



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Biweekly Newsletter.

January 12, 2017



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

JAN 16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

JAN 16 MY BROTHER'S KEEPER DC KICKOFF, FRIENDSHIP TECH PREP
620 MILWAUKEE PL SE, 9 A.M.

JAN 20 INAUGURATION DAY

JAN 25 DYRS "MURAL PROJECT" DEDICATION CEREMONY
NEW BEGINNINGS, 8400 RIVER ROAD, LAUREL, MD
3:30 P.M.



Community Capture



DYRS Director Clinton Lacey speaking to the community at a panel about the Youth Rehabilitation Act on January 12.

A Warm Welcome...



...to new DYRS employee Larissa Hare, who will provide leadership to DYRS' Resource Allocation and Contracting and Procurement divisions. Ms. Hare is a New Jersey native with more than seven years of experience managing and administering contracts and grants. From negotiating contract language with clients and vendors to managing spend plans for large budgets, she is knowledgeable in every area related to contracting, procurement, and finance, providing her with the skill set to oversee such critical areas within DYRS. Please say hello to her if you see her around our locations!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Giving All You've Got

The DYRS Youth Council celebrated the holidays giving back to the community by volunteering at Food & Friends, an organization whose mission is to foster a community caring for men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other life-challenging illnesses by preparing and delivering specialized meals and groceries in conjunction with nutrition counseling. The Youth Council honored this mission, first participating in a short orientation facilitated by a nutrition counselor, and then utilizing protective gear as they put together specialized meals and groceries. The youth expressed how much they enjoyed volunteering, and one young person thought of potentially making it his life's work, proving that giving is the best gift during the holidays.

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Showcase Showtime!

On December 13, 2016, New Beginnings youth presented their Holiday Showcase, a talent-filled theatrical display of the hard work that Dramatic Solutions and Figure8 Dance Fitness instilled in DYRS youth this past fall. Two special guests - recording artist Traci Braxton and DC native/recording artist DeAngelo Redman - attended, along with parents and others to support and encourage our youth.



OVERACHIEVERS



L.C. is a post-committed youth “SuperStar!” in DYRS’ Martial Arts and Dexterity Driving programs whose most recent accomplishment includes obtaining his driver’s permit on January 3. Congratulations! We are proud of you!



CREDIBLE MESSENGER CLIP

In case you missed it, tune into DYRS Credible Messenger Norman Brown on PBS NewsHour (<http://tinyurl.com/zg8dvcl>), where he shared his incredible story about being pardoned by President Obama, how incarceration and clemency changed his life, and his work with DYRS youth.



Community activist/author Tony Lewis and Credible Messenger Program Manager Dana McDaniel. Mr. Lewis (through Shoe City) donated several pairs of shoes to DYRS youth for the launch of the Credible Messenger Initiative.

Celebrity Snapshot



The Career Discovery Cosmetology Program experienced an enlightening evening recently when celebrity nail and makeup artist “Latrice” shared stories about servicing celebrities throughout her career, as recent as music artist Lauryn Hill just a few days prior. She also spoke to the importance of customer service, etiquette, formalities, returning customers and celebrity networking/contracting, and simply enjoying your career. “I wanted to show my students all aspect of our beauty industry and where it can take you, if you put your all into it,” said course instructor Aida Massie.



In an effort to keep young people safe and engaged over the winter break, the Achievement Center team and partners focused on finding innovative and interesting activities for them to participate in. They recently took youth to the movies and lunch for a fun-filled outing; our young people enjoyed themselves and expressed gratitude for the staff’s thoughtfulness. Thanks to all DYRS staff who go above and beyond to ensure our youth stay out of harm’s way!

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Home for the Holidays

On Tuesday, December 17, DYRS staff at 450 H. Street enjoyed a floor decorating contest, along with holiday party for the young children of agency staff members. Employees welcomed a chance to introduce their own families to their DYRS family. The kids danced, got their faces painted, and participated in games, and enjoyed a surprise visit from Santa. On Tuesday, December 17, DYRS staff at 450 H. Street enjoyed a floor decorating contest, along with holiday party for the young children of agency staff members. Employees welcomed a chance to introduce their own families to their DYRS family. The kids danced, got their faces painted, participated in games, and even enjoyed a surprise visit from Santa Clause. The key takeaway? Youth engagement is important on the home front and the work front. The day ended with the executive team judging each floor for the most holiday spirit, and the 6th floor took home the prize. Other honorable mentions included:

- Most Child Friendly - The Achievement Center
- Best Tree - 5th Floor
- Most Creative - 3rd Floor
- Most Resourceful - 9th Floor
- Most Aesthetic Beauty - 4th Floor
- Most Culturally Inclusive - 7th Floor
- Best Team Participation - 8th Floor
- Best overall - 6th Floor



Overall, the festivities set the tone for a happy holiday week!



★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

Email Brenda Padavil at brenda.padavil@dc.gov with questions or submissions for future issues.

