



*Residents in secure detention compete in 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Citywide Basketball Tournament sponsored by DJJ and The Urban Dove.*

## **DJJ And The Urban Dove Sponsor Second Annual Citywide Basketball Tournament For Kids In Secure Detention**

For the second year in a row, the NYC Department of Juvenile Justice and Urban Dove, a youth service nonprofit, joined forces to provide detained youth with a unique basketball tournament, celebrating leadership, communication and life skills. The tournament kicked off last June, and marked the first time in DJJ history that youth from different secure facilities played against each other. The event provided residents with an opportunity to compete, challenge themselves, and improve their leadership and teamwork abilities.

On **Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** the Department of Juvenile Justice and Urban Dove hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Department of Juvenile Justice Citywide Basketball Tournament at Crossroads Juvenile Facility in Brooklyn**. The tournament marks the culmination of a life-skills and athletic curriculum that Urban Dove has been running at all the secure facilities since January. Participants are rewarded for their hard work and dedication with an afternoon of off-site recreation in which they interact with young people from other facilities, enjoy an afternoon of sports, and display the team and leadership skills they have honed through Urban Dove's hands-on workshops and training sessions. The tournament fosters community, teamwork, and a healthy sense of competition.

Urban Dove has operated the life-skills and athletic curriculum at three secure DJJ facilities this academic year. The sports training reinforced basic skills, team concepts and rules of each sport and the week's activities culminated on Saturdays with competitive games. During the games, coaches reinforced and emphasized the life skill taught in the workshop earlier that week. This cohesive approach proved extremely effective in constructively engaging participants.

The interactive workshops energized and engaged participants by requiring hands-on involvement in the program. Communication, teamwork and leadership were the three overarching themes; within that framework, participants learned conflict resolution, violence prevention, sportsmanship and personal responsibility.

For the second year in a row, Horizon Juvenile Center narrowly captured the championship victory, and will display the tournament trophy in their facility until the next competition.

ABC TV's flagship station, Channel 7, visited Horizon Juvenile Center the week before the tournament, shooting footage of residents during championship practice and talking with the young athletes about what the program means to them. ABC Correspondent Lauren Glassberg's segment on "Shooting Hoops To Learn Values" may be viewed online at:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local&id=6041567>

Since January 2008, participants have spent over 90 hours in Urban Dove programs. Urban Dove facilitates the curriculum in three secure facilities and sixteen non-secure facilities.

