



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



December 17, 2015

A WARM WELCOME TO...

our New DYRS Employees who started on December 14!

Larry Givens, Deputy Superintendent, Youth Services Center

Mark Hamlett, Deputy Superintendent, New Beginnings

Please welcome them if you meet them around DYRS!

Knitting & Jewelry Making Workshop



Want to make a gift for your family for the holidays, or learn how to knit? Join DYRS youth and staff at "Creativity in Your Hands," a knitting and jewelry making workshop!

Where: The Achievement Center at 450 H. Street

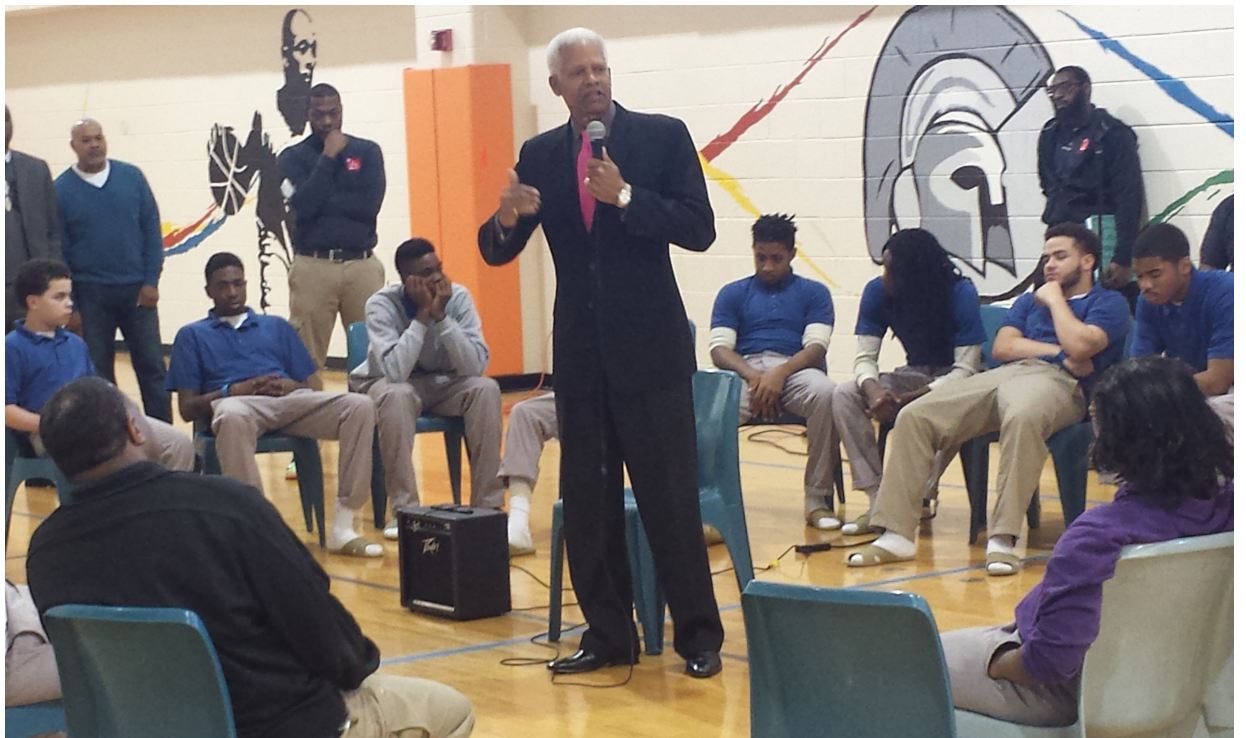
When: December 21, 1-4 p.m.
Contact Yemisi Olusada for more details:
oluwayemisi.olusada@dc.gov - 202-299-3655.

THE YOUTH SIDE

Youth Experience the Transformative Power of the Arts

Five DYRS youth attended "Creating Justice - The Transformative Power of the Arts in Advancing Justice Reform," an event held by the Public Welfare Foundation on December 1st. The event brought art and advocates together to discuss alternative routes to youth incarceration. Our youth listened to well known juvenile justice reform ad-

DYRS News



Congressman Hank Johnson and DC Legend Harold Bell Visit the Youth Services Center

Congressman Hank Johnson (D-Ga.) and acclaimed Washington DC sportscaster and youth advocate Harold Bell visited the Youth Services Center on Monday, December 7 to let our youth know that "there are people who could help them when they return to the community." The Congressman, whose father served as Director of the facility in the 1960s, took a brief tour of YSC that concluded with them meeting a group of youth in the gym. Congressman Johnson encouraged our youth that their lives are just getting started and that he believes in all of them. He even shared about his own close calls and spoke of how he successfully turned his own life around, leaving our youth inspired.

The Leadership Academy Celebrates its First Graduating Class



DYRS' inaugural Leadership Academy's celebrated its graduation today. Three groups within the academy presented their Leadership Academy learnings to Director Lacey and members of the senior staff, and explained strategies they devised to heighten agency performance.

The Leadership Academy stems from a partnership between DYRS and the George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership. The program is designed to enhance the skills of employees and provide them with the tools to be more effective leaders.

DYRS applauds the Leadership Academy and the model of excellence it displays for all employees!

vocates such as #FreeAmerica campaign's Mike De La Rocha speak about embracing "your inner rebel" through music.

Youth Emmanuel is “Destined for Greatness”

Congratulations to youth Emmanuel who was presented with an Aspiring Artist reception by “Destined for Greatness” for his progression as an aspiring author and new blogger!

Derrick Enjoys the Full Fan Experience

Derrick, one of our top tier youth, went to the Wizards vs. Magic basketball game and joined the fan tunnel. He shook hands with players as they came out and also watched them shoot around pre-game! While the Wizards didn't win, Derrick achieved the full fan experience.

The Resource Center at the Achievement Center

The Resource Center is open in the basement of the Achievement Center. The Resource Center enhances job readiness skills and Professional Development for youth preparing to enter the workforce. Youth participate in structured job search, creating and updating their resumes, scheduling interviews, mock interviews, meeting with employers and improving their soft skills. It will also provide resources for youth who are no longer committed to DYRS or youth from our sister agencies seeking unsubsidized employment. The Resource Center hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. For more information about the Resource Center and the services, contact:

Phyllis Powell
Senior Workforce Development Specialist
phyllis.powell@dc.gov, 202-251-5847,

Stan Waring
East of the River Workforce Development
swaring@ercpcp.org, 646-527-5690, or

Shaquanna Abner
East of the River Workforce Development
sabner@ercpcp.org, 301-706-0537.



Around the Agency



Congratulations to all staff for raising more than \$13,000 for the 2015 DC ONE FUND campaign, almost double this year's agency goal of \$7000. As an agency, we are grateful for your support not just throughout initiatives such as DC ONE FUND, but in the ways you give back to the youth we serve every day. Six winning raffle tickets were pulled from those who participated in last week's DC ONE FUND Playoff raffle! And the winning tickets are.....

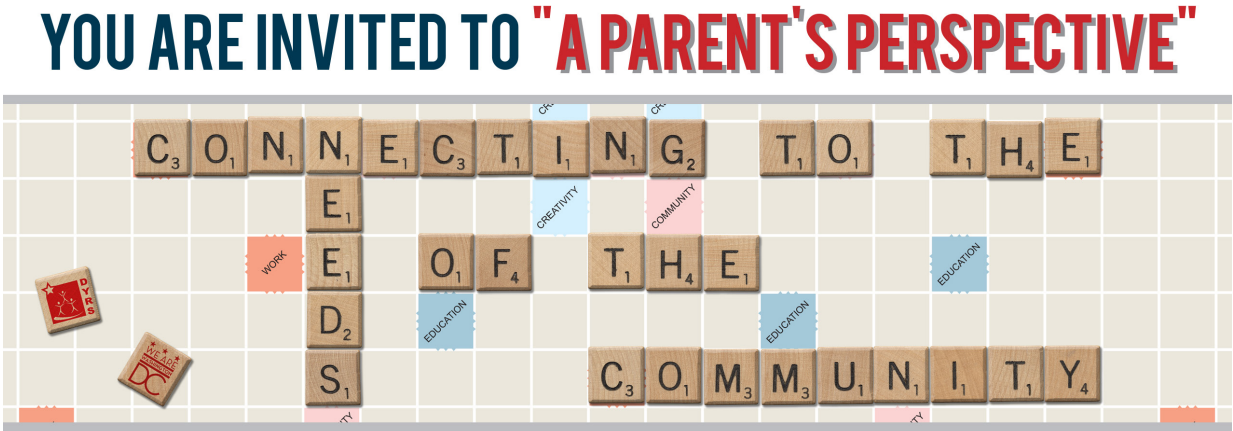


Please contact Brenda Padavil at brenda.padavil@dc.gov if you realize you have a winning ticket! The first responder from every category (blue, orange and yellow) will have first choice between:

- (8) hours of Administrative Leave, or
- Choice between (2) tickets to a Washington Wizards basketball game and
- a family (4) pack of tickets to a Georgetown Hoyas basketball game.



DYRS Social Worker Leroy Thorpe winning the Metropolitan Police Department's Third District Citizen of the Year Award



TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.



RSVP INFORMATION TO COME
Transportation available



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