

# INSIDE OUT



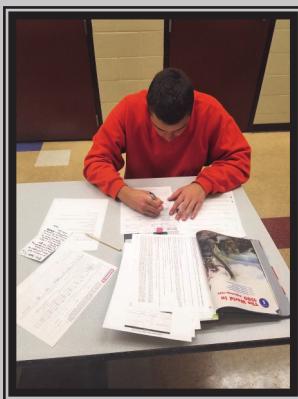
## FOOD HANDLERS PROGRAM

In May of this year staff implemented a program where youth in detention are able to obtain a food handlers card by completing the online health department program. It may be a small step, but it will open doors for employment opportunities and some stability in their lives. There are a few staff dedicated to the program. They look at the current roster and determine who is eligible to earn a card. This class is completed during school hours as well as other times when youth give up their recreation to work on the course. Staff work directly with the youth while they work on the course, which takes about an hour. After successful completion, the cards are scanned into the case management system. Probation officers can access and print out the cards any time. They can also reprint if the card is misplaced. The health department bills the juvenile court \$10 for each completion, which is paid by the phone account. A permanent funding source is currently being considered by our county councilors.



At this time, over one hundred youth have successfully passed the course. One youth, JB, used this opportunity to gain employment. JB has been coming into detention for a few years. He is a great example of how this program aims to boost marketable skills for a better life. During one of JB's stays, he completed the course and after release applied at a local restaurant and was hired.

He was interviewed about his experience. "Most youth in juvy feel like they let themselves down. I know because I have felt this way and heard it through my peers. This opportunity will re-focus juveniles, give them hope and courage for their future." He went on, "I have experienced the food handlers program in detention and there are no negative outcomes. This card right now has much value; it shows that I'm organized and ready. When I'm eighteen, which is right around the corner, I'll be ready right away to start cooking and get more hours." Currently, JB is successfully employed.



SC is another youth who completed the program. During his last stay his sister brought in several applications for him to fill out. He said it felt good to now be able to work towards getting a job and be productive.

There are plans in the works to enhance this program. Youth will learn how to complete job applications, create resumes and more. This program helps youth create a better future for themselves.

### CERTIFICATES

TO DATE:

CPR/First  
Aid

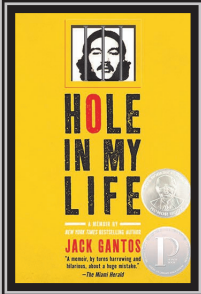
**107**

Food  
Handlers

**109**

## SCHOOL HOSTS AUTHOR

JACK GANTOS has written books for readers of all ages, from picture books and middle-grade fiction to novels for young adults and adults. His works include: *Hole in My Life*, a memoir that won the Michael L. Printz and Robert F. Sibert honors; *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, a National Book Award Finalist, *Joey Pigza Loses Control*, A Newbery Honor book. And *Dead End in Norvelt*, the 2012 Newbery Award Winner, and the Scott O'Dell Award Winner for best historic fiction.



Thank you Maggie Navario, Jackie Little, Sarah Nelson and Amy Scott from Fort Vancouver Regional Library for making this event possible.

And last, but certainly not least, a very special thank you to Jack Gantos for giving his time, telling his story and providing hope.

During Gantos' visit, youth were able to ask questions and interact with him. There was a very relaxed atmosphere and you could tell the youth were very engaged and interested in his story. At the end of his presentation, Gantos signed a book for each of the youth to take with them upon their release. One youth said, "I really like how he connected with us."

## LONG TERM IN SHORT TERM

Without a doubt, detention is a "short term" facility with local sanctions maxed at 30 days and PV's at 10 days; so 272 days is well beyond the norm. Detention is all about routine; same schedule, same recreation, same food, same everything. Youth who are here beyond a few weeks quickly find themselves struggling to adapt to the routine. One youth, CP, was with us long term awaiting court proceedings in the adult system. Though CP was here 272 days, he mostly kept a positive attitude. When he started to waiver he relied upon staff to help get him back on track. While here, CP received ZERO privilege loss reports. Amazing!

"I've learned that being here doesn't mean you're a bad person, but that you made a bad choice. You can come back from that low point that caused the bad choice and still be the person you want to be," CP says. Understanding the differences that lead others to being locked up has helped CP get through his stay. "I've learned people are just like books, you can't judge them by their covers," CP explained. Another thing that helped was building positive relations with many of the detention and support staff. He said, "the staff really are there to help and make your stay as easy going as possible." CP worked hard to stay focused, engaged and positive. "Most of this journey has been a mental game. The fact that I've been able to maintain my frame of mind has kept all nervousness away."

Over the last several months detention has averaged 10 youth with stays over 30 days. Currently, there are 9 youth who have been here for over 30 days. The average stay of these nine youth is 60 days. Staff have tried to help break the monotony. New ideas for recreation include: corn toss, Bocce ball, Ping Pong tournaments and other "out of the norm" activities. Staff continue to creatively balance routine with monotony.

### SNAPSHOT NUMBERS:

**272 DAYS / 38 WEEKS**

**814 MEALS**

**36 MOVIE NIGHTS**

**257 LEVEL FOUR  
SNACKS**

**76 VISITATIONS**

**0 PRIVILEGE LOSS**



**CONGRATULATIONS  
SIONE U. AND ERIC C.  
FOR PASSING THE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY!**

