



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



December 15, 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

- 12/20** Staff Holiday Decorating Contest, 450 H. Street NW, 11 a.m.
- 12/20** Youth and Families Christmas Dinner, 450 H. Street NW, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
- 12/25** Christmas
- 1/1/17** New Year's Day

RAISING THE BAR

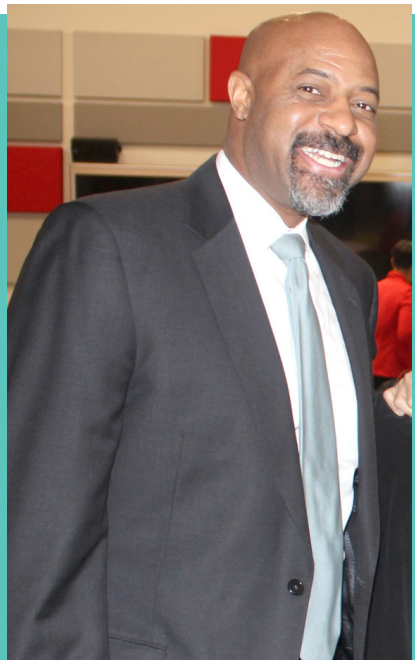


Congratulations to Ms. Tiye Kinlow on passing the District of Columbia Bar Exam, solidifying her place as a licensed lawyer in DC. Ms. Kinlow currently works as a legal assistant in DYRS' Office of the General Counsel and says she finds the most enjoyment in working on education law and policy. Her passion for community service is invaluable in meeting the agency's goals.

"It's important to give back to your community, and to realize your full potential," said Ms. Kinlow. She is an active member of the DYRS Youth Council, helping to arrange eye-opening and exploratory trips and experiences for our young people, and a graduate of Notre Dame University.



Congratulations to DYRS Employees Frank Foreman & Louie Frank, **Retiring After 30 Years of Service!**



Community Engagement

Community Rising

The DYRS Credible Messenger Summit

Prominent members of the District and federal government, community and grassroots leaders, parents, and stakeholders in the lives of the District's youth came together for a meeting of the minds - a "Community Rising" - at the Credible Messenger Summit on Tuesday, December 6. "The District is doing the right thing," said Roy Austin, Deputy Assistant to President Obama Obama for Urban Affairs, Justice, and Opportunity, in his welcoming remarks. The Credible Messenger Mentoring Initiative is the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) signature program for its youth and families. The summit outlined the collaborative roles of the agency, "Credible Messengers," and the community in this innovative and interactive movement, aimed to rehabilitate youth not only by providing them with services, programming and resources, but in using a different lens to pinpoint indiscernible factors in the community to work through and resolve them as well. Attendees participated in panels throughout the day, which included the voices of parents, youth peer mentors, and of course, credible messengers. The key takeaway? To remain a united front for our youth. Young people met with the Credible Messenger mentors - the providers for the initiative - at a kickoff event on Tuesday, December 13.

The Credible Messenger Initiative...

The Answer is in the Community

A Warm Welcome...



...to new DYRS employees:

Patrone Baker, Program Manager, 450
Eugene Sogbo, Maintenance Staff, New Beginnings
Dawn Davis, Dental Assistance, YSC
Kevin Hooks, Cook, New Beginnings
Please say hello to them if you see them around our locations!

OVERACHIEVERS



New Beginnings youth with furry friends at the facility's pet therapy program.

Animal Assisted Therapy *Love is a Four-Legged Word*

DYRS is always looking for different ways to treat, reach and rehabilitate its youth, and sometimes that includes involving furry friends. The Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) program at New Beginnings therapeutically utilizes animal & human interaction to enhance the lives of committed youth.

The goal of AAT is to improve social, emotional, or cognitive functioning. Animals used in therapy include domesticated pets, farm animals and marine mammals.

Celebrity Snapshot



Entertainer Traci Braxton surprises youth at New Beginnings on Tuesday, 12/13 and gifts them with a performance and positive conversation.



Positive Youth Development Graduating with Class

On December 2, New Beginnings Youth Development Center held its closing ceremony for the Howard University "Inside Out Juvenile Delinquency in a Diverse Society" class, in which Howard students visited the facility on Fridays to attend the three-hour class with the young people. Maya Angelou partnered with the university through Dr. Bahiyyah M. Muhammad, Howard University Assistant Professor of Criminology (in the Department of Sociology and Criminology). Nine youth who completed the college course reflected on their learnings during the ceremony, and Superintendent Mack McGhee finished with heartfelt words of encouragement. New Beginnings is grateful for and looks forward to continuing the partnership.

Go Go for Dreams and Decisions



The Go Go Artist Leadership Initiative Program (GALIP) spoke to girls at New Beginnings on Sunday, December 11, about the importance of leadership in their communities and of using music as a positive outlet to make better decisions. Volunteers Michelle Blackwell (The What Band), Julante Shoatz (The What/Reaction), and DJ Super Dan expressed how music provided a platform to reach different populations in surrounding communities.

The girls responded, engaged, and asked several questions, excited to see that the band members came out to visit them.

Cupcakes, Cookies, Conversation

On Tuesday, November 29, the Journey Girls at New Beginnings participated in a "Cupcakes, Cookies & Conversation" session via Skype with Dr. Bernada Nicole Baker, Founder/CEO of "The Princess Within" program. The one-hour conversation focused on overcoming and excelling against obstacles. The girls received workbooks prior to the start of the conversation, and completed them as they took part in the session, completely engaged.

