



Committed to Excellence

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

June 1, 2017



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

JUN 6 IFTAR AND GUEST SPEAKER IMAM JOHARI
MLK ACHIEVEMENT CENTER, 2101 MLK JR. AVE SE,
SUNSET

JUN 6 AMERICA'S ISLAMIC HERITAGE MUSEUM EXHIBIT
DISPLAY - 450 ACHIEVEMENT CENTER
450 H. STREET NW, 7-9:30 PM

JUN 8 COMEDY IS A CURE FOR PAIN IN ALL CULTURES,
STAND-UP COMEDY AND TALENT NIGHT, NBYDC,
8400 RIVER ROAD, LAUREL, MD 20724

JUN 18 FATHER'S DAY



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Around the World on a Wednesday

On Wednesday, May 31, young people from the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) "traveled" to the countries of Myanmar (formerly Burma) in Southeast Asia and Chile in South America by way of their embassies. While in Myanmar, they had the honor of meeting the Ambassador to the United States along with his staff, where they asked questions such as "what does an Ambassador do" and even asked the Ambassador if he was married. While "visiting" Chile, the Diplomat of the country escorted them on a personal tour. The young people learned about a diplomat's many tasks along with how long a diplomat must serve in each country before allowed to return home to Chile. They viewed art work and sculptures created by Chilean artists. They also toured the Ambassador's personal quarters and learned about some of the dangers the country's Ambassadors faced in service. From there, the group toured Embassy Row and even stopped by the DC residence of former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Afterward, they went to the Islamic Center of Washington DC and then to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial where they discussed pillars from the Credible Messenger Initiative, such as why "my life matters" and "the power of the tongue" and how this relates to Dr. King's legacy. Youth completed their day at Marrakech Restaurant where they experienced the exotic tastes of the Moroccan Mediterranean and - to their surprise - actually enjoyed some of the foods that they sampled! DYRS thanks tour guide Jan Du Plain and all staff from the agency and Progressive Life Center who supported this eye-opening effort.

An Outpouring of Support



Youth Council members participated in an early morning of community service with Teens Run D.C. on May 22, encouraging runners during a 5k marathon at Anacostia Park and pouring cups of water to pass out to the runners. Teens Run D.C. is a local mentoring organization that guides young people in District of Columbia Public Schools starting with middle school students. Youth Council members and staff arrived ready to serve from 7:30 – 9 a.m.



Redefining Class

On Thursday, May 25, DYRS youth participating in the "Tailored with Tim" program took part in an etiquette class ran by "Off My Block," a DC- based non-profit that provides programs and activities for inner-city youth to help them achieve a sense of confidence, connection and control over their lives beyond their perception. The group discussed topics such as "how to speak to a lady," "how to handle yourself on a date," and other popular subjects among the young demographic. The youth gladly shared their thoughts with "Off My Block" in an effort to better themselves. Tailored with Tim at DYRS, led by East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership's Timothy Durant Jr. seeks to help all youth understand the power of refinement in all areas of life. Kudos to "Tailored with Tim" for taking class to another level with this etiquette session!

Congratulations Ms. Nancy Fisher!

DYRS' Operations and Risk Management Division recognizes Nancy Fisher on her success as PREA Coordinator and in her transitional role ensuring that the agency continues to meet PREA compliance standards. Ms. Fisher is a decorated juvenile justice veteran of more than 15 years who serves in many capacities at DYRS. Since 2009, she served the agency as a Youth Treatment Unit Manager, Acting Deputy Superintendent of Operations at New Beginnings, and as a Contract Service Specialist overseeing the monitoring of all of our contracted residential treatment centers. The agency appreciates Ms. Fisher in every capacity and applauds her continued success!



A New Day Day

Staff at 450 found themselves presently surprised when a guest visitor surprised them during a meeting in the facility's Achievement Center. on May 19 The mystery guest, formerly committed youth "Day Day," spoke with them about her experience at the agency, how it helped her get to where she is today, and reminded each staff member of their exclusive role in her rehabilitation. The meeting served to remind staff from all areas of the agency that they are important and that they touch youths' lives in some way, shape or form. As one staff member described it, he felt "glad that the meeting took place because it helped him reconnect to the agency mission."



Making Up and Moving Forward

Young people at DYRS participated in a Celebrity Make-Up Artistry Event on May 15 with special guest Ms. Winnie Hartman-Gross, who shared her remarkable story about the beauty industry and promoted students to embrace all aspects of it. Passionate about theatrical make-up, horror and FX, she illustrated her work on student "M," who participated as a model and illustrated theatrical effects. (Thank you "M"!)

Ms. Winnie is a former student of Career Discovery Services of almost a decade, in which she received her cosmetology and make-up artistry certifications. She followed her dreams, built quite a resume, and went on to do some amazing work, acting as a celebrity make-up artist to entertainers such as Chris Brown and recently completing make-up artistry for the film "The Red Effect." DYRS thanks Ms. Winnie for taking the time to share about her life and encourage our youth to follow their dreams!



A Whole New Level

On Saturday, May 20, youth and staff at New Beginnings Youth Development Center kicked off the facility's annual "New Beginnings Lawn Care Program." Mr. Carl Mathews, several Youth Development Representatives, and Level 6 youth D.C. and J.B. (youth on the verge of transitioning into the community) spent the day providing lawn maintenance services to senior citizens in the community. Young people and staff will continue to provide lawn maintenance services to senior citizens in the community until the first weekend in October 2017.

A VISIT FROM SINGAPORE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On Tuesday, May 23, leaders from various organizations in Singapore visited DYRS facilities to learn about the methods and model Washington DC is taking in juvenile justice reform. Visitors included:

- Yoganathan Ammayappan, Director, Rehabilitation and Protection Group (RPG);
- Bernadette Alexander, Director, Youth Residential Service (YRS);
- Chiam Jia Fong, Head, Singapore Boys' Home;
- Kumaran Ambalagan, Assistant Manager, Singapore Boys' Home; and
- Chan Yiting, Assistant Manager, Singapore Girls' Home.

The visitors spoke to young people at New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) about their experiences, and also came bearing gifts which they presented to NBYDC Deputy Superintendent of Treatment Janay Williams.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

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

