



# COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



**N**ovember 3, 2016

## EVENT CALENDAR

- 11/8** Health Fair, YSC, 2 - 4 pm
- 11/13** Journey Showcase, New Beginnings Auditorium, 8400 River Road, Laurel, MD
- 11/15** Health Fair, New Beginnings, Cafeteria, 2 - 4 pm
- 11/15** "Southeast 67" Showing for staff, New Beginnings Auditorium, 12 pm & 3 pm
- 11/18-20** Parent/Guardian Retreat, Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA
- 11/22** Speech and Debate Competition, New Beginnings Auditorium
- 12/6** Credible Messenger Summit, R.I.S.E. Center

### A Warm Welcome...



to new DYRS employees Donald Gooding, Robert Nelson, Tanishia Barnes and Sarina Spriggs!

## Training Days

### CPR Training

As part of the agency's mandated training, all staff are required to train in CPR. If you are not trained, or your certification expired, then this important, lifesaving class is for you. *This course will be taught from 9 am - 3 pm per the below schedule.*

- 11/16/2016, YSC, Room 1600
- 11/30/2016, YSC, Room 1600
- 12/14/2016, YSC, Room 1600
- 12/28/2016, YSC, Room 1600
- 1/11/2017, NB, Training Room

### Mandated Reporter Training

Due of the nature of our work, all staff is required to take Mandated Reporter training. Please access and take the 2-hour course at <https://dc.mandatedreporter.org>, print out your certificate once completed, and email it to Cathy Ohler ([cathy.ohler@dc.gov](mailto:cathy.ohler@dc.gov)).

## Positive Youth Development



### Fall Festivities!

The Progressive Life Center and DYRS ensured that young people in the community had a safe and eventful Halloween weekend. DYRS youth enjoyed a day at the movies with staff, followed by dinner. Many youth expressed that they enjoyed being at the movie theater because it took them away from the stress of DC, and that they'd relish in the opportunity to participate in such activities more often. All expressed thanks, and stayed safe, this Halloween.

### Spooks...

Youth at New Beginnings used their creativity at a "spooky" event over Halloween weekend, as they designed and decorated their units for a friendly contest judged on Halloween Monday. Also on Monday, young people who displayed 14 days without incidents took place in a movie event in the facility auditorium where they enjoyed well-deserved movie snacks.



### ...and Flicks

Youth at New Beginnings are earning the opportunity to participate in a "Sunday Matinee Movie." This incentive program is afforded to young people who: are without incident; earned 90% of behavior and participation points in school; and earned 100% participation in recreation activities, all within a seven day period. The youth receive a movie pass, grab their movie snacks, and enjoy an evening in the theatre together. A new movie is shown each Sunday. Our young people are excited about this weekly program, as displayed by the increasing number of youth able to participate each week.

## SkillPort Training

Did you know that - as a DYRS employee - you can access free training through two different Skillport portals?

### MyDYRSlearning.Skillport.com

– includes required training for DYRS employees.

### DCHR.skillport.com

– includes thousands of books, videos, courses.

Employees can take these courses anytime, anywhere, without supervisor sign off. Just sign on, find something that looks interesting and read it, watch it, or listen to it.

## Positive Youth Development



### Rock the Vote

*DYRS youth registering to vote on 11/3 for the upcoming Presidential election*

### Grand Opportunities

The DYRS Office of Education and Workforce Development invited MGM Resorts to facilitate an information session about the available job opportunities at the new MGM Resort National Harbor in Fort Washington, MD. The casino resort is set to open in December 2016 and looks to begin hiring 3,600 employees in more than 100 job classifications

Darrell Jordan from the Las Vegas property facilitated the informational session at the Achievement Center at 450 H Street. Speaking about his compelling background with the resort, he explained the great opportunities within the company and that MGM Resorts strongly encourages internal promotions. He also spoke about the values the brand stands for - integrity, providing opportunities, and the importance of investing in people, and not the job. After the informational portion of the session, Mr. Jordan spoke with each potential applicant individually about ways to increase possible employment and ways they can increase their opportunity.

### Did You Hear?

Six youth at New Beginnings completed their Adult CPR/AED, Pediatric CPR and First Aid certification on October 22 as part of the facility's ongoing construction program.

Formerly committed youth, S.M., landed a job working for "One of the Top 10 Chefs in the World," Jose Andres. S.M. previously studied Culinary Arts Management at the Culinary Arts Institute in Washington, but had to drop out after the unfortunate passing of his mother. He continued to pursue his passion by working as a line cook, and will get a start on living out his dream of being a chef as he relocates to Las Vegas, Nevada. Congratulations S.M. - DYRS is so proud of your hard work, perseverance in overcoming adversity, and this incredible achievement.



### Thinking Pink

On Tuesday, October 18, the Recreation staff at New Beginnings Youth Development Center hosted its third annual Breast Cancer Walk on campus. New Beginnings employees, the Maya Angelou Academy, and youth at the facility took part in the walk to raise awareness of Breast Cancer, celebrate survivors, and honor those who passed. All participants designed and created shirts for this event - a full day of "thinking pink."

### The Apprentice

Randall Shannon from the Department of Employment Services (DOES) Apprenticeship Training Program conducted an informational session on Thursday, October 27 at the DYRS Achievement Center at 450 H Street. More than 20 youth attended and expressed interest in the apprenticeship program, an effort to link DYRS youth to apprenticeship opportunities in accordance with recognized best practices. DYRS believes the apprenticeships produce highly skilled workers and contribute to the economic growth of the DMV area.



The apprenticeship training includes specified hours of on-the-job training and classroom-related instruction. Training is conducted at job sites under the supervision of skilled and seasoned workers. An apprenticeship can range from one to five years, depending on the specific occupation. The length of the training is set by the needs of the industry. Occupations being considered for apprenticeship approval must meet specific criteria set by federal regulations. This includes 2,000 hours of on-the-job work experience and a minimum of 144 hours of related instruction per year.

More than 800 apprenticeship trades are recognized nationally. The following are some of the trades that are registered with the DC Apprenticeship Council: Automotive Specialist Technician, Brick Mason, Cement Mason, Carpentry, Electrician, Elevator, Constructors, Glazier, Insulation Worker, Marble Repair Technician, Marble Setter, Operating Engineer, Painter/Decorator, Pharmacy Technician, Plasterer, Roofer, Sheet Metal Worker, Sprinkler Fitter, Stationary Engineer, Telecommunication Technician and Tile and Terrazzo Worker.

## Positive Staff Development



### Exercising Mind, Body and Soul

On Friday, October 21, the DYRS Youth and Family Programs Division participated in an all day "training/retreat" at the North Michigan Park Recreation Center. The theme of the retreat encompassed "Exercising Mind, Body and Soul," with a focus on encouraging staff to nourish each part of themselves in order to strengthen themselves as employees and in general. Staff played trivia games about subjects related to agency trainings and won fun prizes. Fun-filled team building exercises took up most of the afternoon. Staff members left refreshed and renewed in the knowledge that they are appreciated.



"COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE" is the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter. It is published biweekly on Thursdays.

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

