



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



Happy New Year!

December 31, 2015

EVENT CALENDAR

1/15 - 1/17 - The Covenant of Peace, YSC

1/18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/19 - College/Career Exploration Camp
Facilitator Meeting, 450 H. Street, NW, 1 p.m.

1/19 - A Parent's Perspective, Wards 1-6,
The Thurgood Marshall Center, 6-8 p.m.

1/21 - A Parent's Perspective, Wards 7 & 8,
MLK Achievement Center, 6-8 p.m.

MAKING PROGRESS

Jerry M. Success

The *Jerry M.* team is happy to announce that DYRS successfully met the reporting requirements of the Settlement Agreement. The agency fulfilled all of the requirements in the following areas under *Jerry M.*:

- Intake Assessment and Housing Assignment (Special thanks to Youth Services Center {YSC} Juvenile Justice Institutional Counselors Angela McCollum and Beverly McCoy).
- Educational Programming at the YSC, Related Services.
- Grievance Process (Special thanks to the DYRS Office of Internal Integrity).

DYRS applauds each division's diligence in achieving compliance under the Work Plan!

THE YOUTH SIDE

Youth Stepping Out of their Comfort Zone



DYRS is always looking for ways to challenge its young people and get them out of their comfort zones. When we took them on a camping trip to Pennsylvania on December 19, they didn't know

Programs & Initiatives

A Positive Outlook on The Credible Messenger Initiative



On Thursday, December 17, DYRS Director Clinton Lacey spoke to members of the community, stakeholders, parents and staff at a town hall about "The Credible Messenger Initiative." Director Lacey stated that "the answer to the problems our young people face is in our young people, families and communities" and that "we know our youth at DYRS have siblings in the community and we need to invest in them as well." Community members expressed positive thoughts about the initiative, with one longtime DC resident saying, "After all the years of doing this in the District of Columbia, it is good to know that there is still hope."

"The Credible Messenger Initiative" is a transformational, mentoring intervention program for youth committed to the agency, with a restorative justice philosophy for young people in the community.

Coming Soon - Summer Youth Employment Program Registration!



It's that time of year again - Marion S. Barry Jr. Summer Youth Employment Program (MBSYEP) registration! The Office of Education and Workforce Development, the Achievement Center and East of the River Clergy-Police-Community Partnership are getting ready to register DYRS youth. Exact dates and times will be announced soon!

MBSYEP is a locally funded initiative administered by the Department of Employment Services (DOES) that provides District youth ages 14 through 24 with enriching and constructive summer work experience through subsidized placement in the private and government sectors.

Knitting and Jewelry Making Workshop



On Monday, December 21, DYRS youth and staff participated in a knitting and jewelry making workshop where they learned how to knit and made holiday gifts for friends and family members. Youth and staff members alike admitted that knitting with yarn is calming and brings a sense of great accomplishment. Thanks to employee Yemisi Olusada for shedding new light on an old school craft and bringing ingenuity to the agency!

what to expect. But our youth quickly adapted to their new surroundings and thoroughly enjoyed the great outdoors. Over the course of the weekend, they experienced a variety of activities - hiking, cooking, and speaking about their lives in a group setting. Many took leadership and facilitated some activities. And the inclement weather challenged but didn't deter our young people. We are proud of them for embracing such a tremendous experience and activities outside of their normal routines.

College/Career Exploration Camp Recruitment

Are you knowledgeable in what it takes to get into college?

Do you know a lot about post-secondary education success?

If so, the Office of Education needs you for the relaunch of the College/Career Exploration Camp in February 2016!

Contact **Rukie Wilson** at rukie.wilson@dc.gov for a list of topics being covered.

If you're interested in co-facilitating a session on that topic during the Camp, a team member will meet with you to create a curriculum around that topic.

A meeting for potential facilitators will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 1 p.m. in the Achievement Center at 450 H Street, NW.

Holiday Snapshot



"Grow Up, Grow Out" founder Antonio Fernandez handing out holiday goodie bags to our youth at New Beginnings.



Seasonal Celebrations

Staff and youth from various areas of the agency participated in holiday festivities this month. From enjoying events with DYRS' young people, to bringing in our own children, the spirit of the season filled our facilities!

Santa Clause is Coming...to (China)town



On Wednesday, December 23, staff at 450 H. Street brought in their children and grandchildren for a holiday party! Employees got to know and understand a more personal side of their peers as their kids participated in games, face painting, caroling and dancing together. The little ones eyes widened when Santa Clause came to <China>town for a gift exchange!

Yuletide at the Youth Services Center



Left: Ugly Sweater Contest winner Youth Development Representative (YDR) Zanders; Right: YDRs Ford, Moreland, Finley and Deer.

Youth and employees at the Youth Services Center engaged in Christmas festivities on Tuesday, December 22. The day consisted of good food, an ugly sweater contest and even a little karaoke as attendees showed off their vocal abilities.



Breaking Bread at New Beginnings

Busboys and Poets owner, Andy Shallal, and his team stopped by New Beginnings on Christmas Eve to prepare a delicious fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings for our youth. Our young people thoroughly enjoyed such a special treat. DYRS can't thank Mr. Shallal and his team enough for their kindness and giving spirit!



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