



Committed to Excellence

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

June 15, 2017



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

JUN 16 **ACHIEVEMENT CENTER SUMMER KICKOFF, TURKEY**
THICKET RECREATIONAL CENTER, 1100 MICHIGAN AVE. NE, 12-4 P.M.

JUN 19 **FIELD DAY FOR SOCIAL WORKERS**
NEW BEGINNINGS, 8400 RIVER RD., LAUREL MD, 11-4 P.M.

JUN 20 **VOCATIONAL CULINARY GRADUATION RECEPTION,**
NEW BEGINNINGS, 5-7 P.M.

JUN 20 **LGBTQI TRAINING (OPEN TO ALL STAFF),**
NEW BEGINNINGS AUDITORIUM, 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

JUN 21 **MPD'S "BEAT THE STREETS" KICK OFF EVENT**
1300 CONGRESS ST. SE, (CONGRESS PARK)

JUN 22 **ACHIEVEMENT CENTER GRADUATION CELEBRATION**
CLYDE'S OF GALLERY PLACE, 707 7TH ST NW
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

JUN 22 **MANDATORY TRAINING FOR PREA VOLUNTEERS AND VENDORS, YSC, COMMUNITY ROOM**
11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

JUN 27 **LGBTQI TRAINING (OPEN TO ALL STAFF)**
NEW BEGINNINGS AUDITORIUM, 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

JUN 28 **MPD'S "BEAT THE STREETS" 2017 SUMMER KICK OFF, 600 O ST. NW (KENNEDY REC)**

JUN 29 **"EMBRACING THE JOURNEY" GIRLS DANCE RECITAL**
NEW BEGINNINGS AUDITORIUM, 6 P.M.

OVERACHIEVERS



A formerly committed youth - Brian - made the agency proud as he graduated from high school on Sunday, June 11. After leaving the facility, Brian completed the remainder of his high school credits, graduating with a 3.0 average. He is gearing up to attend Steve Harvey's Mentoring program for young men in Atlanta, Georgia. They say it takes a village to raise a child, and DYRS is proud to support this young man in his transformation into adulthood.

A Warm Welcome...

...to new DYRS employees:

- Joelle Gelmann, Nurse Practitioner
- Bennie Oliver, YDR
- Tiffany Durand, SYDR
- Donta Smith, SYDR

Please say hello to these friendly faces if you see them around our locations!



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Graduation Season

On Tuesday, June 13, four New Beginnings youth walked across the stage as they officially became Maya Angelou Academy's (MAA) graduating Class of 2017. Both B.B and Q.G. worked diligently to obtain their GEDs. Their trials and tribulations included countless hours of studying, several trips out of the facility to take the GED (after not passing a section by just one point and then retaking sections), but still maintaining a positive outlook on furthering their education. Youth R.M. and T.G. attended school at MAA daily, and stayed after school for additional supports and classes to ensure that they had completed all of their credits to obtain their high school diplomas. As they embark on their next stage in life, and a truly new beginning, the staff at New Beginnings and MAA would like to offer them a few words of motivation by way of "The Five Ws of Life:"

"Who you are is what makes you special. Do not change for anyone."

"What lies ahead will always be a mystery. Do not be afraid to explore."

"When life pushes you over, you push back."

"Where there are choices to make, make the one you won't regret."

"Why things happen will never be certain. Take it in stride and move forward."



On Level Ground

New Beginnings Superintendent Mack McGhee took some time last week to check in on Level 6 youth during a "Snap-Back Lunch and Learn". Superintendent McGhee facilitated a presentation that provided youth an opportunity to re-evaluate their past situations to prevent their impeding on their current situations. Youth engaged in an open forum while enjoying pizza and drinking (what else?) Snapple. The lunch closed with staff encouraging youth them to conduct themselves as active citizens in their communities, also motivating them to advocate for themselves.

Game On and Off the Court

On May 24, youth J.B. and C.P. participated in a championship game at Trinity University. J.B. and C.P. showed off their basketball and shooting skills as they also took part in a 3-point contest. The youth give credit to their coach, New Beginnings Recreational Specialist Eric Boggs, as he continuously works with them to achieve their goals on and off the court.



Lawn Care and Compassion

On Saturday, June 3, Level 6 youth from New Beginning provided lawn care services to senior citizens in DC as part of the facility's annual "New Beginnings Lawn Care Program." Young people and staff will continue to provide lawn maintenance services to senior citizens in the community until the first weekend in October 2017, with the next day of services being Saturday, June 17.



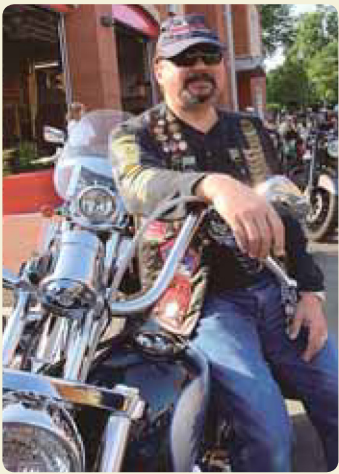
All in the Family

On Friday, June 9, Youth Development Representatives (YDRs) at New Beginnings held a luncheon for Senior Youth Development Representative (SYDR) Shawn Dowell to thank him for his service in the year he spent at the facility. SYDR Dowell arrived to a "red carpet" greeting on his final day, in a bittersweet farewell as he's transferred back to his home facility, Youth Services Center (YSC). "I was received very well by all three shifts at New Beginnings, since my arriving, and will miss the family environment there. I also look forward to working with my colleagues at YSC."



EYES ON...!

DYRS Chief Information Officer (CIO) Aki Damme on his Harley in Herndon, VA!



Aki Damme of Herndon was one of the first motorcyclists to arrive for the Memorial Day Rolling Thunder Ride out of Herndon, Sunday, May 28. This would be his 17th Jimmy's Old Town Tavern Ride. "I'm a vet. We have to remember our brothers and sisters," he said.

Social Media Snapshot



Youth Council DC

6/17 We Are Family - 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. (pick-up starts at 7:30am) • Volunteers will pack and deliver groceries to low-income seniors • Open to everyone/ community service hrs offered

6/18 Bread for the City - 2-4 p.m. (pick-up starts at 12 p.m.) • Volunteers will help sort produce for those in need • Open to everyone/ community service hrs offered

6/21 - Tour of the National Museum of African American History & Culture (NMAAHC), 1:30 - 4 p.m., (meet at 450 AC at 12:30 p.m.) • Only approved youth/ community service hrs offered

6/25 - Audubon Naturalist Society - Woodend Nature Sanctuary Tour, 1-4 p.m. (Pick-up starts at 11 a.m.) • Participants will enjoy bird watching and help with trail maintenance • Open to everyone/ community service hrs offered

6/29 - Dinner and Bowling in College Park, MD, 6-10 p.m. (Meet at the 450 AC at 4:30 p.m.) • Open to youth who completed at least one volunteer activity

Calling All Social Workers!

Check out the tentative schedule for the day!

11 a.m.-12 p.m. - Obstacle Course Challenge on the field

12-1 p.m. - Youth will eat lunch on their respective unit porches

1-2 p.m. - Games, arts & crafts

2-3 p.m. - Relay Races Activity - Spoon zoom, potato sack races, drop and pop, jump rope relay, musical Chairs, bike races (sign-up sheets for each race will be posted on Saturday)

3-4 p.m. - Kickball/volleyball game

Enjoy concessions, and come and engage with your youth at New Beginnings on this (hopefully) sunny summer day!

Contact New Beginnings Deputy Superintendent of Treatment, Janay Williams at janay.williams2@dc.gov, for more information.



Female Focus



The Achievement Center's "Ms. K" presents "Beauty is Her Name," a series of events and programming geared toward building of positive self- image, self-awareness, self-love and acceptance, healthy relationships and lifestyles, and etiquette for the young ladies of DYRS. Last month, the young ladies participated in Soul Flexology, or "Soul Flex." Soul Flex" is an infusion of life coaching, self-reflection, soul talking, and body movement facilitated by Live Your Freedom Inc. With the purpose of aligning the whole being (physical, mental, and spiritual), the sessions and workshops incorporate all aspects of health and wellness to assist individuals on their journey of creating, experiencing, freeing, and living.



Last weekend, staff at New Beginnings treated the girls in the Journey unit to their second self-esteem booster, a "Pampering Party." This female-focused party allowed for each resident to indulge, relax, and let staff pamper them for the day. Each young lady received a facial treatment and massage, professional makeover henna body art, and a manicure and pedicure while relishing each other's company. Staff and youth alike thoroughly enjoyed the day, which highlighted both outer and inner self-care.

Remembering YDR Anna Wright



Staff at YSC join in a balloon release in memory of Youth Development Representative Anna Wright, who passed away in late May.

TRAINING ALERT - LGBTQI TRAINING!

LGBTQI training is being offered at New Beginnings on Tuesday, June 20 and Tuesday, June 27 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.! contact Ms. Tammie Terry at tammie.terry@dc.gov for more details!

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT



Birthday Girl

As a way to encourage desired outcomes from our youth and to strengthen positive family engagement, New Beginnings allows for young scholars and their families to request special visits for a youth's birthday. This simple request promotes parental involvement while also keeping the family informed of unique challenges, also seeking ways to improve future outcomes. New Beginnings understands that families are more likely to commit to the agency's treatment services when families are included in the decisions and planning that affect their children – and the agency strongly agrees with this premise. So we would like to wish Alia a Happy 17th Birthday on behalf of your own family, along with your New Beginnings family and your own family!

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

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

