



October 20, 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- 10/21** Youth & Family Programs Retreat, North Michigan Park Recreation Center, 1333 Emerson Street NE, 11 am - 4 pm
- 11/1** Health Fair, YSC
- 11/2-11/16** CPR Training, YSC, Community Room
- 11/15** Health Fair, YSC
- 11/15** "Southeast 67" Showing for Staff, New Beginnings Auditorium, 12 pm & 3 pm

A Warm Welcome to...



New DYRS staff members Leslie Grant, Training Specialist (New Beginnings) and Antonio Robinson, Youth Engagement Specialist (450 H. Street)



New DYRS Mental Health Specialist Shaynelle Bordley-Barnes (New Beginnings)

Please say hello to them if you meet them around DYRS!

Rising Stars

Congratulations to staff William Young (YSC), Charles Dunlap (YSC), Whitney Patton (YSC) on their promotions from Youth Development Representatives (YDRs) to Supervisory YDRs! DYRS is proud of your commitment, growth, and leadership!*

**Editor's Note: The digital version of "Committed to Excellence" listed the above-mentioned staff members as returning staff instead of promoted staff. Please excuse this oversight.*

Community Engagement Credible Messenger Mentoring



Approximately 40 members of the DYRS Credible Messenger Initiative (CMI) participated in a boot camp last week to prepare for mentoring youth and families. The participants - representing the six non-profit organizations contracted by DYRS to facilitate the Credible Messenger Initiative - included transformative mentors and family engagement specialists, along DYRS' executive team and several staff members. Community Connections for Youth (CCFY), an organization that specializes in Credible Messenger Mentoring, facilitated the five-day training.

The week started out with participants hearing from a number of speakers who put the initiative into a historical context. DYRS Director Clinton Lacey shared his philosophy about "what love looks like" at DYRS, an ideology that serves as one of the key pillars in the Credible Messenger Initiative. DYRS Administrative Officer Rahim Jenkins spoke about the agency's Covenant of Peace pillars, which serve as the curriculum for the CMI. The team from CCFY explained the historical underpinnings of a community-driven approach to engaging youth and families as a strategy for juvenile justice reform.

On the second day of the training, participants reflected on their own journeys of transformation and change, relating to the struggles they had overcome and their own paths of healing and growth. They shared stories of surviving long prison sentences, recovering from drug addiction, and escaping domestic violence. Reverend Maurice Winley of CCFY, guided participants through recognizing the power of their stories to facilitate growth in others, and also shared wisdom around proper boundaries, self-care, and practices to stay healthy in their work.

The third day consisted of a thorough grounding in Positive Youth Justice, restorative justice, and cognitive behavior techniques to support their understanding of both the theoretical underpinnings of adolescent growth and development, and practical implications for mentoring.

On the fourth day, participants explored the curriculum for the initiative, which introduces a structure for facilitating groups with young people based on the seven pillars of the Covenant of Peace. Participants learned how to prepare group workshops using multiple strategies to engage youth, and worked on preparing their own contributions to the curriculum.

The week ended with participants presenting their lesson plans and receiving feedback on their facilitation strategies.

For many participants, the training affirmed practices they had long employed in their individual work with youth. Several of the participants stated that while they had worked in their individual silos in the past, they saw the Credible Messenger Initiative as a way to unite the work into a common movement. They shared that the Covenant of Peace gave them a common vocabulary and language to provide structure for all the work done in the same spirit. Many expressed thanks for an initiative they considered "truly homegrown" and honored the pioneers of the movement, as well as an appreciation for a curriculum that is spiritually and culturally competent for DC youth.

The training made use of multiple strategies to facilitate learning. Each day, participants spent at least two hours sitting in circle, building community and developing trust. Games, icebreakers, and a daily dance off helped build a sense of fun and family. All who experienced the coming together of like-minded laborers and building community felt it to be as valuable as the information they received. Based on the experience of the past week, DYRS' Credible Messengers are more ready than ever to engage youth and families in a transformative, restorative, and loving way.

Social Justice Snapshot



Hip Hop artist and social justice activist Jessica Disu (aka FM Supreme) stopped by New Beginnings on October 12 to speak to the residents and perform.



Helloooooo DYRS,

It's me, Wendell E., your friendly neighborhood Wellness Coordinator with a quick reminder that DYRS is once again partnering with the United Black Fund and the United Way of the National Capitol Area in the 62nd DC One Fund campaign to support nonprofit organizations citywide. These organizations actually support the wellness of our entire city through the implementation of programs ranging from housing, to nutrition, to counseling, to medical care, to education, and much more. Our goal is simply to further impact our citizens and communities by reaching the \$1 million dollar mark this year, and have no doubt that your participation is critical to the success of all involved. Winston S. Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." In honor of such philosophies, DYRS invites you to once again become an integral part of that giving process for many District of Columbia residents in need, as we endeavor make the city an even greater place for all to live, work, and play.

Please be reminded that we'll host several fund raising events during the coming weeks and you'll receive notifications via Mrs. Brenda Padavil aka "The Awesome One!"

See Ya Real Soon!

Positive Staff Development

Reminder - Enroll in CPR Training!

CPR training is part of the agency's mandated training - everyone is required to take this important, lifesaving class. If you are not trained, or your certification expired, enroll per the schedule below!

YSC, The Community Room,
9 am - 3 pm on 11/2 & 11/16

New Beginnings, Training Room,
9 am - 3 pm on 1/11/17

Everyone is encouraged to sign up for this important training. Please email Silvia Moody with your requested date and location. A minimum of six people must enroll for a course to be held.



Positive Youth Development
Youth Council Update

DYRS Youth Council members participated in the group's 3rd annual family activity, a fishing expedition at Chesapeake Bay that started from from Solomons, Maryland on on October 18. "They had a good time and one young person caught 50 fish!," said DYRS Compliance Specialist Rukie Wilson.

The DYRS Youth Council is a platform for youth to promote effective change locally and beyond, while having fun and teaching leadership values. It rewards young people who demonstrate positive behavior, exposes them to different opportunities.

How to Get Involved:

Social Workers or Case Managers refer young people who are compliant with their Community Placement Agreements (CPAs) and who express interest in giving back to DC (community service activities are open to all DYRS youth).
DYRS staff members may assist with the coordination and support of activities or become a Youth Council advisor.

Future Activities:

SOME (So Others Might Eat) • Friday, 10/28 • 10:30 am - 1:15 pm • Volunteers will help serve lunch to those in need • Pick-up starts at 8 am • This activity is contingent upon DCPS' schedule

Bread for the City • Sunday, 10/30 • 2 pm - 4 pm • Volunteers will help prepare meals for those in need • Pick-up starts at 12 pm

Certified Males

The New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) Culinary Arts and Hospitality Training Program is happy to announce that five scholars recently received ServSafe Food Handler Training with The National Restaurant Association. The ServSafe Food Handler Program is a complete solution that delivers consistent food safety training and covers five key areas: Basic Food Safety; Personal Hygiene; Cross-Contamination & Allergens; Time and Temperature; and Cleaning and Sanitation. The youth completed the 12-week class on campus with DC Culinary Academy LLC under the direction and guidance of Chef Aaron McGovern.

The NBYDC Construction Industry Training Program announced that six scholars received Registers Flaggers American Traffic Safety Services Associations certifications. This certification teaches the importance of being a safe, effective, and proper, flagger. It also highlights the standard skillset of a good flagger, how to apply standard flagger control references, how to identify proper flagging signals and procedures, and learned standard flagger practices for various situations. Youth at New Beginnings will continue to earn certificates in this 12-week class under the direction and guidance of Charles Boston from intra-state trucking company Ultimate Services.

A Thirst for Art

On Sunday, October 9, YSC engaged in its first "Paint and Sip" event. The program is geared around therapeutic painting, which not only teaches painting, but also assists with methods for relaxation and overall focus. Supervisory Youth Development Representative (SYDR) Inga Gaskin and YDRs Marco Wimbley and Paula Chambers spearheaded the project, which will be ongoing for youth in DYRS' care. "I'm proud of our staff's innovation and creativity in their approach to not only serving our youth, but caring about and fostering their creativity," said Deputy Director of Secure Programs Willie Fullilove.

