



April 7, 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

- 4/12** A Parent’s Perspective, Wards 7 & 8, MLK Achievement Center, 2101 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE, 6 p.m.
- 4/13** “Wear Blue” in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month
- 4/16** Capital City Youth M.O.V.E. Meeting, Youth M.O.V.E. House: 4818 Jay St. NE, 10 a.m.
- 4/22** Brothers in Arms (Young Men’s Focus Group), 450 H. Street AC, 5 p.m.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Each year in April, we acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. This year, National Child Abuse Prevention Month focuses on the theme, “Building Community, Building Hope.” To help you plan for the 2016 National Child Abuse Prevention Month:

- Visit the 2016 National Child Abuse Prevention Month website to find useful resources (<http://tinyurl.com/zvcy2q3>).
- Download the 2016 Prevention Resource Guide: Building Community, Building Hope and learn how to strengthen families using the protective factors (<http://tinyurl.com/zot98kh>).
- Access dozens of tip sheets - including two new ones: “Building Resilience in Children and Teens” and “Parenting After Domestic Violence” - in English and Spanish that can be distributed to parents and caregivers (<http://tinyurl.com/ja7va79>).

The Mayor Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (MACCAN) has designated, Wednesday, April 13, as “Wear Blue” day. Join DYRS and all DC Government employees in wearing blue to honor child abuse prevention efforts!

MLK Snapshot



The first set of DYRS parents enroll in the barbering class at the new MLK Achievement Center

Family Engagement & Empowerment

“A Parent’s Perspective” for Wards 7 & 8

On Tuesday, April 12, DYRS will host a town hall in the community for the parents of committed youth in Wards 7 & 8 at its MLK Achievement Center. The agency invites parents and guardians to attend for dialogue with Director Lacey and other key staff members about the agency’s vision for their children and the community. RSVP and other information are available [here](#).

Positive Youth Development

Outreach Project Brings Renewed Perspective



On Saturday, March 26, the residents of the Transitions Unit at New Beginnings gave back to the community by preparing 150 bag lunches and serving homeless individuals residing at the Clean Safe and Sober Shelter in Northwest Washington DC. This outreach project gave our youth fresh perspective, showing them the importance of giving back to their community.

Springtime Youth/Staff Development

“Only to Youth will Spring be Spring” The Youth Services Center Spring Carnival

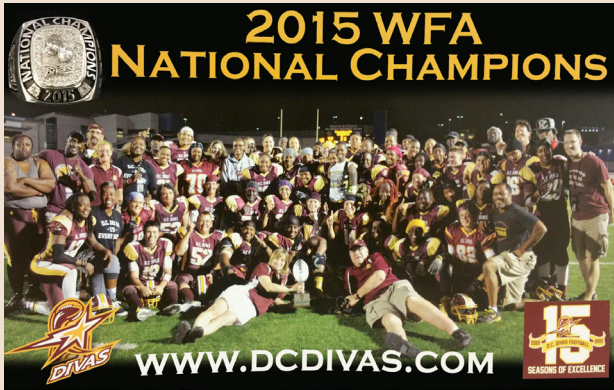


Words below gleaned from an email sent by DYRS Deputy Director of Secure Programs, Willie Fullilove, to his staff at the Youth Services Center (YSC) after their Spring Carnival on Tuesday, March 29 “...yesterday afternoon, you all along with your staff and the youth in the facility put on another display of why I call this a special place to work. Not only were you all engaged, diligent, aware, security minded, and present - you all had fun as well and really that’s what it’s all about. So I get it, some people would say “why would we do some of the things for the youth we serve” and our answer would be “because that’s who we are and that’s a part of not only the PYJ <Positive Youth Justice> principle but also the Director’s vision.” Although I know we still have work to do to get to where we know we can be, yesterday was a big step forward in doing it right which is what prompted me to generate this email. The one thing that I understand is that just like you let people know when they’re doing wrong, it’s equally important to let those people know when they’re doing good. It’s just the right thing to do. Everyone needs to know that I’m definitely seeing the improvements and we need to dig a little deeper to continue the trend. Remember, it’s not about doing just enough, it’s about doing the job all the time that puts these young folks first and shows why YSC can be the standard in Juvenile Justice. Good job again YSC and let your staff know as well...”

Comments from YSC Staff about the Carnival

“The shift commanders acknowledged the staff this morning as well for a job well done—no incidents and full engagement.” • “Carnival was definitely a lot of fun—for the youth and the staff!” • “Thank you Mr. Fullilove for corporately acknowledging our efforts to improve and for continuing to believe in the strength of YSC.”

DC DIVAS!



Congratulations to YSC Youth Development Representatives Hellen Deer & Haneffa McNair, who recently received their National Championship rings as members of the 2015 DC Divas Women's football team!

AC EXCURSION



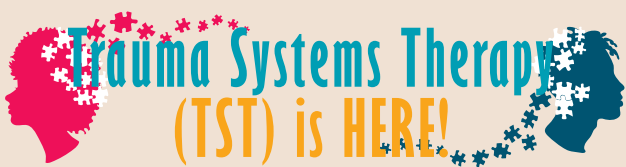
Achievement Center Youth on a cultural excursion at Diyanet Center of America

Unsung Heroes - Chris Shaw

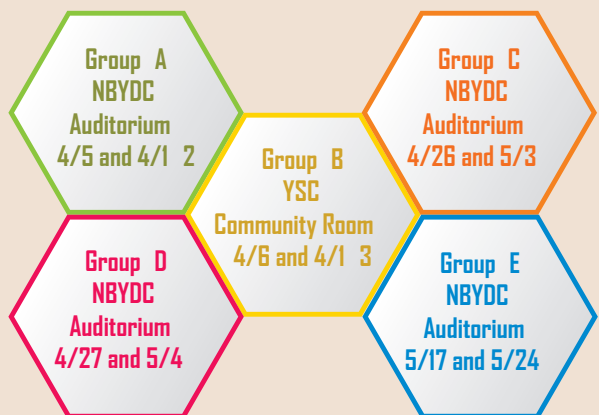


Upon asking fellow DYRS employees about "unsung heroes" within the agency, one name came up universally - Chris Shaw. Based out of New Beginnings, Chris is the friendly face you see delivering your mail everyday. He joined the agency in 2014 and

is an Army Veteran of 15 years. Chris is also the reason the printed version of the newsletter makes it to all four DYRS locations every other week. Thank you Chris for all you do!



The agency's ongoing transition to a trauma-informed system of care continues with training, with best availability for the sessions conducted April 26/May 3 and May 17/May 24 (complete schedule below). Each session spans two weeks. The Group B session runs from 7:30 AM to 4:00 p.m., and the remaining sessions run from 8:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m. For scheduling, please contact Shawn Dowell (shawn.dowell@dc.gov) and Damon Thompson (damon.thompson@dc.gov).



"Spring is the Season of New Beginnings" - Healing through Art



Parents and families came out to New Beginnings on Sunday, March 27 to create unique works of art and enjoy light refreshments during visitation with their boys. The facility provided all supplies and only asked for everyone to bring their creativity. All enjoyed the event and asked to do it again soon!

"Love Springs From the Inside" Spring Break at the Achievement Center

Spring Break activities took place at the Achievement Center (AC) on 450 H. Street from Monday, March 28 through Friday, April 1. On Monday, Youth Council advisers took several youth on a Farm Trip which was "very exciting; I was surprised to see the kids respond the way they did" (Staff member J. Dearteaga).



Youth Engagement Specialist Mark Timberlake orchestrated a Poetry Slam with Free Minds where several youth volunteered to participate in Spoken Word, including L.F., who recited his piece "No Justice, No Peace." Said Timberlake, "I can honestly say that they <youth> all left with something positive on their minds."

The AC Café made snacks throughout the week for youth and staff, including smoothies, brownies and cupcakes. The event was "a great success; we had so much fun!" (Staff member K. Lewis). The young people also participated in several crafts, including T-shirt design and bracelet design. Youth D.T. said, "I feel like a real designer; I had the best t-shirt!"

The Youth Council and the 450 H. Street Achievement Center also co-sponsored a mock trial on Thursday, where DYRS youth and staff served as jurors, witnesses and attorneys and "the defense won" (Staff member Y. Olusada). The mock trial provided youth with the opportunity to understand the law, practice critical thinking and gain greater confidence in public speaking.



Staff also held Youth Leadership Training to prepare our youth how to be effective leaders and "was really impressed with how engaged they were" (Staff member C. Dotson). Several youth went bowling with our AC Staff on Friday; where East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership (ERCPCP) team member Jamill Hines "beat the kids bad!" (ERCPCP staff J. Hines). The week ended with friends from the Embassy of Japan visiting the AC to learn about programs and services for our youth. Overall, it was a robust and eventful week!



Government issued cell phones – If you have a Government issued cell phone that receives Government email, the cell phone stores the last entered password only. That password does not dynamically change when you change your password on your PC. Consequently, you must change your password on your cell phone within five minutes of changing the password on your PC or the network will lock you out of ALL access to your account. This includes access to your account on your PC, printers and email because your cell phone continues to check your email using your old password. If it sends it more than three times, the network views the attempted logins as a possible break-in attempt and will lock your account. If you're unsure how to change the password on your PC, contact IT.

FAMCare account lockouts – If you enter in your password incorrectly three times in a row, FAMCare will lock you out of your account. To prevent lockouts, click on the "Forgot your Password" link and it will take you to a page where you can answer your security question. Once you successfully answer your security question (you created this the first time you got your account), it will reset your password to the temporary default password of "123456." After your initial login under the temporary password, it will require you to change your password to a more secure password. If you have forgotten the answer to your security question, please contact IT via dysr.cmsissues@dc.gov.



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

