

WOMEN'S PRISON ASSOCIATION

JUSTICEHOME

An Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) program funded by the NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice that provides individual and group counseling, trauma-responsive individualized case management, and support groups focused on self-care, recovery, emotional health, and trauma triggers to female-identifying, trans, and gender non-conforming individuals with open cases in Criminal and Supreme Courts citywide.



YC began services with the JusticeHome Program on December 16, 2019. She was charged with assault with intent to cause physical injury with a weapon, and heard about the JusticeHome ATI program while in the WPA's workforce program. YC discussed enrolling in JusticeHome with her attorney, and her attorney began advocating to the judge on her behalf. While waiting for the official judicial mandate to the program, YC enrolled in JusticeHome's trauma-focused therapy, where she met weekly with a Clinical Social Worker. She also continued to work with WPA's workforce training program to explore additional employment and training opportunities.

Like many New Yorkers coping with the pandemic, YC struggled to make ends meet. JusticeHome assisted by paying her phone bills and providing her with a laptop so that she could participate in remote trainings and virtual meetings. During the pandemic, YC earned her Certified Pool Operator Certification, and she was recently able to return to work, where she was promoted to a supervisory position.

After almost a year of working with JusticeHome pre-disposition, the judge officially mandated YC into the program on December 10, 2020 for one additional year. YC has done so well that JusticeHome plans on proposing to the court that she graduates from the program early.

In 2020, YC became pregnant. JusticeHome helped her get things for her new child, such as clothes, diapers, a stroller, and bed pans. YC recently gave birth to a beautiful baby! She completed WPA's parenting journey classes, which teaches about childhood trauma and encourages participants to explore trauma they may have experienced and how to use those experiences to help them be better caregivers.

YC has never missed a scheduled session with her Case Manager or Clinical Social Worker, and she has participated in all sessions in the Parenting Journey and in the Workforce Development programs. Even after giving birth, YC made sure that she attended all sessions remotely.

YC feels supported by the JusticeHome team and plans to continue participating in the program after she completes her mandate. YC has returned to work and is utilizing the tools she obtained in JusticeHome to be the best employee, supervisor, mom, and human she can be.

In YC's words, "WPA is a wonderful program. I never thought I'd meet all these wonderful workers that want to help you in any and every way they can. Working with WPA, I learned they are not there to judge you, they just want to help you. WPA also has so many different trainings to offer and services. They also help a lot of mothers in the program and their children. WPA is not just a program, they become family."