



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



January 14, 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

- 1/15 - 1/17** The Covenant of Peace, YSC
- 1/18** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 1/19** College/Career Exploration Camp Facilitator Meeting, 450 H St. Achievement Center, 1 p.m.
- 1/19** A Parent's Perspective, Wards 1-6, The Thurgood Marshall Center, 6-8 p.m.
- 1/21** A Parent's Perspective, Wards 7-8 MLK Achievement Center, 6-8 p.m.
- 1/21 - 1/31** National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week
- 1/26** Health & Wellness Fair for youth and staff, 450 H. St. Achievement Center, 1-4 p.m.
- 2/4** Performance Oversight Hearing, Wilson Building, 10 a.m.

SWEET SPOTLIGHT



Special thanks to the culinary staff for preparing beautiful and delicious treats in a dessert station at the New Beginnings Holiday Staff Appreciation Event. They did an exceptional job of decorating and taking care of every last detail!

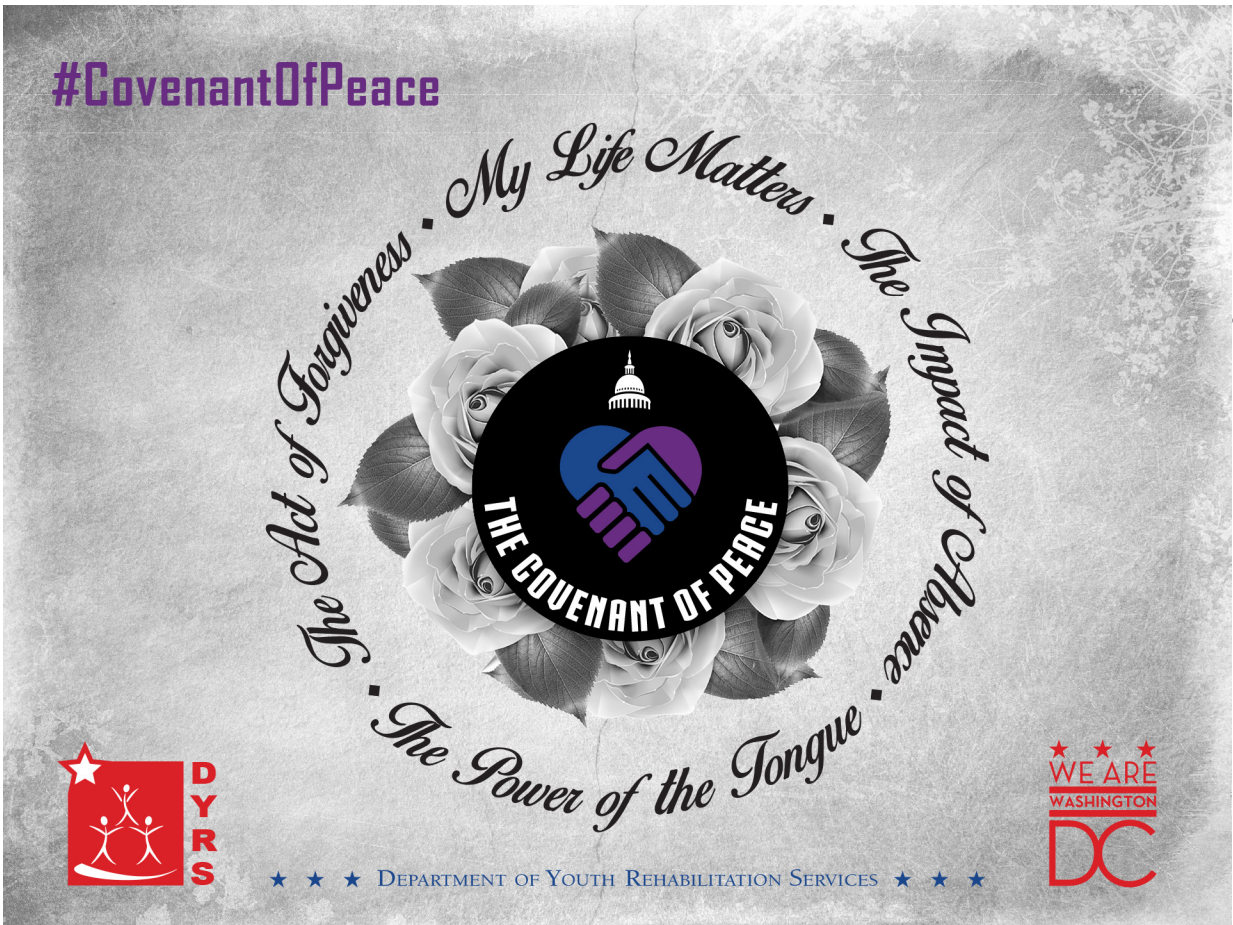


Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Ultimate Credible Messenger

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that true justice is in reality “love correcting that which revolts against love.” So if Dr. King is correct in his assertion that justice is love in action, then we must ask ourselves the question: What does love look like in our juvenile justice system?
- Director Clinton Lacey, *Resetting Perspective*, November 2015.

As we look forward to the long weekend brought to us by the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday, let us not forget that Dr. King lives on as the ultimate **credible messenger**. We thank Dr. King for setting the standard of love that we strive to work by every day at DYRS.

Events and Initiatives



The Covenant of Peace for Young Women

“The Covenant of Peace” for DYRS’ female population is this weekend, January 15 – 17 at the Youth Services Center (YSC). The initiative calls for young women to engage in conversations about violence and come up with solutions to help make a positive impact for change in their lives and in the community. DYRS wants each of them to reflect deeply about why their lives matter and realize how much they have to offer.

College/Career Exploration Camp Recruitment

Are you knowledgeable in what it takes to get into college?

Do you know about post-secondary education success?

If so, the Office of Education needs you for the relaunch of the College/Career Exploration Camp in February!

For information on the topics to be covered during the camp, contact **Rukie Wilson** at rukiewilson@dc.gov.

A team member will meet with you to create a curriculum around that topic to co-facilitate a session during the camp.

Don't miss the meeting for potential facilitators on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 1 p.m. in the Achievement Center at 450 H Street, NW!

YOUTH SNAPSHOT



DYRS Youth Council volunteering at DC Central Kitchen on January 12

IT TIPS & TOOLS

FAMCare – If you enter in your password incorrectly three times in a row, FAMCare will lock you out of your account. To prevent this, click on “Forgot your password?” just below the password box BEFORE entering it incorrectly the third time. FAMCare will ask you the security question that you created when you got your account. Answer it, and it will automatically reset your password for you. If you lock yourself out of your account, email dysr.cmsissues@dc.gov and an IT technician will unlock your account for you.

Reminder – If you change your password on your PC and have a government issued cell phone with email, you MUST also change your password on your cell phone within 5 minutes or your cell phone will continue to send the old password which will lock you out of your account, making you unable to log into your PC or receive email on your cell phone. If you are unsure of how to change your password, contact IT to show you how to change your password.



“A Parent’s Perspective” Community Town Halls

On Tuesday, January 19 and Thursday, January 21, DYRS will host town halls in the community for the parents of committed youth. The agency invites parents to attend for dialogue with Director Lacey and other key staff members about the agency’s vision for their children and the community. More information is available at <http://dysr.dc.gov/page/parents-perspective>

New Year, New Outlook

Rewriting the Script



On Saturday, January 2, boxing champions and siblings Tyrieshia and Antoine Douglas visited YSC to talk to our youth about how it's never too late to “rewrite their script” and turn their lives around. Ms. Douglas explained to our young people that at the age of 16, she fought three girls and got arrested. Her juvenile court judge sentenced her to community service and recommended she box. Seven years later, she competed for one of three spots on the US Olympic women’s boxing team. Antoine Douglas, also a contender for the US Olympic boxing team, and his sister grew up in a troubled household but used boxing as an outlet and a method of self-control. As our young people listened to and identified with their upbringing and story, it set the tone that they too could turn a negative situation into a positive one. The agency thanks Tyrieshia and Antoine Douglas for sharing their inspiring story with our population.

Reading Drives Positive Youth and Staff Development at YSC



Young people in the Youth Services Center (YSC) Book Club, as well as the facility’s staff, are currently engrossed in Anthony Ross’ “Homeless at Age 13 to a College Graduate: An Autobiography.” The book details the struggle of a young man from D.C. who faced a challenging upbringing, pushed himself out of homelessness at the age of 13 to eventually earning his Bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina. YSC Superintendent Sheree Moore chose the book for the youth because she felt they could relate to the young African-American Washington DC native’s story, and because she wanted to reinforce that beating the odds, no matter slim they seem, is not impossible.

Onward and Upward

Senior Youth Development Representative (SYDR) Nancy Fisher and SYDR Ernest Waiters presented Director Lacey and Deputy Director Harlee Harper with a new year’s gift of aerial shots of New Beginnings as a symbol of the agency’s past, present and future. ARS Construction captured the picture with a state of the art drone.



"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE" IS THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES (DYRS) EMPLOYEE E-NEWSLETTER. IT IS PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY ON THURSDAYS. EMAIL **BRENDA PADAVIL** AT BRENDA.PADAVIL@DC.GOV WITH QUESTIONS OR SUBMISSIONS FOR FUTURE ISSUES.

