

Allen County Juvenile Center Inspires Change with VR

Quick Stats

- **Date started:** August, 2022
- **Groups served:** High school students in juvenile facility
- **Number served:** 60 youths
- **Main use case:** Career exploration (CE), skills training (VTF)
- **Simulations completed:** 629 sims CE sims explored; 925 VTF sims

In 2022, Allen County Juvenile Center (ACJC) and Probation partnered with local organizations in the Fort Wayne, IN area to create access to CTE programming, upskilling, and connection to local employers. The hybrid program incorporates VR and a host of other support services, in-facility and in the community, and represents what can happen when an entire community embraces a chance to invest in justice-impacted youth to ensure they are equipped to successfully exit cycles of violence, incarceration/monitoring, and poverty.

Broadening horizons with headsets at ACJC

Cheryl Bartnick has been working with incarcerated youth for 33 years. She says VR from Transfr has allowed her students to explore local in-demand, well-paid careers. VR has also served as an incentive within the program to increase positive behaviors as well as helping streamline youth into CTE classes at local schools.



I love working with the kids. My goal is to plant seeds of change and give kids hope that they can change and give them a reason to change.

- Cheryl Bartnick, Probation Officer, ACJC



Probation youth use VR to build career pathways



Seven youth on probation from ACJC opted into a VR-enhanced summer CTE program. After successfully completing the curriculum, which included daily classes, hands-on training, and meetings with local employers, graduates received certificates from a proud Judge Andrea Trevino. Graduates expressed that the program had given them hope for their futures!

Boys&Girls Club supports probation youth

Boys&Girls Club of Fort Wayne has been an important part of the local community since 1989. Their partnership ACJC allows program participants to access additional resources in their community after release. Mentorship and support are vital to reducing recidivism and im-proving quality of life for participants.



We partner with ACJC because I think that's really where the services that we provide can really make the difference.

- Joe Jordan, President & CEO
Boys&Girls Club of Fort Wayne

