

# MID-YEAR REPORT



MOTHERS

FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY

“It’s Not Okay!”

January 1, 2024 - June 30th, 2024

# A Message from the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

At Mothers for Justice and Equality (MJE), we are committed to empowering and supporting our community, particularly single mothers facing challenges such as poverty, domestic violence, and mental health issues. Through our focus on Economic Empowerment, we help individuals heal and build resilience by providing trauma-informed services, education, and community engagement. Our programs are making a positive impact, as clients gain employment, return to school, and access essential resources. I invite you to enjoy our **2024 Mid-Year Impact Report** and share your thoughts as we continue working together to improve the lives of families in our community.

In Peace,  
Monalisa Smith  
Founder, President and CEO  
Mothers for Justice and Equality



# Mission Statement

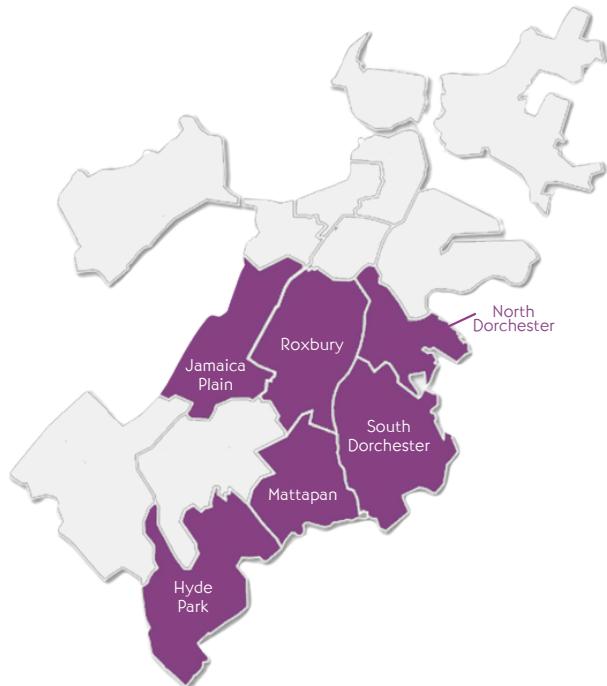
The mission of MJE is to end neighborhood violence by empowering mothers and youth to challenge the normalization of violence and become effective catalysts for change in their homes, schools, and communities.



## Vision for Success

MJE has the vision of a world in which it is never normal or acceptable for children to be murdered or incarcerated. To ensure our children a promising future, they must have the support of the entire community.

# Who We Serve



We serve individuals and families in Boston and surrounding areas, and share best practices with mothers and organizations nationwide.

Violence in our communities does not just impact direct victims. Our population is struggling with the impact of trauma due to community violence, homicide, domestic violence, and related issues. Grieving mothers, siblings, and families are often left behind.

Studies have shown that this target population faces challenges in all aspects of life due to the impact of trauma and grief. We serve Individuals & Families primarily in **Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, & Hyde Park, Massachusetts, who are:**

1. Facing racial inequities
2. Endangered by community violence
3. Unemployed or at risk for job loss
4. Living in poverty
5. Homeless or risk of homelessness
6. Recent or undocumented Immigrants
7. ESL Speakers
8. Struggling with physical and mental health needs
9. Young parents
10. Opportunity Youth
11. Formerly Incarcerated community members (returning citizens)

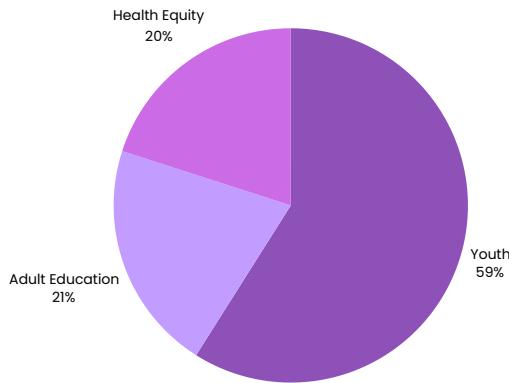


MJE has celebrated significant achievements across multiple programs, serving

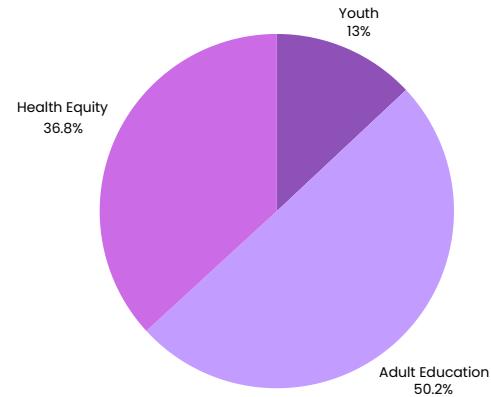
# 523 clients

in the first 6 months of 2024

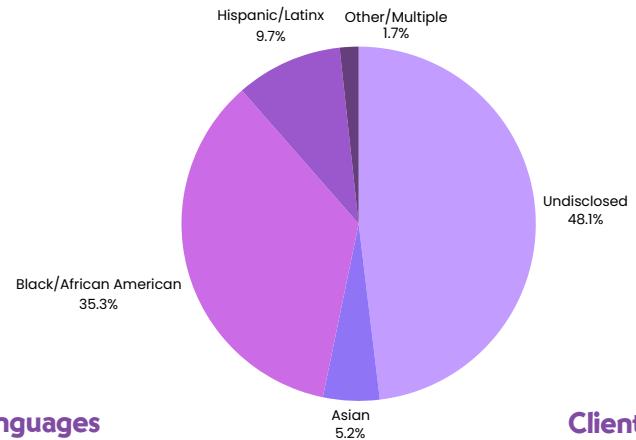
**% of Clients per Department**



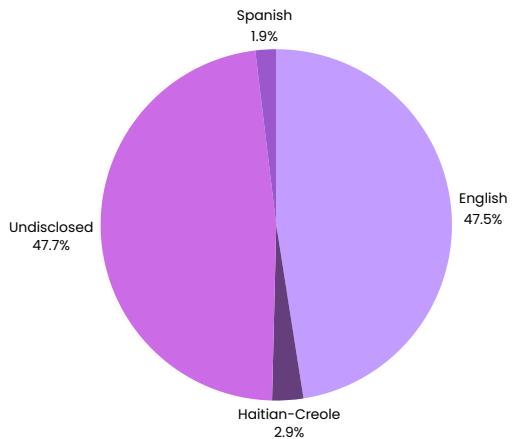
**% of Workshops taken per Department**



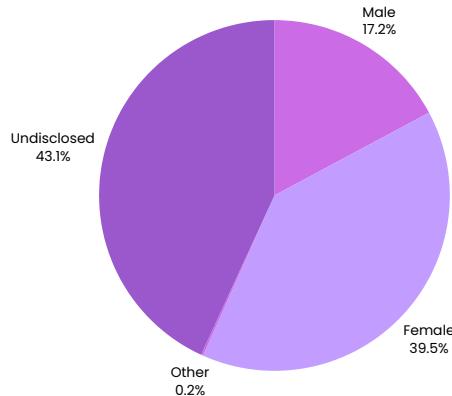
### Client Race/Ethnicities



### Client Languages



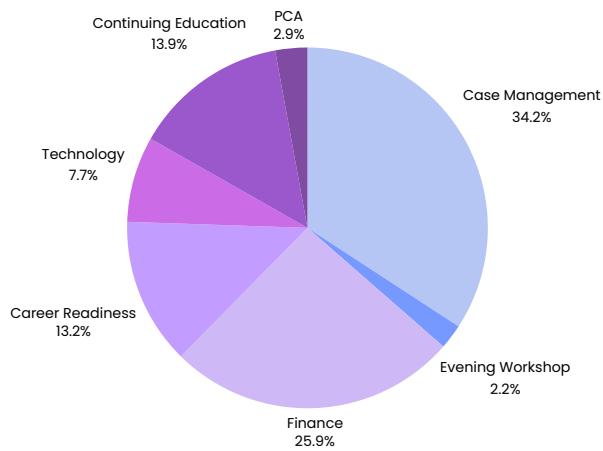
### Client Gender Identities



# Adult Education and Workforce Readiness

**Mission:** To empower trauma victims facing chronic unemployment by helping them re-enter the workforce or pursue education, while focusing on their social-emotional health to achieve economic mobility and stability.

## Adult Education and Workforce Workshops



# Restoring Economic Mobility

MJE's workshops such as PCA Fundamentals, Financial Empowerment, Technology, and many more have made a real-world impact, with several participants securing jobs even before course completion, reflecting our commitment to restoring economic mobility. Notable highlights include a successful Volunteer Fair at Northeastern University and a Job Resource Fair that connected over 100 job seekers with employers.



of Clients Graduated

20+

Clients Secured Employment

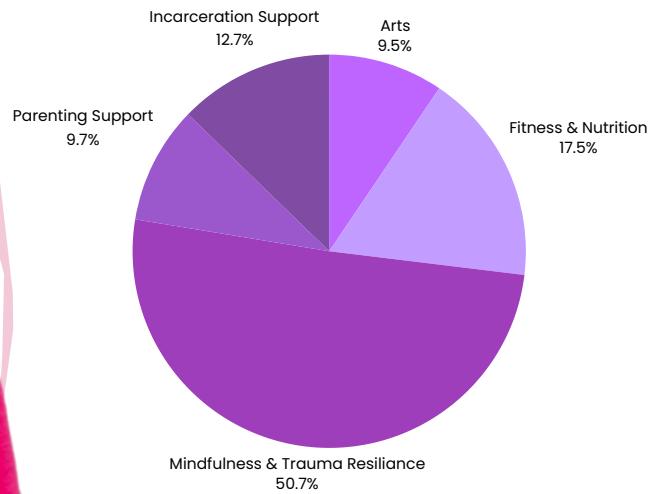




# Health Equity

**Mission:** To help single mothers or heads of households who are victims of trauma transition from instability to stability.

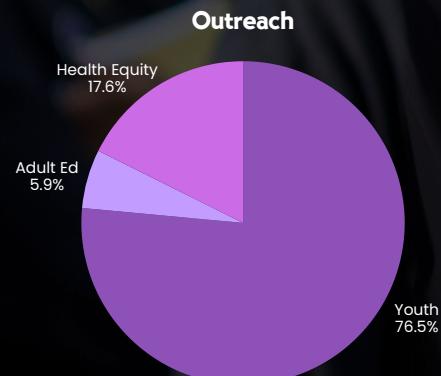
## Health Equity Workshops





# Empowering Communities

The Health Equity Department has had a dynamic and impactful year so far, marked by in-person workshops and community-focused events that exceeded our expectations. We've seen significant community engagement, providing essential resources and empowering communities. As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of engaging mothers, youth, and families by offering targeted support, educational opportunities, and a platform to advocate for peace as a community.

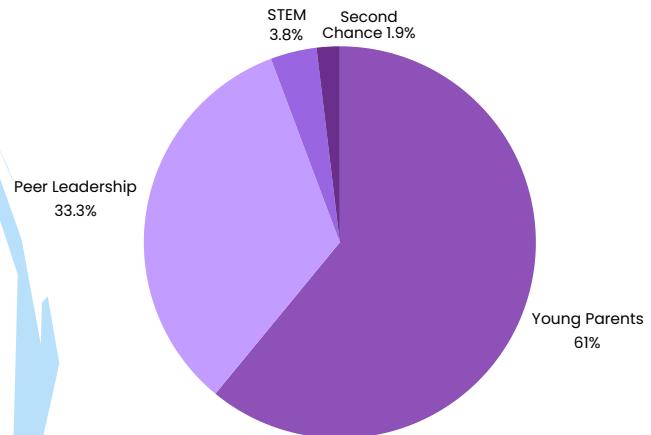


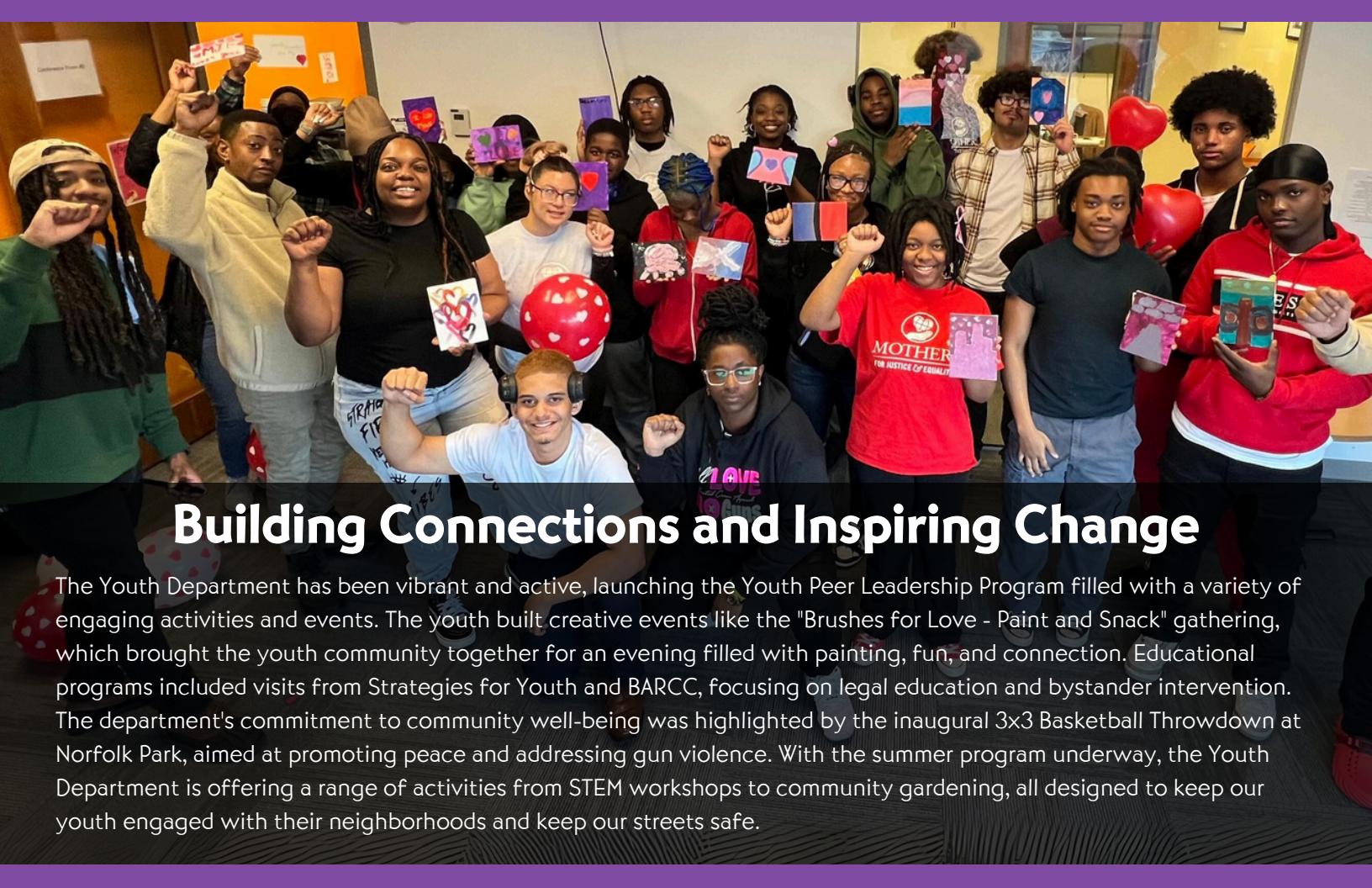
# Youth Development



**Mission:** To support young people in their adolescent development and ensure they experience nurturing, learning spaces, healing tools, and develop their true talents along with the support and resources provided by MJE.

**Youth Programs**





## Building Connections and Inspiring Change

The Youth Department has been vibrant and active, launching the Youth Peer Leadership Program filled with a variety of engaging activities and events. The youth built creative events like the "Brushes for Love - Paint and Snack" gathering, which brought the youth community together for an evening filled with painting, fun, and connection. Educational programs included visits from Strategies for Youth and BARCC, focusing on legal education and bystander intervention. The department's commitment to community well-being was highlighted by the inaugural 3x3 Basketball Throwdown at Norfolk Park, aimed at promoting peace and addressing gun violence. With the summer program underway, the Youth Department is offering a range of activities from STEM workshops to community gardening, all designed to keep our youth engaged with their neighborhoods and keep our streets safe.

# Community Outreach Events



Youth Brushes for Love



Women's Empowerment Brunch



Coffee Hour



Youth 3x3 Basketball



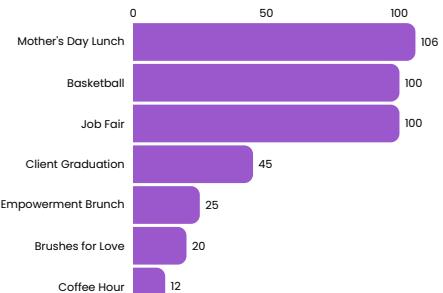
Job Fair



Mother's Day Luncheon



Client Graduation





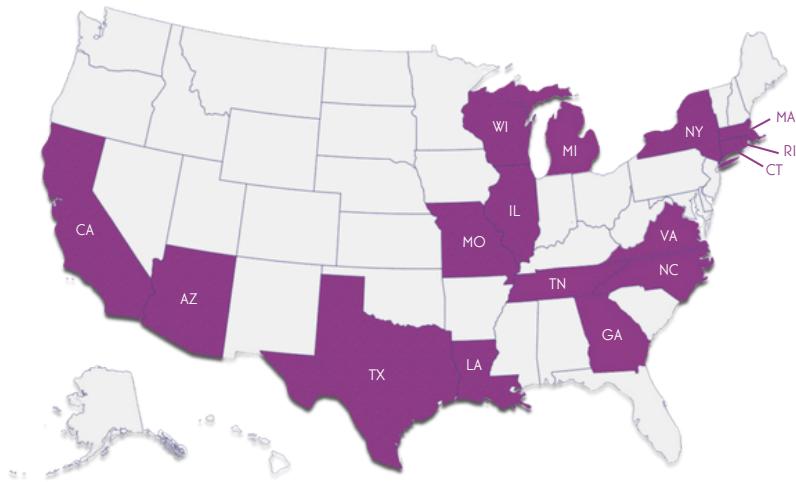
# Success Story: "You Matter" at Suffolk County Corrections

We brought our You Matter and Financial Empowerment programs to Suffolk County Corrections, where inmates eagerly participated in educational activities. Gabby Roggy, Family Advocate at MJE, shared, "The inmates love learning education-based skills. They love participating. They love our staff. They were excited as soon as they saw our flier. They value us coming in and giving them the opportunity to reflect who they want to be, and remind them that they matter." The enthusiasm led to many earning certificates in Financial Literacy, fostering a sense of accomplishment. President & CEO Monalisa Smith emphasized the importance of restorative justice, stating, "Some people make mistakes, and some don't have the same resources as others," highlighting MJE's focus on addressing the root causes of crime and promoting healing and rehabilitation.

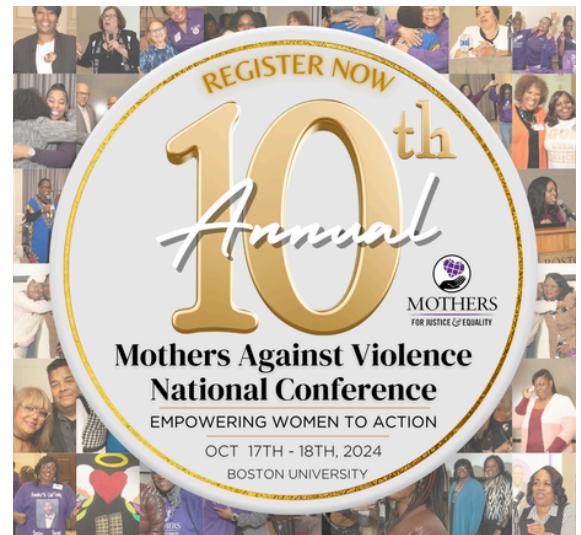
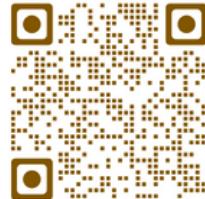
"Some new skills that I've learned would be team building exercises, so if I'm at my school or even my home, I can gather my family or ~~gather some~~ students together and I can talk about stuff. MJE really helped me find my voice to do what I need to do." - MJE Peer Leader



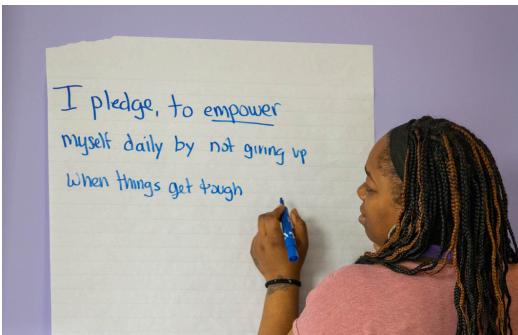
"I learned how to be a better listener, work better with more people, be a good leader, take charge, and have no fear!" - MJE Peer Leader



MJE supports nonprofits through the Annual Mothers Against Violence National Conference, inviting mothers and guests nationwide who have turned their pain into purpose, often after losing a child to gun violence. Over **600** attendees have taken their learnings home to positively impact **thousands** of lives.



[www.mavconference.org](http://www.mavconference.org)





# Thank you to our Partners



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# MOTHERS FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY

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## Follow us on Social Media



LEARN MORE

Stay up-to-date with MJE! Your support helps us spread the word on our important mission to end neighborhood violence.

**Mother to Mother,  
Neighbor to Neighbor,  
together we can  
change the story of  
our streets.**