



# Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Biweekly Newsletter.

December 30, 2017



# Happy New Year!

## Event Calendar

- JAN 1** **FIT DC FRESH START 5K, ANACOSTIA PARK,**  
1900 ANACOSTIA DRIVE, 20020  
• REGISTRATION: 9 AM  
• 5K: 10 AM
- JAN 15** **2018 MLK HOLIDAY DC PEACE WALK AND PARADE,**  
2500 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AVE., SE.  
10 AM - 1 PM  
• WALK: 10 AM  
• PARADE: 12 PM
- JAN 23/30** **MOVIE SHOWING FOR FACILITIES STAFF.**  
MORE INFO SOON!

## Fit DC Fresh Start 5K on New Year's Day

Bring your family and friends to join #teamDYRS in the Fit DC Fresh Start 5K on New Year's Day! This year's walk/run/jog will be at Anacostia Park to kick off the celebration of the park's 100th anniversary!



RAISING THE BAR

## Social Work Celebration



Congratulations to DYRS Case Manager Jeffrey Hammond, who received his Masters in Social Work!



## POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

### The Important Role They Play

Direct care staff at the Youth Service Center received accolades for their years of service to the District Government during surprise presentations on December 21. Managers recognized staff during roll call for their various roles, starting with those who had given five, 10 and 15 or more years of service. Employees with 20, 25, and 30 or more years of service received certificates and plaques! Holiday spirit filled the air as staff appreciated their awards and being recognized.

### Staff Sentiments

"I have to say it's truly a blessing to be recognized for 10 years in the government let alone with this agency so 10 years down, 20+ to go!" - C. Ashford, Youth Development Representative (YDR)

"This really meant a lot coming from the YSC staff" - A. Owens, SYDR

YSC also recently announced the inception of its new "Roll Call Committee." Comprised of SYDRs and YDRs, the committee's mission is to improve employee morale and to make Roll Call more "robust," as it sets the tone for each shift.



## POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### Giving Back

On Friday, December 22, Level 6 youth at New Beginnings Youth Development Center completed their monthly community service project with the assistance of the facility's Staff Morale Committee. Throughout the course of three weeks, the committee collected 88 throw blankets to donate to the community this frigid winter. Along with the blanket donation, our young people prepared sandwich bags and gave out bottled water at the D Street Homeless Shelter in Northwest DC. DYRS commends both staff and youth for making an effort to ensure the citizens of the District are warm and fed this holiday season.



## That's a Wrap!



On Thursday, December 21, the DYRS Youth Council along with several Credible Messengers wrapped gifts to support our troops and wounded warriors at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. They paid special attention to detail, all the while thinking it's the least they could do for those who put their lives on the line for us to enjoy our freedom. The Youth Council sincerely thanks youth and staff for supporting this holiday effort.



## Media Moment



DYRS Director Clinton Lacey, "Credible Messengers" Norman Brown and Antonio Fernandez, appeared on Channel 9's #Off Script with WUSA9 Anchor, Bruce Johnson, Friday, December 8. The public affairs program detailed how "Credible Messengers" positively affect the lives of District youth. View the full news clip at <https://tinyurl.com/y9ygxynl>



## Warm at Hart

On Friday, December 15, staff from New Beginnings Youth Development Center visited Charles Hart Middle School in Southeast DC to deliver hats, scarves, gloves, ear warmers, and monetary donations. More than 300 students at Charles Hart Middle School each received a hat, scarf, ear warmers, and a pair of gloves. Staff and students alike appreciated the gesture and New Beginnings staff felt overwhelmed at the response from the youth. One New Beginnings staff member - a graduate of Charles Hart Middle School - stated the honor that it is to give back to the community in which one is raised. Both the school and the facility look forward to partnering on future endeavors.



## In the Kwanzaa Spirit

Residents at YSC celebrated the first day of Kwanzaa at YSC Uomja (UNITY) with the Malcolm X Drummers and Dancers. Live dancers, drummers and guest speakers treated our young people to this special surprise for the opening of the holiday. Youth and staff who participated with the dancers and walked with the "spirit ghost" at the end of the program especially enjoyed the experience.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

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

