



# Committed to Excellence

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

August 24, 2017

WE ARE  
WASHINGTON  
DC

## ECLIPSE

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

## Event Calendar

- AUG 26** "BUILD YOUR OWN BOOK BAG," FUN IT UP, 2512 RHODE ISLAND AVE NE, 12-5 PM (BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT)
- AUG 29** THE JOURNEY UNIT'S "ONE YEAR CELEBRATION," NEW BEGINNINGS, 8400 RIVER RD., LAUREL, MD, 4-6 PM
- SEP 4** LABOR DAY
- SEP 5-8** CREDIBLE MESSENGER BOOT CAMP, THE ARC 1901 MISSISSIPPI AVE SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20020
- SEP 11-15** DYRS PROVIDER CONFERENCE/TRAINING THURGOOD MARSHALL CENTER, 1816 12TH ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20009
- SEP 26** CARL'S CARS GRAND OPENING/ RIBBON CUTTING, NEW BEGINNINGS, 8400 RIVER RD., LAUREL, MD, 20724, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM



## POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### Staying the Course

On Thursday, August 17, DYRS youth and families enjoyed Back to School night at the 450 H. Street Achievement Center with "Routes," the agency's newly named Education and Workforce Development Department who encouraged them to "stay the course" as they start the new school year. Young people entered the Achievement Center and found themselves walking down a "road" carpet before staff and vendors at different tables challenged them with questions. In alignment with Mayor Muriel Bowser's "Every Day Counts" initiative and focus on student absenteeism, students had to answer questions about school enrollment dates and show proof of school enrollment before they earned school supplies including backpacks, pens, headphones and more. DYRS wishes all students in the District a successful school year, and encourages them to navigate through detours, avoid roadblocks, and maintain a safe speed as they head down the road to success.



### What it Means to be a Man

DYRS congratulates the Youth Services Center (YSC) male residents of POD C200 who are participating in the Making Achievements Never Ending (M.A.N.) program. M.A.N. promotes health, wellness and discipline through a series of exercises adapted from the Presidential Fitness Module focusing on push ups, pull ups, sit ups, bend and reaches, and sprints and other exercises. Though they resisted the workouts at first, they started to enjoy to the program and continued to improve with each work out. Making Achievements Never Ending means knowing that one accomplishment is just a catapult to the next, and to never, ever stop growing.

## RAISING THE BAR

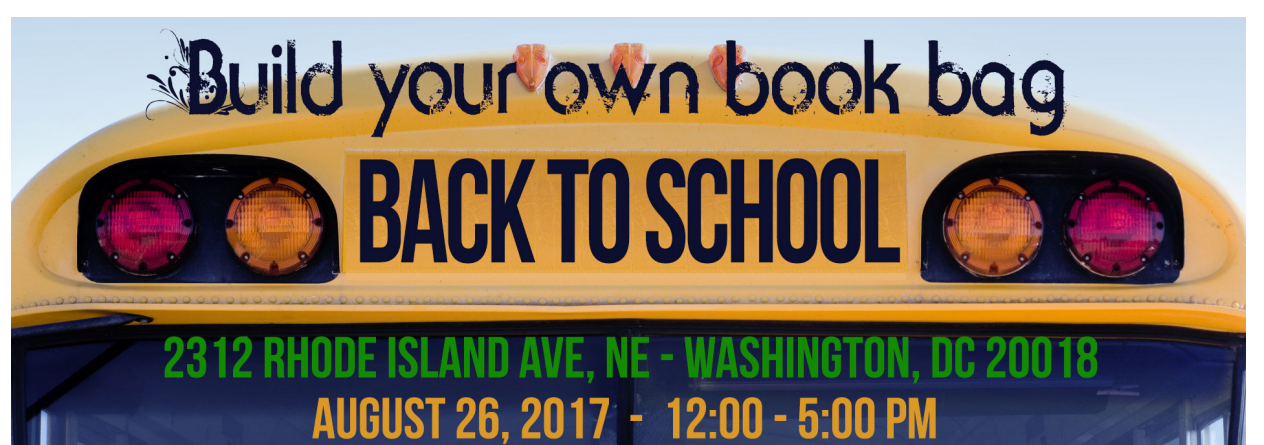


Congratulations to Ms. D.B., recipient of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council's Youth on the Rise Award. D.B. is a graduate of the Journey program at DYRS' New Beginnings Youth Development Center.



### Back to the Future

On Thursday, August 17, 15 youth at New Beginnings participated in a two-day co-ed leadership training with Dennard Mitchell and Quentin Whitehead of Men of Visions World Wide, LLC. The youth found themselves provoked to look beyond the "right now" and take successful steps towards making positive decisions for their future. They also engaged in several hands-on exercises and public speaking to foster their communication skills.





## A Warm Welcome...



to our new DYRS employees who started with the agency this week!

- Brittnay Buckner, Agency Training Officer, NB
- Justin Samples, Facilities Manager, YSC
- Silvia Perez, Contract Specialist, Residential Programs, YSC
- Dominique Allen – Case Manager
- Chantel Harris, Management Liaison Specialist, 450
- Perry Brown, Management Liaison Specialist
- Rimsha Ali – Behavioral Health intern, NB
- Maddyson Taylor, Behavioral Health intern, NB

## TRAINING — DAY —

### Working <in> the System



On Monday, August 15, staff at New Beginnings Youth Development Center participated in a two-day professional development training on “Youth Criminology” and “Understanding the Criminal Justice System,” where facilitator Liz Alexander engaged staff and excited them about case studies!

### Their Best Behavior



On Tuesday, August 8, managers in DYRS' Office of Secure Divisions participated in a three-day Cognitive Behavior Training (CBT) facilitated by Ms. Torishana Johnson, where they learned how to apply the CBT model in their daily interactions with youth.



# CREDIBLE

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From a Good Projects fatherhood event, where a young man and his estranged father started to build a relationship by simply starting a conversation, to

**InnerCity Collaborative Community Development Corporation (ICCDC)** chaperoning youth to the Kalamahari Water Park, to

**East River Family Strengthening Collaborative (ERSFC)** hosting an Autobahn Indoor Speedway event for families, and

Credible Messenger **Darnell Copeland** of **ERFSC** holding a food and clothing drive and “Day of Service” in the community to teach youth about the importance of serving individuals less fortunate,

the Credible Messengers are some of the agency's very own superheroes, and DYRS recognizes and appreciates the love, time, care and commitment they provide to its youth and families everyday.



## FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

### A Weekend to Remember

From August 11 through 13, parents and caregivers joined DYRS staff at Meadowkirk retreat center in Virginia to share in the agency's annual Anchored in Strength caregiver weekend, giving them an opportunity to speak to their shared experiences and to just...remember.

**“The opposite of dismember. Remember means to put back together. To become whole. When we remember, we put our human family back together. We belong to each other.” - Glennon Doyle**

The weekend included parents and caregivers joining presentations, and learning about how the seven pillars of the Covenant of Peace impact parenting and relationships.

Wellness treatments and fun activities - pool, tubing, and outdoor hikes in the rolling hills of Middleburg - added to the relaxation of the weekend. Below is a testament to just how much some parents enjoyed it.

*“Thank you for inviting Chaun and me to the Retreat at Meadowkirk. It was a life-altering experience where we were shown what love looks like and signed a covenant. The dynamic workshops were informative and caused a great deal of introspection and truth-sharing. The wellness sessions were amazing; the facility, staff, and meals were perfect. We look forward to meeting with the Parent Group. Hope your vacation was great!” -Cheryl & Chaun Frost*

(Words gleaned from an email written Case Manager Ursula Fisher)

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

Email Brenda Padavil, Communications Director at [brenda.padavil@dc.gov](mailto:brenda.padavil@dc.gov) with questions or submissions for future issues.

