



NEWS RELEASE

JOHN F. YOUNG, JR.
PARISH PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 8, 2010

**LOUISIANA CHAMPION FOR CHANGE
ROY L. JUNCKER, JR., DIRECTOR OF JEFFERSON PARISH
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES**

Today, Roy L. Juncker, Jr., Director of Jefferson Parish Department of Juvenile Services was presented with a proclamation from Parish President John F. Young, Jr. for receiving the Champions for Change Award; presented to him on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 in Washington, DC, by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The MacArthur Foundation Models for Change Program supports reform in 16 states and aims to help accelerate a national juvenile justice reform movement to improve the lives of young people in trouble with the law, while enhancing public safety and holding young offenders accountable for their actions.

Jefferson Parish is only one of two grant sites in Louisiana that decided to target all three of Louisiana's targeted areas of improvement: Alternatives to Formal Processing and Secure Placement, Evidence-Based Community Services and Disproportionate Minority Contact. Because of Juncker's leadership, his willingness to learn, and desire to increase public safety through effective programming, he has succeeded in all three.

Jefferson Parish has much to be proud of. Use of community based programs is expanding, best practices are being widely accepted, and detention alternative programs established in coordination with Juvenile Court judges have decreased the need for bed space. Juncker has implemented these changes without new resources, only more cost-effective use of his agency's existing funds.

"Juvenile justice leaders seek Roy Juncker because of his vision, energy and leadership, and more importantly, for his complete grasp of all the issues involved in these kinds of reform, as well as his ability to implement those changes," said Deb DePrato, Models for Change Louisiana Project Director.

For more Jefferson Parish information go to www.jeffparish.net.

###