



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

November 20, 2018



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

NOV 20 **THANKSGIVING DINNER**
450 H STREET NW, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

NOV 26 **ANCHORED IN STRENGTH**
2101 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE SE
WASHINGTON, DC 20020, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

DEC 5 **DC ONE FUND**
450 H STREET NW, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

DEC 5 **LED BY LOVE, 89.3 FM, 6PM**



Youth Council

On October 20, 2018, members of the DYRS Youth Council attended a poetry open mic night at the new Busboys and Poets at 450 K street NW. Every third Saturday, 5pm-7pm, the venue opens its doors to poets from all over the city and gives them a platform to express their creative talent. The goal for this event was to provide Youth Council volunteers an opportunity to network and build relationships with other positive peers.

With over 50 people attending the event, artists were able to perform to a full audience. Youth Council member Lynndon came to support the poets, but was so inspired by the safe space he decided to recite an original poem titled, "DC vs. Everybody." In the poem, Lynndon shared a heart-felt story inspired by his life and his family. "Make it home by the night, just to put up a fight, and tell my son mother that his future looks bright, it is his future and yes it's in sight, it is so close I can reach out and grab it, my son name King anything he wants he can have it."

Lynndon looks forward to attending more open mic events in the future and will continue sharing his story through the art of poetry.

Youth Council Outreach - November 2018:

November 21, 2018
The Farm at Kelly Miller, 1pm-4pm
301 49th St NE

December 8, 2018 Toys for Tots
The Marine Corps. 9am-5pm
190 Poremba Court SW, Bldg. 351

December 15, 2018 Tree Planting
Knollwood Retirement Community 9am -12pm
6200 Oregon Ave NW

The Youth Council needs your support with volunteering events! Events are on a first come, first serve basis so reach out to Nataly Del Valle if you're interested. Contact Nataly at nataly.delvalle@dc.gov or (202) 207-7124.



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Fall Back Fashion Showcase

On October 19, 2018, talented DYRS Youth designers hosted a fashion show called "The Fall Back Showcase" at H Street's Atlas Performing Arts Center. DYRS teamed up with local non-profit EAT Cares to provide youth in their fashion design program with the awesome opportunity to share their creations in a showcase open to the community. With free food, fun, and entertainment, the show received an incredible turnout of over 200 people.

The event was hosted by the founder and owner of EAT and EAT CARES, Malik Jarrett, along with 93.9 FM WKYS's Little Bacon Bear. Several young designers showcased their brands at the event, including:

- 18-year-old Isaiah, who created a clothing line called OCHI. OCHI means vision in Roman. Isaiah was motivated to create this clothing line because he wanted to inspire and encourage individuals to follow their dreams and show people that they can make their vision a reality.
- Carza, only 14, started his clothing line called the Respect Brand. The foundation of his clothing line is based upon promoting deep feelings of self-worth and admiration in one's community. He began the brand with the hopes of diverting youth from violence and disrespect to promote peace, positivity, and respect in their communities.
- Royal Hectic Rebels (RHR), founded by Brianna and Lynndon, tout their brand as a family-oriented fashion brand company.
- The lineup also included a clothing line by Charles, called MNF.

Youth were also given the opportunity to perform during the show. Among the performers was a DYRS youth group who performed "Gunz Down DC," a song calling for the end of gun violence in the city. Overall the fashion show had an incredible turnout. DYRS and Eat Cares look forward to continuing the fashion design program and giving young designers the opportunity to showcase their talents and pursue their dreams.

GO-GO Vote!

DYRS youth came together to create a song that emphasizes the importance of voting. Doug Watson of Urban Encouragement Group (UEG) pitched the idea to UEG CEO Art Garfield with the goal of motivating young people, the elderly, and non-voters to register and "GO-GO VOTE!"

Auditions were held and three youth were selected to be a part of the song. Samantha produced the music track, while Kenneth (AKA "KADO") and Lynndon performed on the track with one of the instructors from the DYRS music production program, Thomas Payne. Mr. Craig and Mr. Miles, instructors/producers for the music production program, mastered the music track.

The song incorporated lyrics listing reasons voting is so important, including: "Reason number seven, they all up in heaven, our ancestors died for that voting blessing." Art Garfield expressed the following about the song: "This was a very important project, which introduced our youth to civic involvement that may have a global effect one day."

Overall the youth enjoyed the production process. Initially, they didn't connect with all the lyrics because it's not a topic that resonates with them. But, during the process of creating the music track and video, they caught on and began to understand the importance of voting. The youth were pleased with the final product and extremely proud of themselves and all the hard work that went into this project.

A Warm Welcome...

...to All New DYRS Employees,
including:

Stephanie Hall, Samuel Ball, Jene Curley, Katrina Clark, Rebecca Rodriguez, Anesha Parker, Cortlandt Smith, Ibukun Adeigbe, Olivia Leonard, Tore Jackson, Sharlene Sawyer, Joseph Allen, Catherine Gardner, Brittany Beaty, Sophia Rodriguez, Rosa Smith, Aima Corinaldi, Charles Everett, Salvatore Manca, Yolanda Brown, and Kim Paige.



College/ Vocational Support Scholarship Academy

Are you a DYRS youth who earned a GED or high school diploma while committed to DYRS or within 6 months after your DYRS commitment ended?

Submit a one-page essay discussing your desire to attend college or vocational school, your overall career goals, and how the college/vocational support program can help you achieve your goals.

For additional information on the College/Vocational Support Scholarship Academy, please contact Sammy Sanchez at (202) 258-0294.



WPFW 89.3 FM
Jazz and Justice

Did you know that DYRS Director Clinton Lacey and Sr. Deputy Director Linda Harlee Harper host a radio show on topics surrounding juvenile justice? It's on WPFW 89.3 FM, every Wednesday at 6 pm EST. Tune in and catch up on the last few shows!



POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

DC One Fund Event

The DC One Fund kicked off its 64th annual fundraising campaign. The DC One Fund offers District Government employees the opportunity to give to a variety of charitable organizations that provide various services to the local community.

On October 30, 2018, DYRS hosted DC One Fund donation drive at both New Beginnings and the Youth Services Center. The fundraising drive lasted from 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., allowing employees from every shift the opportunity to participate. Participants enjoyed food and beverages, music, giveaways, and information about the charities supported by the DC One Fund.

Employees sought to donate for a variety of reasons; from direct experience to supporting loved ones. Johnetta Gholston, Youth Development Representative (YDR) at New Beginnings, shared a powerful story about her family's experience with cancer. She was compelled to give to cancer foundations because she lost her grandmother, brother, uncle, and cousin to cancer. YDR Gholston expressed to the importance of giving to these organizations because they provide funding for research and hospice care for patients. No matter your reason for giving, DYRS and DC One Fund would like to thank everyone who has participated, and those who will participate, in this year's DC One Fund.

If you have not yet had a chance to give, there is still time to do so. The DC One Fund campaign runs until December 14, 2018. For more information, please visit dconefund.org or contact keith.whiteing@dc.gov.



Credible Messenger Unity Breakfast

On November 5, 2018, DYRS hosted its second quarterly Credible Messenger Unity Breakfast. The event took place at the District's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) from 9am-1pm. The purpose of the breakfast was to give Care Coordinators and Credible Messengers the opportunity to come together and share helpful information regarding effective ways of serving youth. With over 100 people in attendance, DYRS staff and Credible Messengers shared impactful stories about successful collaborations that have helped to more efficiently and effectively serve our youth and their families. For additional information and upcoming Unity Breakfast events please contact Charles Dotson at charles.dotson@dc.gov

Twist and Turns of Possibilities



On Friday, November 9, 2018, New Beginnings had the pleasure of hosting author and former high school principal Michael McGrone, who delivered a powerful message related to his new book - The Twist & Turns of Possibilities. Mr. McGrone was very engaging and extremely relatable as he detailed his struggles growing up in Gary, Indiana as one of seventeen children to a mother with mental illness and an alcoholic father. He inspired the young men who asked over a dozen questions about his life and how he overcame many of the obstacles that he discussed in the book. The assembly was inspirational, producing hope for the youth in attendance.

Health and Wellness Corner



November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. This year's theme for American Diabetes Month is "Everyday Reality." This campaign is intended to demonstrate the everyday reality of diabetes from the point of view of people living with diabetes or caring for someone with diabetes. There isn't a cure yet for diabetes, but a healthy lifestyle can really reduce its impact on your life. What you do every day makes the difference: eating a healthy diet, being physically active, taking medicines if prescribed, and keeping health care appointments to stay on track.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

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

