



# Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

January 17, 2019



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION



## POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Last year, NBC4's segment "Harris' Heroes" hosted by news anchor Leon Harris, featured a story highlighting Credible Messengers and the work they do to help change the lives of DYRS youth. One of DYRS's committed youth at that time, Jamal, was interviewed and featured on the segment. Jamal explained how he turned his troubled past into a hopeful future with the help of credible messengers like Norman Brown and Antonio Fernandez.

On January 9th, 2019 DYRS welcomed Mr. Harris back to conduct a follow-up interview with Jamal and his credible messenger Ibrahim Lyles. Mr. Harris was ecstatic to learn of the great strides Jamal has made since they last spoke. Jamal was eager to share his accomplishments, discussing how he was accepted to not only one but five different colleges and is currently enrolled in the college of his choice. He did well in his first semester and has decided to major in Construction Management Technology. Jamal shared his appreciation for DYRS staff, teachers, and credible messengers at New Beginnings and Maya Angelou Academy, thanking them for their dedication to helping youth like him get back on the right path. Grateful for how far he has come Jamal is proud to pave the way for other committed youth, showing them that they too can attain success after their commitment. He leaves his peers with these words of encouragement "Stay woke! Stay real! and be you!"

## Event Calendar

**JAN 21** MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY

**JAN 25-27** COVENANT OF PEACE  
NEW BEGINNINGS  
8400 RIVER RD, LAUREL, MD

**JAN 28** ANCHORED IN STRENGTH  
450 H STREET NW - WASHINGTON, DC 20001  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**FEB 4** ANCHORED IN STRENGTH  
2101 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVE SE  
WASHINGTON, DC - 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

**FEB 4** ACHIEVEMENT CENTER VENDOR SHOWCASE  
450 H STREET NW - WASHINGTON, DC 20001  
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM



## Youth Council Events:

- January 21, 10:00am-12:30pm: MLK Day of Service at Anacostia Park with Student Conservation Association's. Our young people will assist with cleaning Anacostia Park's environment. All equipment will be provided but please wear warm clothing for this community service event as we will be outside. Young people can earn up to 2.5 hours of service.
- January 25, 2019 5:00pm-7:00pm: Youth Council Leadership Meeting. This is an opportunity to gain youth insight on previous community service opportunities and to assist with planning future community service events. Newly referred youth can also join the meetings, as this meeting can be used as an orientation where youth can share information about the Youth Council to newly referred youth. Young people can earn up to 2 hours of service.

For more information on Youth Council initiatives, please contact  
Nataly DelValle at [nataly.delvalle@dc.gov](mailto:nataly.delvalle@dc.gov)



# Health and Wellness

## January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

The United States Congress designated January as Cervical Health Awareness Month. Nearly 13,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year, but the disease is preventable with vaccination and appropriate screening (Pap and HPV tests).

Cervical Health Awareness Month is a chance to raise awareness about how women can protect themselves from HPV (human papillomavirus) and cervical cancer. HPV is a very common infection that spreads through sexual activity, and it causes almost all cases of cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is the easiest gynecologic cancer to prevent with regular screening tests and follow-up. It also is highly curable when found and treated early.

You can help promote the importance of cervical health and cervical cancer prevention by sharing prevention messages throughout the month that cervical cancer is preventable!

### Links and Resources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/>
- <https://www.cancer.org/latest-news/>
- <http://www.nccc-online.org>

## SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

If you missed the two registration events, you might still have time. For more information, please contact Phyllis Powell at (202) 299-3708 or Kenya Lewis at (202) 299-3604



**WPFW 89.3 FM**  
Jazz and Justice

Did you know that DYRS Director Clinton Lacey and Sr. Deputy Director Linda Harlee Harper host a radio show on topics surrounding juvenile justice? It's on WPFW 89.3 FM, every Wednesday at 6 pm EST. Tune in and catch up on the last few shows!



## YSC Youth Holiday Programs

Throughout the winter break, the Youth Services Center (YSC) implemented several activities and events to keep our youth active and engaged during the holiday season.

The holiday program allowed youth to see family and loved ones before and on Christmas. The program featured dinner and live performances from the community, staff, and YSC youth. Considering how difficult it is being separated from loved ones, especially during the holiday season, DYRS's staff organized two Christmas dinners for over 100 participants including youth, parents, staff, and community members.

A special thanks to YDRs Stevenson, Sheffield, Haskins, Dixon, Scott, Baltimore artist Javon, and a big shout-out to all DYRS staff for the dedication and love displayed during the holiday season.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Foster Parent Recruitment Brunch

The DYRS Foster Parent Recruitment Brunch was a huge success. On January 5, 2019, at the Ivy City Smokehouse, Deputy Director of Youth & Family Programs Garine Dalce, and Administrative Officer Rahim Jenkins, facilitated an informational brunch on how to become a licensed foster parent. The brunch also served as an opportunity to change the negative perceptions about fostering court-involved youth and educate parents on providing safe, supportive, and structured environments for youth.

The brunch was open to all residents of the DC Metropolitan Area, particularly those who are seriously interested in fostering youth under the care of DYRS. Radio host Poet Taylor delivered a powerful testimony about her experience as a foster child and explained how crucial foster parenting can be in a child's development. The event had a great turnout with over 60 guests in attendance. Many parents connected with partnering agencies and expressed interests in becoming foster parents.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

For questions or submissions for future issues, please contact [dyrs.media@dc.gov](mailto:dyrs.media@dc.gov)



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