept. For example, in Christianity, Jesus teaches compassion for others in the parable of the Good Samaritan. In Islam, zakar institutionalizes and obligates charity and empathy for others. Judaism's Golden Rule is explicitly empathy-based. In Taoism and Confucianism, empathy is the highest of virtues. When talking and comforting children and teens around the violence and destruction of war, it is important to find opportunities to teach compassion and empathy for others.

Shortly after I graduated from college, I started my first child and youth care worker job. The first thing I was taught was "either plan the activity or become the activity." In short, to reduce fear, anxiety, and promote the healthy progression of the coping process give children something to do. Have children draw a picture of hope or peace, make small donations to organizations that support service members and war refugees, go to a house of worship, and/or light a candle or say a prayer is so inclined.

Finally, make sure children and teens know that you are here for them. This is not a one-time conversation, rather it is an ongoing conversation. If they hear something that frightens or concerns them, let them know that you are available and that you are there to keep them safe. Feeling safe is a big deal for children. It is especially important for children who are survivors of trauma, have developmental, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges.

As a parent and child and youth care professional, I know that my primary responsibility has been to protect my daughter and the children that I have served. We don't know what risks our children will see in the future. We don't not what risks will present as we enter another war. To borrow from Shakespeare, the past is prolog, so we know that it will impact all children of the world in some way. The difficult conversations that we have with them now may minimize the impact of this trauma. ♦

[Editor's Note: Readers can find past columns in archived issues of the CYC Advocate at www.acycp.org]

Illustration: Chip Bonsutto

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON YOUTH AND CHILD CARE WORK



[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to Good Good Good, and was posted April 1, 2026.]

NONPROFIT INVENTED MODULAR PLAYGROUNDS FOR KIDS IN WAR ZONES

When London-based photographer Alexander Meininger had children, he found himself spending more and more time observing playgrounds.

A tinkerer by nature, he built his sons an indoor treehouse, but didn't realize the importance of play until the war in Ukraine, when he saw footage of children being displaced from their homes, schools, and all stability from the place they called home.

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[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to Good Good Good and was posted on April 2, 2026.]

HERE'S HOW SANDY HOOK PROMISE IS FIGHTING BACK AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

So far, there have been at least eight school shootings in the United States this year.

Five occurred on college campuses and three at K–12 schools. Altogether, at least six people have been killed and six others injured, based on analyses from CNN using data from the Gun Violence Archive, Education Week, and Everytown for Gun Safety.

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["The Lost Bus.": Star-Studded Cast And Nomination For Best Visual Effects \[True Story\]](#)

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Enjoy!

ON BEGINNING



[Editor's Note: This column is dedicated to the indispensable ideas and activities of our youngest readers and hopefully future child and youth care workers. As her column implies, Alicia is a bright and capable high school student who, as a graduating senior, is busy laying groundwork for her post-secondary education. We are delighted that she has made time to launch a regular staff column as we celebrate our 10th anniversary. Perhaps our readers can suggest topics for her to explore. Just email this editor at: propman46@gmail.com].

FRIED TO PERFECTION

By Alicia Campbell

Everyone is always quick to claim that they know the best way to cook a fried egg. Although I could never win Hell's Kitchen, I'm no exception. Throughout my 18 years of life, I've developed a signature technique for frying an egg: medium-high heat, a tablespoon of oil in the pan, the egg goes in, and I wait until the white sets and crisps around the edges before turning the heat off. I season the finished egg with salt, black pepper, and gochugaru (dried Korean chili pepper), because food tastes better when it tastes like home.

When the first bite touches my tongue, the combination of the velvety egg yolk and crispy edges of egg white feels like a delicacy as it placates my taste buds with its creamy, spicy tones. With each bite, I continually pat myself on the back; of course, eggs always taste best when you make them yourself.

Growing up, my attempts at a fried egg would've never impressed a chef, but it was mine: a small routine that taught me an egg is simple, but mastery is not. I've made hundreds over the years. The repetition taught me that true mastery comes from paying attention. When cooking, I take note of the temperature, sound, heat, timing, and even the way oil coats a pan.

That same chef's instinct shows up elsewhere in my life. I practice until I understand something deeply because I love the challenge of perfecting a craft: from shadowing surgical procedures at my internship until I could list the steps backwards, to attending math tutoring daily until I was able to truly understand calculus.

Now, frying an egg is an early morning ritual that I turn to when my life feels too unpredictable. The gochugaru sprinkled on top is not just seasoning, but how I weave my family into my morning before greeting the world. My greatest talent is not frying an egg; it's having patience and dedication to things in my life while I'm on the road to mastering them. The elementary fried egg is just my favorite example. ♦

BONUS FEATURES

[How Ambitious Girls Can Thrive Without Burning Out](#)

[Sleep in Adolescents](#)

[Teen's Internal Clock Controls Their Cravings](#)

Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the United States

The United States is the only country in the world that has yet to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Several of the provisions of the CRC came at the recommendation of President Reagan's Administration and President Bill Clinton signed the CRC in 1995. However, the Convention has not been ratified by the U.S. Senate. The failure to ratify this treaty has left U.S. children vulnerable to human rights abuses at the state and federal level. It is critical that every nation, including the U.S., sign and ratify the CRC to protect the human rights of children.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

How To Contact Your Political Rep Today! See From The Hill Below

Illustration: debaasbe on Pixabay.com

FROM THE HILL



CYC REGULATIONS, LEGISLATION & COURT RULINGS

Have You Contacted Your Representative Lately?

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted in part with thanks to the author and Black Enterprise and was posted April 2, 2026.]

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON, LONE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE TO VOTE AGAINST CONVERSION THERAPY

By Nahlah Abdur-Rahman

The Honorable Ketanji Brown Jackson was the only Supreme Court Justice to vote against a ruling regarding conversion therapy. Her fellow liberal justices on the Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, sided with the bench for the conservative decision, considered a major blow to the LGBTQ+ community.

The court upheld her claims, noting Chiles' counseling was talk-based and not physical, and, thus, state law should not infringe on the content of her words. Conversion therapy, according to WebMD, is an emotional and/or physical therapy to try to change a person's homosexual orientation to heterosexual. It is often used under Christian-based practices as an attempt to "cure" gay-identifying individuals of their same-sex attraction.

In her 34-page dissent, Jackson, the first and only Black woman Justice mentioned how Chiles imposes her views on minors, and not just shares her thoughts as a matter of free will.

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Enjoy! ◇

Illustration: Ross Johnston

HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY ADULTS



EXPLORING CYC DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES WITH LIFELONG IMPACTS

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and MedPage Today and was updated March 17, 2026.]

MANY TEENS LACK HPV VAX BEFORE SEXUAL ACTIVITY BEGINS

By Jennifer Henderson

Missing doses represent a "critical missed opportunity for cancer prevention"

Key Takeaways

Although most sexually active adolescents within a large primary care network had received human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination before sexual debut, 12% had not received any doses of the vaccine, and 9% had not completed the series.

Young people who had not been vaccinated were disproportionately non-Hispanic white (49%) and commercially insured (59%).

Factors at play might have included vaccine hesitancy and delayed decision-making rather than lack of access.

More than 1 in 5 adolescents within one large primary care network weren't fully vaccinated against human papillomavirus (HPV) before sexual debut, representing a "critical missed opportunity for cancer prevention," researchers reported.

Among 9,491 teens ages 13 to 18 who reported sexual activity, 12% had not received any HPV vaccine before sexual debut, and 9% had initiated but not completed the vaccine series, Brian Jenssen, MD, MSHP, of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and colleagues found in a cross-sectional analysis.

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Enjoy!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP FRONT AND CENTER



[Editor's Note The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and he 74 and was posted July 24, 2025.]

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY. WE SHOULD BE LISTENING

By Jordan Pineda

The kids are at it again.

In recent years, Generations Z and Alpha have made clear that they are dissatisfied with our country's current state. They're protesting the collective status quo of partisanship, perpetual plutocracy and the unchecked disconnect of our gerontocratic leaders. As they come of age in a moment of extraordinary tension, their patience for traditional civic engagement is coming to an end.

To avoid this we must welcome young people into the socio-political fray by lowering voting ages, redesigning civic education to combat misinformation and radical politics, and extending opportunities for youth to authentically engage at the municipal level.

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BONUS FEATURES

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[His Single Make-A-Wish Gift Not for Himself](#)

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[WSU Inspires Native Youth To See Themselves In Health Careers](#)

[Recommendations from Trans Youth for Health Care Providers](#)

[National Native Youth Essay Contest](#)

[New Campus Helps Homeless Youth Exit Crisis Three Times Faster](#)

Illustration: US Department of Labor



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FROM THE SOAPBOX... AGAIN!



Karen Vander Ven, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Department of Psychology in Education, University of Pittsburgh; CYC Advocate Staff Writer at kvander@pitt.edu Enjoy!

LETCWORTH VILLAGE: THE EARLY ROOTS OF A CYC CAREER

When did you know that somehow and sometime in your life you wanted to be involved with the well-being and positive development of children?

I knew that early on. In my elementary school classroom, I sized up each child and tried to figure out how they functioned. If there was difficulty, I would defend the child. One of my teachers actually commented to my mother about this. I may have gone too far in defending a child in some difficulty, even if it were only standing in the corner (a common discipline technique back in the 1940s.)

A strong memory I retain is of a residential center for "physically and mentally disabled of all ages" called Letchworth Village. This was not too far from my home in New York state. My mother took me there when I was a child. She loved driving around in her Ford

convertible with the top down, if it wasn't cold out, and with her curly hair blowing in the wind.

My mother, a freelance writer, took me there for a series of evaluations, because I had not started talking before I was two years old. This was a very proactive move on her part at a time when the common parenting attitude was to just let children "grow out of it." While I had a few challenges, I attended the usual public school progression, right through to my doctoral program.

It's interesting to think about when we first identified with the needs of other children. I know that I was interested in them from the earliest grades on. I remember all my elementary school teachers as well and how they treated us. Luckily, while all of my teachers were different, they did a good job. I actually remember the names of all of them from kindergarten on. Mrs. Nedwick was the kindergarten teacher. Somehow I decided for some reason to stick my tongue out at her. She noticed it and I'm sorry to say that I think she stopped and called on me. I said "I don't like you". There was no reason for it. She was kind and there was no corporal punishment. She said, "Well, I like you!"

Anyway, think about taking your own trip down Memory Lane seeking knowledge about how you became interested in child and youth care work. I still remember Letchworth Village, which closed in 1996, and my kind teachers.

What do you remember from early on and how does it influence your work now? When did you know that somehow and sometime in your life you wanted to be involved with the well being and positive development of youth and children?

What do you remember from early on and how does it influence your work now? What were your earliest memories? Who influenced you the most or became role models for future emulation? Did you ever have an opportunity to reconnect with them in later years? Did you ever let them know how they influenced you and express some words of gratitude? ♦

Reference

Letchworth Village. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letchworth_Village

[Editor's Note: Readers can find past columns in archived issues of the CYC Advocate at www.acycp.org]

BONUS FEATURES

[**Beyond Fragmentation: Advancing Continuity Of Care And Cumulative Opportunities In OST**](#)

Illustration: Author

FROM BOYS TO MEN ALOUD



[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with thanks to the author and The Good Men Project and was posted March 29, 2026.]

WHERE GUARDS COME DOWN

By Russell Nichols

For many Black men, the barbershop is the only place that feels safe.

By day, he was "Paper Kutz the Barber," known around town for creating sharp lines. By night, he was Earnest Wayne Threats Jr., a 36-year-old divorced father who lived in the back of the shop.

In 2024, he was enrolled in barber school and working at HAIRitage in Sacramento. But another breakup, some time in jail and an eviction notice had left him homeless for the second time in eight years.

"The shop owner said, 'We got a back room. You can stay there,'" Threats recalls. "I was still making money, thousands, but I wasn't used to filling out housing applications. Being alone gave me time to think."

For six months, he woke up early, opened the shop, then listened as men opened up about breakups, custody battles and sleepless nights. They talked about the pressure to hold it together. They had no idea their barber was barely holding on himself.

Two years later, Threats stands in that same shop, the air thick with aftershave and talc. Marble tiles gleam under ring lights at each station. "What Kind of Man Would I Be" by Mint Condition plays beneath the steady buzz of clippers and the low roar of hair dryers. Wearing a black apron, a barber's pole tattooed on the right side of his face, Threats smiles, pointing past the wooden chessboard toward a set of doors.

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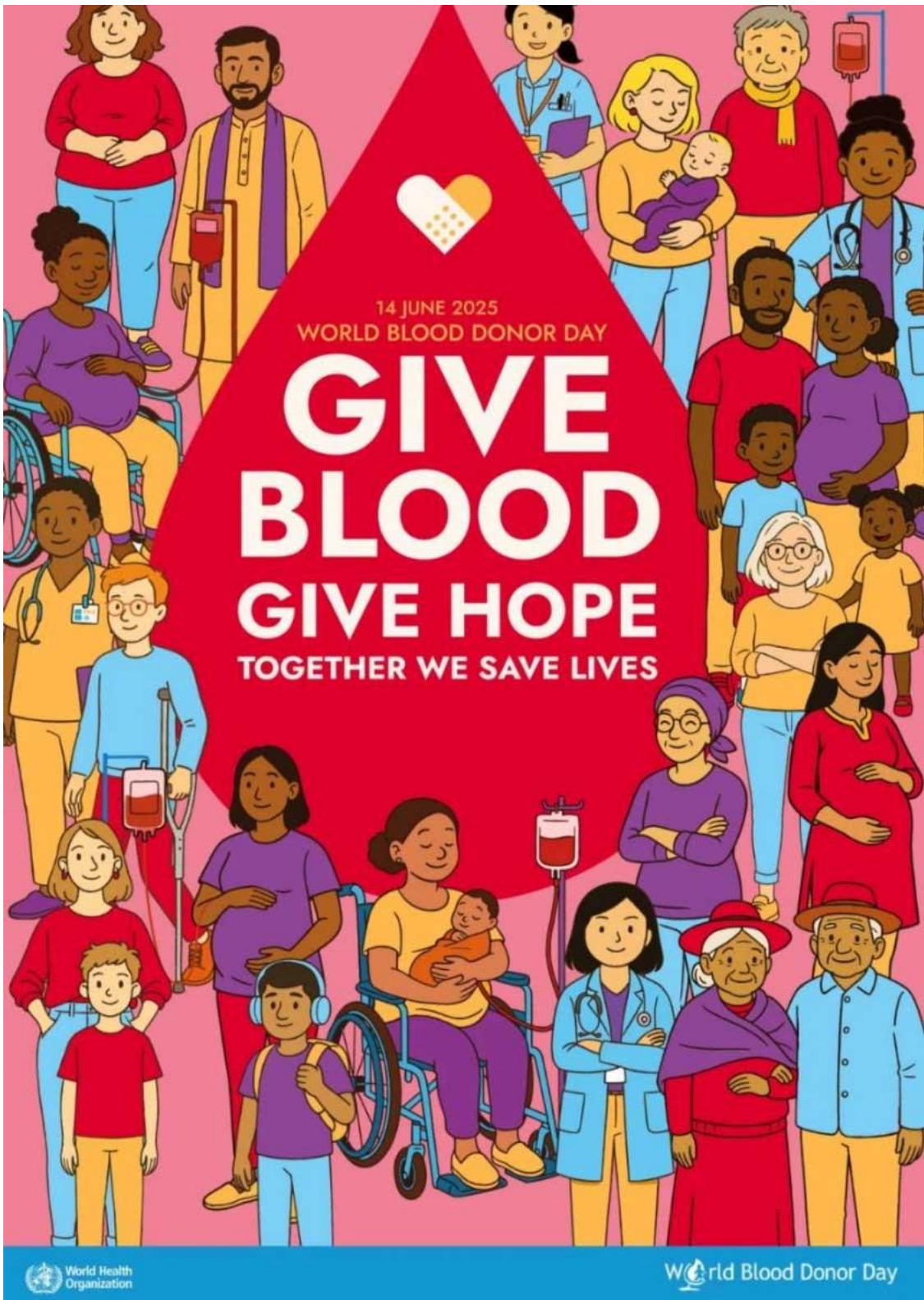




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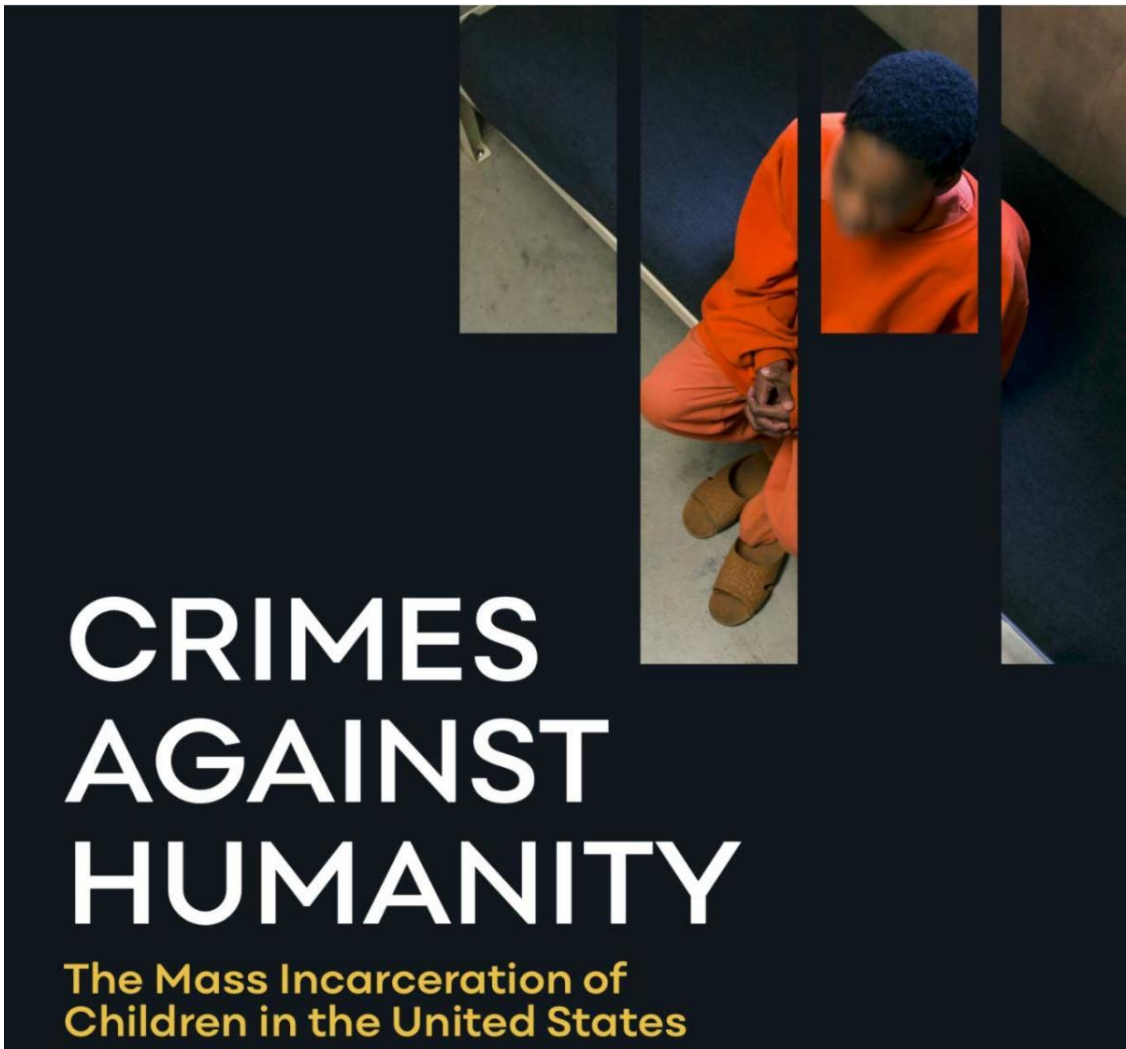
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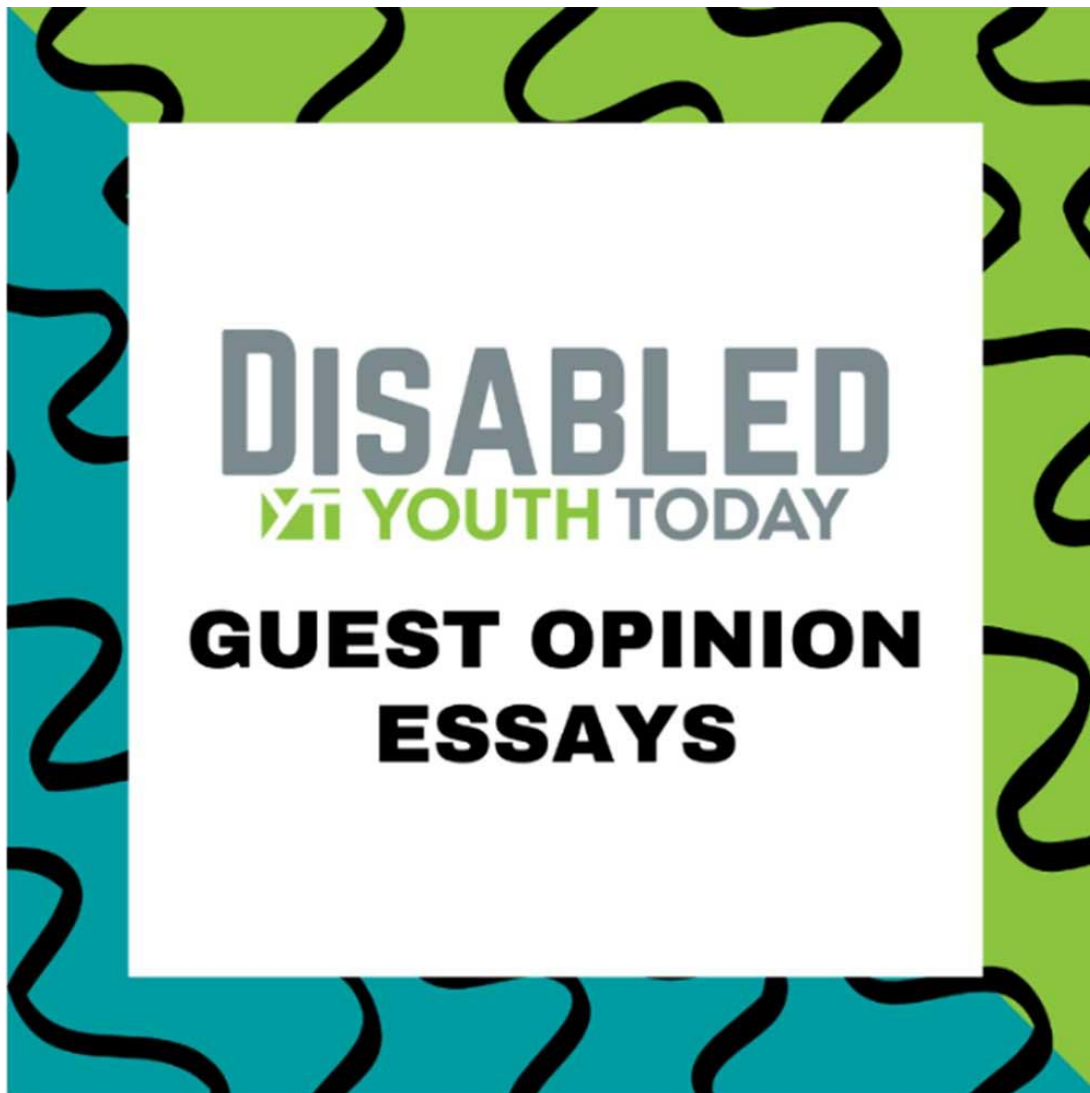
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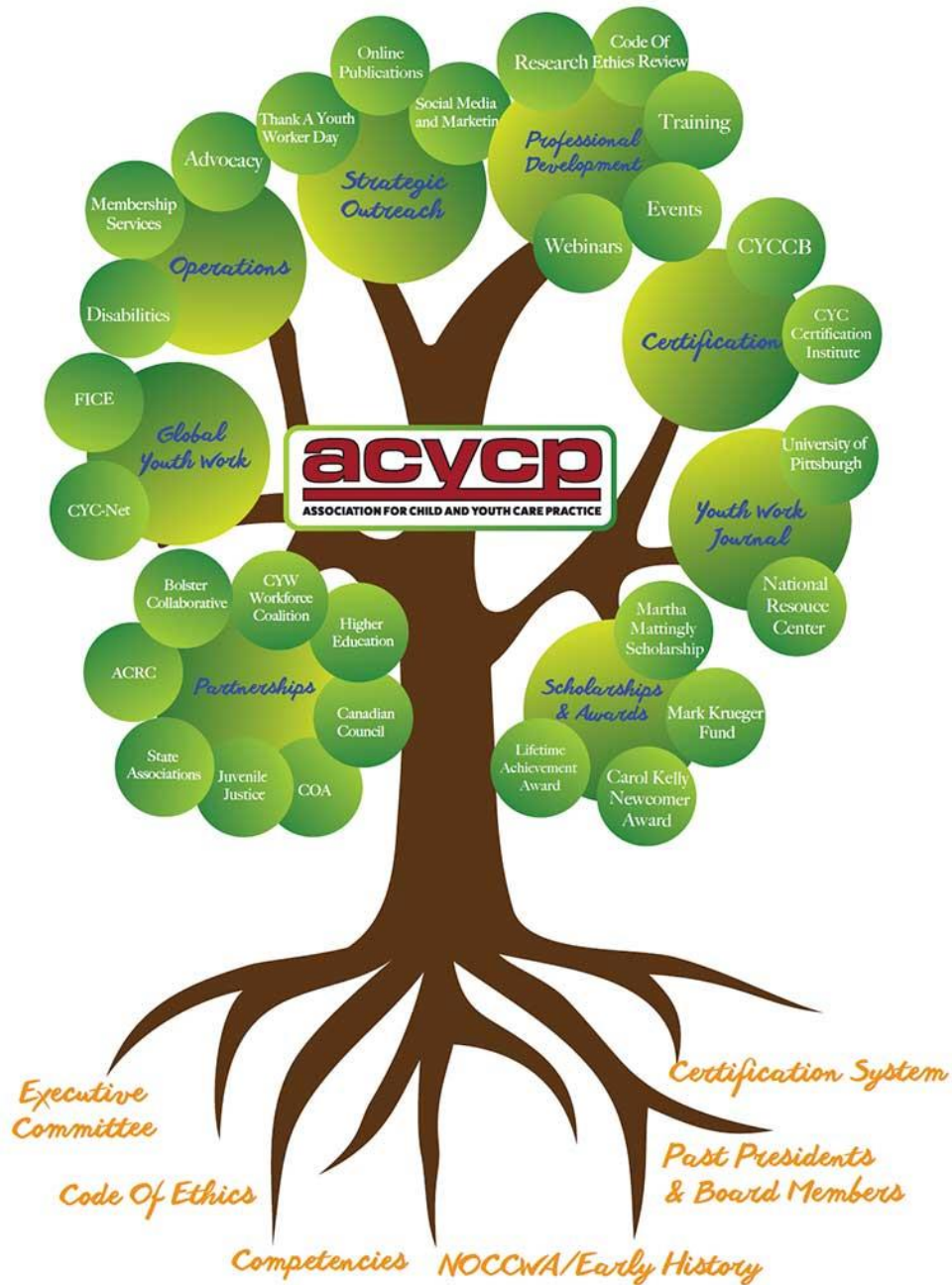


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