

# Committed to Excellence

THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES (DYRS) NEWSLETTER

October 3, 2019



## Event Calendar

- OCT 7** "HRT TALK" - *YOU'RE ENOUGH!*  
450 H ST NW - WASHINGTON, DC - 12 PM - 1 PM
- OCT 7** ANCHORED IN STRENGTH - 2101 MLK JR AVE SE -  
WASHINGTON, DC - 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- OCT 16** "HRT" WELLNESS - *LINE DANCING*  
2101 MLK JR AVE SE - 12 PM - 1 PM
- OCT 21** ANCHORED IN STRENGTH - 2101 MLK JR AVE SE -  
WASHINGTON, DC - 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- OCT 23** "HRT" WELLNESS - *MIDDAY MUSIC GROOVE*  
450 H ST NW - WASHINGTON, DC - 12 PM - 1 PM
- OCT 28** "HRT TALK" - *YOU'RE ENOUGH!*  
2101 MLK JR AVE SE, WDC - 12 PM - 1 PM
- OCT 28** ANCHORED IN STRENGTH - 450 H STREET NW -  
WASHINGTON, DC - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

## NBYDC PHOENIX BASKETBALL TEAM CELEBRATE TWO WINS IN A ROW



The Phoenix basketball team representing the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) celebrated wins two days in a row. The Nike Representatives, a team of college students and employees from the Nike Outlet in Arundel Mills, made their first visit to the NBYDC to play the DYRS Phoenix Basketball team in a fundraising game on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. The teams played a close game, with New Beginnings taking home the win with a final score of 72 - 71.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, the NBYDC hosted its first Midnight Madness Basketball Tournament with teams participating from Job Corps sites in Woodstock, Woodland, and Potomac. New Beginnings Phoenix defeated Woodstock 48 - 32 and eventually took home the championship, beating Potomac in the final game 51 - 36. NBYDC and the three teams have been building a relationship for the past four years to ensure that our youth participate in structured sporting events. The tournament was a successful event organized by the NBYDC Recreation Department, Kevin Hooks from the culinary staff, and Caroline Wilborn as part of an ongoing effort to provide out-of-the-box events and activities for youth at the facility. We would like to thank the Nike Representatives and the Woodland, Woodstock, and Potomac players for their staff's professionalism and students' sportsmanship. Please join us in congratulating the young men on our NBYDC Phoenix team!

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### DC Unity Summit

On September 23rd and 24th, frontline violence intervention workers across District government agencies gathered for a Unity Summit. The event hosted more than 200 guests, including Credible Messengers from DYRS; the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Justice (PSJ); Project Change, the District's Hospital-based Violence Interruption Program from the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVS-JG); the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE); Roving Leaders from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); and the Cure the Streets program from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG).

The two-day event included a welcome on Monday from Dr. Roger Mitchell, Chief Medical Examiner from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and a welcome from CJ Blair of CJ Blair Speaks. Guests also participated in team-building exercises and workshops that focused on everything from Restorative Justice and trauma to conflict resolution and financial literacy. The event closed out with Keynote Speaker Eric Thomas, PhD of ET Inspires, a Chicago-based author, educator and pastor.

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey led and moderated *Developing You*, a panel discussion that talked about potential career evolution possibilities that consider education, dedication, and entrepreneurship. Panelists included Credible Messenger Program Manager Norman Brown; Ronald F. Day, Vice President of I-CAN, Education, and Employment Services for the Fortune Society; Credible Messenger Keith "Wali" Johnson; and Nicole Styles, Program Coordinator for East River Family Strengthening Collaborative (ERFSC).

"We've heard from four leaders amongst leaders who have emphasized and told a snapshot of their story," said Director Lacey during the panel discussion. "They've shared their wisdom and lessons on what can continue to advance us. We want to make sure that we hear what we can do to make sure these initiatives are pouring into you."





## Keeping it Moving it as YOU Restore



The DYRS Anchored in Strength Family Support Group, which creates a space for parents and guardians of youth connected to DYRS to meet, hosted the *Keeping it Moving it as YOU Restore* Retreat Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> at the Meadowkirk Retreat Center in Middleburg, Virginia. The retreat emphasized restoration, healing and empowerment for parents, guardians and caregivers of more than 40 justice-involved youth. Guest speakers CJ Blair, a motivational speaker of CJ Blair Speaks, and Pastor Gwendolyn Webb, one of the last living Civil Rights foot soldiers from Birmingham, Alabama, shared empowering stories about their seemingly unsurmountable challenges to triumphs. Emmett Irby led the group through a poetic immersion experience to explore and give value to their existence on behalf of DYRS. Art Therapist Jennifer Davis provided incredible art experiences throughout the entire weekend. Participants also received wellness and self-care guidance and engaged in a Restorative Justice-infused conversation guided by DYRS Restorative Justice Coordinator Rashida George. The emotionally safe retreat created space for each person to draw on the strengths of their peers as they shared candid thoughts, deeply intense feelings, overwhelming challenges, and victories!

- Princess Taylor

## Photography Job for DYRS Youth Stems from Restorative Justice Photojournalism Program



DYRS Post-Committed Youth “K” recently landed a photography job with Out of The Box (OTB) Photography. OTB Photography Founder Jermaine Gibbs worked closely with DYRS youth last year during a Youth Restorative Justice Photojournalism Program. After the completion of the program, Jermaine was so inspired by K’s dedication, consistency, and talent that he invited him to assist with various photography jobs. “K” did so well that Jermaine offered him a permanent position at OTB Photography. Please join us in congratulating “K” on his success! “K” was always present and positive. He never missed a class and when he showed up, he was ready. He never complained about his circumstance and was very dedicated and professional in producing high-quality work,” Gibbs said. “After a trip to New York, I really started to notice the great quality of his photos and how professional they were. “K” showed up to every shoot with a positive mindset. His energy was vibrant and positive. He was always on time and professional.” For more information on Out of the Box Photography and their services please contact Jermaine Gibbs at [info@jermainegibbs.com](mailto:info@jermainegibbs.com)

## Mayor Bowser, Nick Cannon join Director Lacey in DYRS Program Kickoff

Mayor Muriel Bowser and actor Nick Cannon joined DYRS Director Clinton Lacey at the Youth Services Center (YSC) to kick off the Inside-Out program, a new course that resulted from a partnership between DYRS and Howard University. Howard University professors Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad and Eric Ruffin will teach the class along with Cannon, who is also a student at the university.

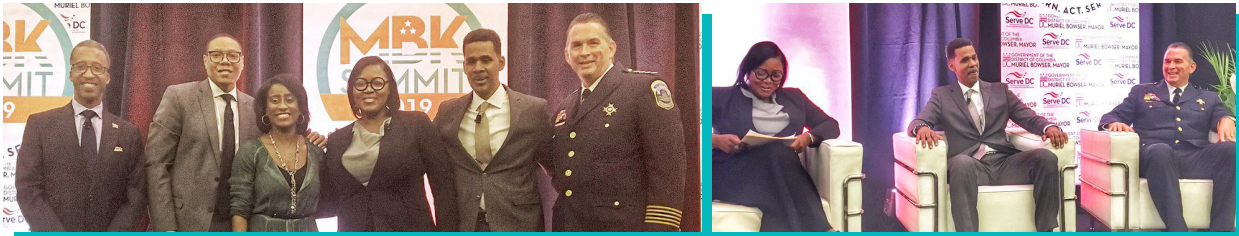
“We are grateful to Nick and Dr. Muhammad for turning their passion for justice and the arts into opportunity for our young people,” said Mayor Bowser of the 15-week program. “When we provide our youth with programs that both engage and challenge them, we know that they are more likely to succeed and to reach their goals. This is a unique program and a unique opportunity for everyone involved.”

Tailored to DYRS youth, this is the first such Inside-Out Program in the District and the first to be offered at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) that will unfold inside a secure juvenile facility. The Inside-Out program works to bring various Howard University resources into the facility to engage with all residents in order to help facilitate successful reentry back into their families and communities.

“We are going to be able to tap in and we’re going to reveal some stuff,” Cannon said. “We’re going to grow and learn about each other weekly. As we get an opportunity to do this, and it’s all rooted in the love for one another, the love for our culture, the love for ourselves and even expressing love in a facility of incarceration.”

The program and curriculum will follow the DYRS approach to education and the Positive Youth Justice (PYJ) framework that seeks to empower youth by meeting them where they are. Each course offering will be guided by feedback and leadership of the DYRS youth participants from various units. This version of the program puts an emphasis on the arts and builds on the current innovation, resiliency and consideration of DYRS Director Clinton Lacey’s vision of “What Love Looks Like” in the juvenile justice system.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y3lhwxq2> to read more about the program in an article in the Washington Informer.



## Director Lacey Participates in My Brother’s Keeper Panel

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey spoke on the R(ED) Table Talk panel during the My Brother’s Keeper DC Summit 2019 hosted by ServeDC, and the Mayor’s Office on Fathers, Men and Boys on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the summit examined issues facing young men of color and effective strategies to help them succeed. DYRS, DC Public Schools (DCPS), the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and DC Council Member Kenyan McDuffie (Ward 5) also attended the event.

## A Warm Welcome to...



our new DYRS employees!

Left to right: Yasmeen Fuller, *Behavioral Health Intern*; Dr. Khandra Tyler-Bynum, *Medical Director*; Tim Durant, *Youth Advocate*; Christina Granville, *Training Specialist*; Albert Sanguillen, *Youth Development Representative*; Brelyn Jones, *Behavioral Health Intern*; Melvin King, *Youth Development Representative*; Kenny Thomas, *Youth Development Representative*; Chauncey Beard, *Youth Development Representative*; Cyrus Anale, *Youth Development Representative*; Jomo Nash, *Investigator, Abscondence*

Please introduce yourself if you see them around the agency!

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



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR