

## Your support helps stop the cycle of violence

The Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence's Beloved Community Summer Jobs Program (BCSJP) – one of the largest employers of youth in Providence – keeps kids off the streets by providing jobs for youths ages 14 to 19.

With your help, this summer, The Institute has hired 80 youth. Working in partnership with businesses and nonprofit agencies, BCSJP is changing lives, one kid at a time. Without your support, this program would not be possible.

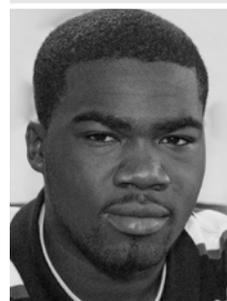
The young people who participate in the summer jobs program learn job skills, gain work experience, and are connected with positive role models. Because of donors and volunteers like you, they gain valuable knowledge through

**“The Summer Jobs Program helped me to understand why fighting and violence isn't the thing for me, because it's a waste of time and I don't have time to waste.”**

nonviolence and life skills training, which will serve them well throughout their lives. More importantly, their self-esteem skyrockets in direct correlation to their weekly paycheck. And when you feel good about yourself, you are far less likely to join a gang, deal drugs or steal cars.

BCSJP started in 2003 when Streetworkers, in an effort to keep kids off the streets, helped ten youth find jobs. Since then, the program has provided jobs for more than 280 young people. Last year, the youth worked at nearly 40 different job sites throughout Providence, Cranston and East Providence. Companies and nonprofit agencies employing BCSJP youth this summer include Ara

**You've made our summer jobs program a gateway to success**



**“If it wasn't for The Institute, I wouldn't have a job or the opportunity to see the light.”**

**► Jarvon Brown**

He was almost fired his second day on the job. By the end of the summer, he received high praise from his employer and the BCSJP's 'Most Improved' award.

After being released from the Rhode Island Training School, where he was incarcerated four times for stealing cars and dealing drugs, 19-year-old **Jarvon Brown's** decision to enter The Institute's summer jobs program was step one in turning his life around.

“The last time I was in the training school I knew that someone had to stop the cycle and it had to start with me,” Jarvon said. “If it wasn't for The Institute, I wouldn't have a job or the opportunity to see the light.”

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**MISSION:** The Institute for The Study & Practice of Nonviolence teaches by word and example the principles and practices of nonviolence, and fosters a community that addresses potentially violent situations with nonviolent solutions.

## ► DONOR PROFILE: HOLLY JENSEN

From time to time, Straight Talk will feature one of our donors. In this issue, we talk with Holly Jensen, senior manager of public affairs at Fidelity Investments.

*Straight Talk: How did you become aware of The Institute?*

**Holly Jensen:** Teny Gross (The Institute's executive director) came to one our Leadership Rhode Island classes to talk about the organization and the work they do. I took advantage of an invitation to go on a ride through a neighborhood. It was a humbling experience. I noticed that the youth don't have anything else to do but hang out on the streets, and that creates a breeding ground for violence. That ride-a-long gave me the idea to incorporate The Institute in a Fidelity-sponsored WaterFire event. We partnered with them to create a "Choose Peace" theme where Streetworkers visited Fidelity to make origami cranes, which we distributed to the crowds at WaterFire.

*ST: What would you tell others to encourage them to support The Institute?*

**HJ:** This is an exciting time to support The Institute. They are working hard to raise funds so they can move into permanent headquarters on Oxford Street, which will provide the needed space to grow their youth programs and widen their reach to help combat violence. Donating now will help The Institute move the organization that much closer to their goal.



## The Institute welcomes new chief operating officer



Anthony DiPietro has been named chief operating officer at the Institute. He's charged with making sure the agency has what it needs to run smoothly. He's responsible for finance, personnel, technology, and for working with Teny Gross and the senior staff to ensure strategic goals are met. He joins the Institute at a critical time in our growth and our capital campaign to renovate our future home.

Anthony comes to us from Leadership Rhode Island, where he worked for five years overseeing communications and much of the day-to-day operations. He graduated from Leadership Rhode Island's signature program in 2007. Prior to working in the non-profit sector, he led a customer service team at a payroll company, and was business manager of a radio station.

Anthony graduated from Brown University with a B.A. in English and Honors in Creative Writing.



► **Gardenia Chavez**

## You've made our summer jobs program a gateway to success

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His job with Aramak Education taught him that hard work pays off. He waxed floors, cleaned classrooms and scrubbed schools from top to bottom.

Today Jarvon plans to attend college and earn a degree in business.

For **Gardenia Chavez**, 16, a high school junior, the summer jobs program helped her recognize that violence does not have to be a way of life.

Gardenia's job at the Providence Children's Museum as an exhibit educator has given her hands-on experience working with children, and assisting in the museum's gift shop has helped her gain people skills.

"The Institute has helped me in many ways," she said. "It's helped me take charge of my life, and (showed me) that I can be better – I don't have to be a violent person."

In addition to attending school, Gardenia holds down two jobs. She is in The Institute's Community Leaders Program where she helped conduct a survey on disrespect, the initial step for the group to form its own nonviolence movement, and she works part-time at McDonald's. After graduation, Gardenia hopes to attend a culinary school to become a pastry chef.

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mark Education, AS220, Butler Hospital, Providence Place Mall, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, National Amusements, WPRI Channel 12, and Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council.

Participants work 20 hours a week and are required to attend five hours of nonviolence, professional and life skills training each week. Once on the job, Streetworkers and college volunteer Job Coaches keep in close touch with the youth and their employers, conducting weekly site visits, performance evaluations and helping with weekly training and education sessions.

**"You guys already help me enough by giving me this job and teaching me lots of life skills that I will use forever."**

► **HOW YOU CAN HELP** Whether it is an individual contribution, a sponsorship or an employment opportunity, your support puts kids to work and keeps them off the streets and out of harm's way. **To learn more, contact Camila Crews, director of development, at 401.785.2320 or [camila@nonviolenceinstitute.org](mailto:camila@nonviolenceinstitute.org).**

### YOUR GIFT TO THE INSTITUTE WILL PROVIDE...

- \$5** provides one youth with lunch during nonviolence training.
- \$20** provides a gift for one Beloved Community Summer Jobs youth at graduation.
- \$55** gives a Beloved Community Summer Jobs Program youth a one-month bus pass for transportation to work.
- \$100** will provide a bus ticket for a young person who needs to be relocated to a safe environment.
- \$185** pays a one-week stipend for one Beloved Community Summer Jobs youth or one Community Leader.
- \$500** allows youth to participate in cultural enrichment activity during the summer.
- \$1,000** covers the entire cost of a day-long training in nonviolence, healthy habits and life skills.
- \$2,500** pays a Beloved Community Summer Jobs Program youth's stipend for the entire summer.
- \$40,000** pays the annual salary and benefits for one Streetworker.

To learn more, contact **Camila Crews**, director of development, at **401.785.2320** or **[camila@nonviolenceinstitute.org](mailto:camila@nonviolenceinstitute.org)**, or send your check to The Institute for The Study and Practice of Nonviolence, 9 Central St., Providence, RI 02907. **Your gift of any amount is always appreciated.**

# In Memoriam: David Cartagena

**O**N MAY 31ST THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY AND PRACTICE OF NONVIOLENCE lost our beloved friend and peacemaker, **David Cartagena**. His love, mentoring, intelligence and humor changed lives, inspired those he came in contact with and reminded us how the most loving and exceptional person can come from the hardest of circumstances.

More than 1,000 supporters like you, from throughout the state and beyond came to say goodbye to David. Government and law enforcement officials, members of the city council, youth and partners of the Institute were present at his wake and funeral. Some only met David once, but he left a lasting impression on them. Others knew him as a troubled youth and some had come to know him as a peacemaker and bridge builder – someone who brought people of different walks of life together.

**The David Cartagena Memorial Fund** has been established to help at-risk youth. To contribute to this fund, please make checks payable to The Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence and write David Cartagena Memorial Fund in the memo line. *To learn more about David's life and his work and to read tributes, please visit our website at [www.nonviolenceinstitute.org](http://www.nonviolenceinstitute.org).*

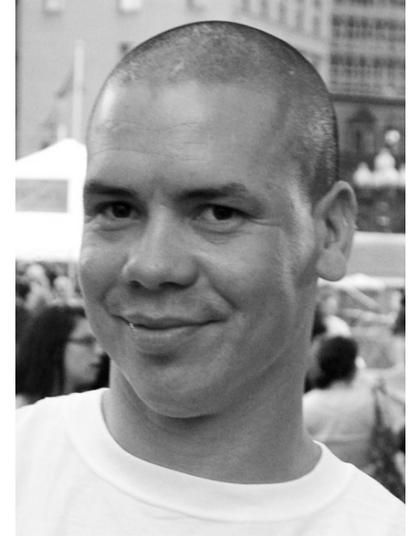


Photo: Richard Kizirian

Some met David only once, but **he left a lasting impression on them.**

## CALENDAR

- **August 8th:** Choose Peace WaterFire, downtown Providence, sunset
- **August 21st:** Beloved Community Summer Jobs Program Graduation, 6 p.m., location TBD

## WISH LIST

- Toiletory items (males ages 14 and over)
- Gently used and new clothing (males ages 14 and over)
- Round meeting table
- End table
- Printer

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