

ARC Uncuffed

# RISE to the Challenge: Turning Justice into Purpose

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Director, ARC Uncuffed

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# Who I Am

My Journey, My Work

Let's talk about justice, reentry,  
and the power of second  
chances through ARC Uncuffed  
and RISE-Up House.



# California's juvenile system In 2023



COME FROM  
FOSTER CARE



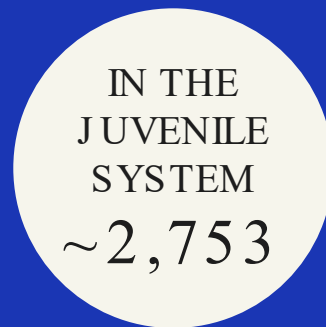
RECIDIVISM RATE  
AMONG YOUTH



WERE CONVICTED  
OF A NEW OFFENSE



RETURNED TO  
STATE CUSTODY



This includes both youth in state-run facilities and those in county-run facilities.

Youth homeless population estimates range from 26,000 to 226,000 in California.

# Why is ARC Uncuffed Unique?

- A reentry support nonprofit
- Offers housing, education, mentorship, and life skills
- Focused on emerging adults (18–25) exiting incarceration
- Based in Solano & Alameda County but expanding statewide



# Why Step -Down Matters

A step-down model gives youth time to adjust, reflect, and prepare. It's not just safer—it works.

## Step 1

We feel gradual  
reintegration  
prevents relapse  
through  
restorative  
practices

## Step 2

We like to build  
emotional  
regulation &  
independence

## Step 3

We always  
support family  
reunification

## Step 4

Reduces  
recidivism and  
boosts public  
safety

# What We Teach

- Financial literacy
- Nutrition and cooking
- Communication and conflict resolution
- Emotional regulation and trauma work
- Job readiness and career planning
- Life Skills





# This Is Youth Justice

Accountability + Opportunity = Real Change

- Residents are held to high standards
- No tolerance for substance abuse or manipulation
- Daily structure and programming
- Weekend passes earned through progress



Angelo Moreno

Currently working full-time and was able to reunify with his daughter after incarceration.



Bryson Jones

Release early to join our LRP.

# Meet the Team



Julie Hilt  
Founder



Dr. Saki Cabrera, Ph.D.  
Program Development and  
Evaluation



Robert Elster  
Director of Youth  
Development



Damon Cooke  
Director of Community  
Reintegration and Gang  
Education Consultant



# Final Challenge to the Youth Commission

\$1,000,000



Don't label  
someone —lift  
them



Advocate for  
second chances



Build bridges, not  
boxes

You have the power to make  
justice feel human. Don't  
waste it.

