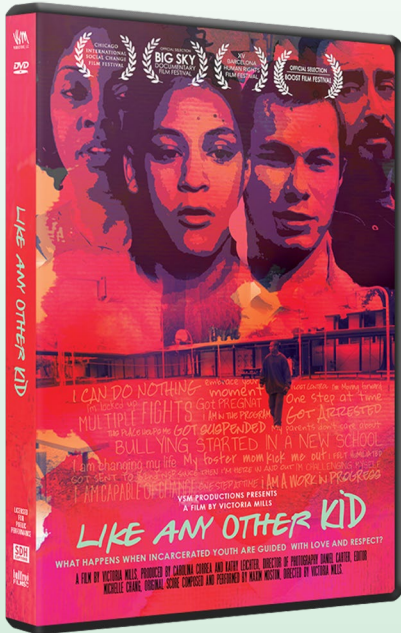


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presents...

# LIKE ANY OTHER KID



## About the film

LIKE ANY OTHER KID provides a rare glimpse into the inner-workings of one of the most promising developments in juvenile justice reform: the use of non-punitive, therapeutic programs to change behavior and help youth re-enter their communities. Following the intimate relationships between incarcerated youth and staff in three unique facilities across the country over the course of three years, the film shows how these programs work. Based on the Missouri approach, where love and structure — instead of punishment — are used, these programs guide and teach youth how to take responsibility for themselves.

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## About the filmmaker



Victoria Mills is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and full-time, practicing psychoanalyst. Previous film directing credits include Mothers and Daughters: Mirrors That Bind and Hidden Battles. As an analyst with 30 years experience, Victoria has worked extensively with adolescents, people of different cultures, and those who have experienced trauma. She is a training analyst, teacher, lecturer, and member of the International Psychoanalytic Association and the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. In conjunction with her films, she leads workshops with universities, national organizations, and grass-roots community groups.

# Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the film is called “Like Any Other Kid”?
2. What surprised you about what you saw in the film? Why?
3. What did you notice about how the staff worked with youth? What worked? What didn’t?
4. How did the relationship with staff members impact their growth?
5. How do you think other people view these kids? How does that impact how they view themselves?
6. Is there anyone in the film that you related to? Why? Why not?
7. How do these kids’ desires, hopes and dreams compare to yours? How are they similar? How are they different?
8. What internal conflicts or struggles were these kids dealing with?
9. What challenges do you think these youth will face on the outside as they reintegrate back into their community? How can families and community leaders facilitate and support the process?
10. Did the film change your thinking about incarcerated youth? If so, how? If not, why?
11. How have you personally been impacted by the juvenile justice system? Hint: try to think broadly...
12. What would a just juvenile justice system look like? What elements would it include? What would it not have?
13. How can organizations and/or communities work to better support youth and families? What would you need to do so individually and collectively as an organization?
14. How do we as a community empower our youth? What options and alternatives do we give them for success? What else can we do?

# Resources

Learn more about the juvenile justice system, how youth are treated, and the ways people across the country and world are envisioning a new just and equitable society. Please see below for additional information about groups who are active in this space.

## WEBSITES

**Anti-Recidivism Coalition** — <https://antirecidivism.org>

The Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) works to end mass incarceration in California.

**Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network** — <https://www.aiynetwork.org/>

The Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN) is an interdisciplinary collaborative that provides exceptional arts programming in order to build resiliency and wellness, eliminate recidivism, and transform the juvenile justice system.

**Big Brothers and Big Sisters** — <https://www.bbbs.org/>

Since 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential. As the nation's largest donor- and volunteer-supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 5 through young adulthood in communities across the country.

**BronxConnect** — <https://bronxconnect.org/about/>

BronxConnect is a community and faith-based program that offers alternative-justice, cure violence, and re-entry programs to help communities build from within.

**Brooklyn Friends** — <https://brooklynfriends.org/>

Brooklyn Friends is a Preschool through 12th grade independent Quaker school located in the thriving Downtown Brooklyn neighborhood.

**CASES** — <https://www.cases.org/about/mission/>

The mission of the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES) is to increase public safety through innovative services that reduce crime and incarceration, improve behavioral health, promote recovery and rehabilitation, and create opportunities for success in the community.

**Californians for Safety and Justice** — <https://safeandjust.org>

Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ), a project of the Tides Center, is a nonprofit working with Californians from all walks of life to replace prison and justice system waste with common sense solutions that create safe neighborhoods and save public dollars.

**Campaign for Youth Justice** — <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/>

The Campaign for Youth Justice (CFYJ) is a national initiative focused entirely on ending the practice of prosecuting, sentencing, and incarcerating youth under the age of 18 in the adult criminal justice system.

**Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings** — <https://www.ceeas.org/>

CEEAS directly operates educational programs for system-involved youth and support efforts around the country to improve education in youth and adult correctional settings.

**Children’s Aid Society** — <https://www.childrensaidnyc.org/>

Children’s Aid helps children in poverty to succeed and thrive by providing comprehensive supports to children, youth, and their families in targeted high-needs New York City neighborhoods.

**Children’s Defense Fund** — <https://www.childrensdefense.org/>

CDF provides a strong, effective and independent voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves, paying particular attention to the needs of poor children, children of color and those with disabilities.

**Columbia University Center for Justice** — <https://centerforjustice.columbia.edu/>

The Center for Justice is committed to ending mass incarceration and criminalization, and advancing alternative approaches to justice and safety through education, research, and policy change. Its mission is to help transform the approaches to justice from being driven by punishment and retribution to being centered on prevention and healing.

**Common Justice** — <https://www.commonjustice.org/>

Common Justice develops and advances solutions to violence that transform the lives of those harmed and foster racial equity without relying on incarceration.

**Community Connections for Youth** — <https://cc-fy.org/about-us/mission/>

CCFY envisions a world in which incarceration is no longer a primary response to children who run afoul of the law. Recognizing that overreliance on the juvenile justice system is a harmful, ineffective, and costly, CCFY seeks to develop the capacity of communities to respond to youthful misbehavior.

**Covenant House** — <https://www.covenanthouse.org/>

Covenant House provides housing and supportive services to youth facing homelessness, helping young people transform their lives and put them on a path to independence.

**EduColor** — <https://www.educolor.org/resources/>

EduColor seeks to elevate the voices of public school advocates of color on educational equity and justice. EduColor is an inclusive cooperative of informed, inspired and motivated educators, parents, students, writers and activists who promote and embrace the centrality of substantive intersectional diversity.

**Fathers and Families of San Joaquin** — <https://www.ffsj.org/>

Fathers and Families promotes the cultural, spiritual, economic and social renewal of the most vulnerable families in Stockton, CA and the greater San Joaquin Valley.

**Gang Rescue and Support Project** — <https://graspyouth.org/>

GRASP is a peer-run, intervention program that works with youth who are at-risk of gang involvement or are presently active in gangs, helps families of gang victims, and serves as a youth advocate.

**Harlem Children's Zone** — <https://hcz.org/>

HCZ® has helped thousands of children and families by disrupting the cycle of generational poverty in Central Harlem through their innovative and effective programs.

**Justice Policy Institute** — <http://www.justicepolicy.org/index.html>

Justice Policy Institute is a national nonprofit organization that changes the conversation around justice reform and advances policies that promote well-being and justice for all people and communities. JPI is dedicated to reducing the use of incarceration and the justice system by promoting fair and effective policies.

**Liberty Hill Foundation** — <https://www.libertyhill.org/>

For more than 40 years, Liberty Hill Foundation has been Los Angeles' epicenter for social justice, incubating cutting-edge social movements, transforming neighborhoods, and empowering the leaders of tomorrow. Liberty Hill is committed to racial equity, LBGTQ rights, economic opportunity, and environmental justice.

**My Brothers Keeper** — <https://www.obama.org/mbka/>

President Barack Obama launched My Brother's Keeper in February 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps facing boys and young men of color and to ensure all youth can reach their full potential. In 2015 the My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBK Alliance) was launched, inspired by My Brother's Keeper, to scale and sustain this mission. In late 2017, MBK Alliance became an initiative of the Obama Foundation.

**Missouri Youth Service Institute** — <http://www.mysiconsulting.org>

The Missouri Youth Services Institute (MYSI) is a not for profit organization created to assist juvenile systems in reform efforts.

**National Association of Independent Schools** — <https://www.nais.org/about/>

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) is a nonprofit membership association that provides services to more than 1,900 schools and associations of schools in the United States and abroad, including more than 1,600 independent private K-12 schools in the U.S

**The Brotherhood/Sister Sol** — <https://brotherhood-sistersol.org/>

Founded in 1995, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol (Bro/Sis) provides comprehensive, holistic and long-term support services to youth who range in age from 8 to 22.

### **The Color Change** — <https://colorofchange.org/>

Color Of Change is the nation's largest online racial justice organization, with 1.7 million members. Its mission is to create a more human and less hostile world for Black people in America.

### **The Children's Village** —

<https://childrensvillage.org/our-programs/residential-programs/juvenilejustice/>

Founded in 1851, The Children's Village work in partnership with families to help society's most vulnerable children so that they become educationally proficient, economically productive, and socially responsible members of their communities.

### **The New York Foundling** —

<https://www.nyfoundling.org/what-we-do/our-programs/juvenile-criminal-justice/close-to-home/>

The Foundling's Close to Home program puts young people in the juvenile justice system on a new path by placing adjudicated juveniles in the homes of foster families that are specially-trained to support their needs.

### **The Marshall Project** — <https://www.themarshallproject.org/>

The Marshall Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a sense of national urgency about the U.S. criminal justice system.

## ARTICLES & BOOKS

***Borderlands- La Frontera The New Mestiza*** - Gloria Anzaldua

***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson

***Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*** by Gregory Boyle

***The Gift of Anger*** - Arun Ghandi

***The Meaning of Freedom: And Other Difficult Dialogues***, Angela Y. Davis

***Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death and Redemption in an American Prison*** by Shaka Senhor

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