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Adolescent Conference A Success

The 2012 Adolescent Conference was a success, with over 500 professionals attending the event. This year's theme, "Unsung Heroes" underscored the work of dedicated staff throughout the state who work with Florida's at-risk youth every day.

Keynote speakers included Wansley Walters, Secretary for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Shay Bilchik, Director of the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, and Jaiya John, the founder of Soul Water Rising, a global human mission based in Silver Spring, Maryland. Secretary Walters shared the successes and challenges of the current efforts of the Florida DJJ to develop a more robust front end system through enhanced civil citation, prevention, and diversion services with more focused services based on assessed needs. Shay Bilchik spoke of the partnership between the Georgetown Center and the Florida DJJ on the Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project (JJSIP), which will eventually provide a framework for implementing best practices throughout the entire juvenile justice system.



Jaiya John delivered an inspirational message on the importance of working with at-risk youth. A foster youth, Jaiya shared his life story and spoke about the conflict and trauma of vulnerable young lives, including the fragile journey from childhood through adulthood. Jaiya encouraged individuals who work with at-risk youth to look within themselves to ensure that they are taking care of their own physical, emotional and spiritual health.



FJJA Announces Nominations for the 2012-2013 Executive Committee

We are pleased to announce the slate of FJJA members nominated to serve on our Executive Committee. Elections will be held at the annual retreat on June 11-13, 2012 in Naples. Members not attending the annual retreat can vote by e-mail. Nominations can also be introduced on the floor the day of the elections.

The FJJA Executive Officers work in collaboration to leverage each member's individual area of expertise to maximize our collective success. This is very important given the diverse organizations that make up FJJA.

FJJA Executive Committee Nominees

Frank Alarcon, Henry and Rilla White Foundation	President Elect
Debbie Moroney, PACE Center for Girls	At Large
John Wilson, DISC Village	At Large
Dale Thompson, PsyCare Juvenile Services	At Large
Tom Camp Operation PAR	At Large
Jim Clark, Daniel Memorial	At Large

FJJA ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT

June 11-13
LaPlaya Golf & Beach Resort
Naples, FL

For information
email lynn@fjja.org
Or call
850-671-342

The FJJA Newsletter is published monthly

Cathy Craig-Myers, Editor
Lynn Redmond, Publisher

Deadline is the 4th of each month
Send your news to lynn@fjja.org

Meet the 2012 Adolescent Conference “Unsung Heroes”

Keeping with the theme of this year’s Adolescent Conference, we recognized and celebrated “Unsung Heroes” nominated by our member organizations. We asked members to identify a person in their organization who exemplified someone who accomplished wonderful things in working with youth with no expectation of a reward or acknowledgement. This year we recognized and celebrate the efforts of the following individuals:

Name: Pete Pachoumis
Agency: Prodigy - Tampa I
Title: Artist - Instructor

According to coworkers, Pete goes above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of youth. He recently published his first children’s book. He says, “I believe it’s important to instill values in our children such as friendship, imagination, outdoor play, sharing, and humor.”



Name: Nick Tafuri, MSW, CAP
Agency: Twin Oaks Juvenile Development, Inc.
Title: Clinical Therapist

“Mr. Nick” has worked in the field for 30 years. He builds long-lasting relationships; many clients stay in touch for years following their stay. He gains trust and respect with typically oppositional clientele. He is rare in his ability to engage troubled boys, and in his life-long commitment to serve at-risk youth.



Name: Tom Patitucci, MSW
Agency: PSI
Title: Director of Development

Tom designs and obtains the funding for the programs we offer to serve the youth of Florida.



Name: Cynthia Stennis
Agency: Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department
Title: Social Worker Aide

A 22 year employee, Cynthia is described as, “tenacious, passionate, truly caring, and supportive.” Working at the Juvenile Services Department, Cynthia has helped thousands of families obtain much-needed services. Parents, supervisors, and coworkers praise her energetic passion for her job, cheerful demeanor, and sincere desire to serve others.



Name: Mia Williams
Agency: Bay Area Youth Services
Title: Case Manager

A 12 year employee, Mia shows a sense of urgency, care and concern for families she serves. Mia is a long range thinker and applies organized tactics for long term results even as she only has a short time to work with families. Mia is described as an “agent of change” by her supervisors as it relates to both her clients and colleagues.



Meet the 2012 Adolescent Conference “Unsung Heroes”

Name: Tim Rattanachane
Agency: Bay Area Youth Services
Position/Title: Case Manager

A supervisor quotes Leo Buscaglia to describe Tim's work, "too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have potential to turn a life around." Tim shows respect to kids, offers encouragement to parents, supports his colleagues and never misses an opportunity to effect change.



Name: Roberto Rivera
Agency: Bay Area Youth Services
Title: Case Manager

In 9 years, Roberto has given genuine, compassionate and non-judgmental case management services to many families. He refers to himself as a "helper" and takes a supportive approach to working alongside families to achieve success. Families describe Roberto as "perfect" and "inspirational." As a leader, his positive energy and pride in his work translates into highest program success rates among his peers.



Name: Marcia G. Monroe
Agency: Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Title: VP Network Development & Clinical Services

Marcia was approached by a local circuit judge and assistant state attorney requesting her assistance in preventing cross over children who were leaving child welfare and entering the criminal justice system. She created a "youth at risk" committee which meets weekly and includes key stakeholders. This group has found a way to help youth avoid entering the juvenile justice system.



Name: Gerald Monroe
Agency: Children's Home Society of Florida
Title: Residential Shift Leader

At Safe Harbor Shelter, Gerald is passionate about serving troubled youth. As a role model, Gerald has the ability to engage the kids in activities like a push-up contest or a Wii game which he leverages to set the stage for serious reflection on their circumstances and what they can do differently going forward.



Name: Susan McGee
Agency: Children's Home Society of Florida
Title: Youth Care Worker

Susan McGee, known as "Grandma" has been serving runaway and homeless youth for over 5 years. Kids come into the shelter with a lot of stress. She often bakes special treats or makes a big family style breakfast. With the food on the table, the kids feel loved and safe. Susan opens her ears, listens to their stories, and makes them feel special and loved.



Meet the 2012 Adolescent Conference “Unsung Heroes”

Name: Troy Nielson

Agency: The Center For Drug-Free Living, Inc.

Title: Director of Adolescent Residential

Troy is one of those “unsung heroes” who does the work of twenty people, yet when it comes time to be acknowledged, he is nowhere to be found. He is compassionate, kind and truly cares about those whom he serves. He has a great rapport with youth. They recognize that his concern for them is truly genuine.



Name: David Wingate

Agency: Union Juvenile Residential Facility

Title: Maintenance Manager

David is a maintenance manager at UJRF, but he is really what a coach would call a “utility player.” He is a mentor to all youth, is always available to listen and talk, and models positive behavior at all times. He helps the young men involved in hands on community service projects and facility building projects.



Name: Babette F. Hankey

Agency: The Center For Drug-Free Living, Inc.

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Babette is compassionate, dedicated, giving, understanding and sincere, always giving 150%. She involves herself at every level, listening to a youth’s story or listening to an employee struggling with personal issues. She makes herself available always, and asks nothing in return.



Name: Howard Smith

Agency: Home Builders Institute

Title: Project Coordinator

Howard is a team player who is always there for the kids at Project CRAFT Tampa. He goes above and beyond to ensure the students have a multitude of resources to meet their needs. He provides beyond “9-5” assistance from community service, to delivering Meals on Wheels, to supporting youth with their educational and personal goals.



Name: Adrian Brown

Agency: Sequel of Kissimmee

Title: Youth Care Worker

Adrian attends college full time and works on the third shift from 10pm until 6am. He volunteers his own time every week to offer Bible study with the youth. During family events, he spends volunteer time with any youth whose parents are not able to attend.



Name: Joseph Nixon

Agency: The Center For Drug-Free Living, Inc.

Title: Administrative Director of JJ Programming

Joseph is committed to the youth others cast away as “lost causes.” He provides the right mix of compassion, concern, discipline and guidance, believing all youth have the potential to succeed. He oversees three juvenile justice programs and he knows every youth. He is always available to youth, which speaks to his character and dedication.



Meet the 2012 Adolescent Conference “Unsung Heroes”

Name: Velma Nicholson
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Avon Park Youth Academy
Title: Master Control Supervisor

A 13 year employee, Velma is a loyal, dependable, and valuable employee. She provides exceptional service to parents and youth. She is direct, yet diplomatic; many of the youth ask to see her before they go home. That speaks to the respect youth have for her.



Name: Roberta Pace
Agency: Home Builders Institute
Title: Project Coordinator

Roberta is a Project Coordinator for two HBI Programs. She works tirelessly to provide the girls with an opportunity to learn a construction trade and maintain a ladylike image. Roberta's leadership has set the standard for how HBI trains girls across the country.



Name: Shannon Shirts
Agency: Home Builders Institute
Title: Project Coordinator

A military veteran, Shannon is a Project Coordinator for HBI at Okeechobee Youth Development Center. Through his leadership, students have performed over 10,000 hours of community service. His teaching style is innovative and has demonstrated success. His students have a 92% job placement rate upon graduation.



Name: Cindy Lane
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Title: Faith Based Coordinator

Cindy felt God's call to "go and love those that no one else would love." She serves six Florida DJJ residential facilities in partnership with G4S Youth Services. Pastor Cindy provides hope, healing, and restoration to some of the most vulnerable youth. As one youth described, "she is truly a blessing to me from God."



Name: Sam Cerezo
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility
Title: Community Case Manager

Sam is the community case manager and Pastor at the CJRF Facility. He works tirelessly for youth as a child advocate, spiritual mentor, and motivator. Co-workers use words such as "inspirational", "leader," and "positive force," to describe his dedication to his work. His presence is felt throughout the program and his energy is infectious.



Name: Latonya Singletary
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Cypress Creek Juvenile Offender Correction Center
Title: Therapist

Latonya is devoted to ensuring the highest quality service to youth. She is innovative in her approach helping youth to return to their community with real skills that can be applied on a daily basis. She helps youth to develop social, artistic, developmental, and educational levels. She views her work as her higher vision and mission to provide youth with hope for their futures.



Name: Andrew Timmons
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Gulf & Lake Academy
Title: Restorative Justice Counselor

A 12 year employee, Andrew currently serves as a Restorative Justice Counselor. His easy approach and non judgmental style allows youth to open up and discuss challenging issues they have experienced. His work ethic and values are models for both youth and staff. Andrew avoids the spotlight, simply stating "I enjoy helping kids in need".



Meet the 2012 Adolescent Conference “Unsung Heroes”

Name: Erica Murdaugh
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Martin Girls Academy
Title: Administrative Assistant

Erica is often the first face you see upon entering the Martin Girls Academy. The girls view her as a caring, mother-figure. She motivates the youth and inspires her co-workers every day. She exemplifies thoughtfulness, respect, support and above all, leadership.



Name: Luis Torres
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Martin Girls Academy
Title: Lead Technician

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Romain Rolland, said it best: “A hero is a man who does what he can.” Mr. Torres goes beyond his own comfort zone to be there for the youth in a way they need. He has earned the respect of his peers, his supervisors, and especially youth.



Name: Phillip Loydd
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Orange Youth Academy
Title: Assistant Facility
Administrator

Phillip is a retired Marine, having served in Afghanistan. His life experiences are a positive influence on our youth and their rehabilitation. Although he is retired from the Armed Forces, Mr. Loydd continues to be a soldier for our youth and is committed to the mental and physical well-being of all around him.



Name: Jacqueline Jones
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Palmetto Youth Academy
Title: Principal

Since the appointment of Dr. Jacquelin Jones as Principal in 2010, more than 50 youth have graduated with a GED or High School Diploma. She is as an extraordinary educator, and she is dedicated to the success of the youth.



Name: Jill Hussung
Agency: G4S Youth Services
Riverside Academy
Title: Social Skills Coordinator

Jill goes “above and beyond” in her job on a daily basis. She is recognized for her outstanding work ethic and gives her very best every day. She demonstrates energy, creativity, commitment and leadership. The words “no” or “can’t be done” do not exist in her vocabulary and her positive attitude about youth have benefited all of us.



Name: Aileen David
Agency: Henry and Rilla
White Youth Foundation
Title: Program Director,
Circuit 3 & 8 (IDDS) and
Circuit 8 (CBIS)

To describe Aileen, people use words such as passionate, creative, cheerful, team player. She has made an impact on the program. She covers caseloads when staff are on leave, has been instrumental in setting up new worksite opportunities for youth, and has stepped up and traveled to assist her peers. Aileen's energy is contagious.



Meet the 2012 Adolescent Conference “Unsung Heroes”

Name: Mary Archibald
Agency: Henry & Rilla White Youth Foundation
Title: MST Therapist, Circuit 1

A MST therapist, Mary provides high quality services to families in Circuit 1 (Pensacola), while also pursuing licensure as a Mental Health Counselor. This year she was awarded the prestigious MST Sustained Excellence Award for 2011, an international award bestowed on the top 1% of MST therapists annually.



Name: Ms. Cindy Clark
Agency: Twin Oaks Juvenile Development, Inc.
Title: Transition Specialist at DOVE Vocational Academy

Cindy uses her knowledge of transition, innovative nature and connections to create opportunities for youth to complete community service and volunteer work in the community. She is loved and respected by both her co-workers and the youth. Her effective common sense approach to transition and working with youth is respectful, empowering and truly visionary.



Name: Rob Williams
Agency: Williams, Schifino, Mangione & Steady P.A
Title: Senior Member/Partner

Rob Williams has tirelessly advocated for adolescents as a DACCO board member for the past 30 years. An attorney, Rob quickly concluded that treatment, not jail, was often the better solution. He is dedicated to prevention and treatment programs.



Name: Demetrice Barnes
Agency: Children's Home Society
Title: Youth Care Worker/Educator I

Demetrice has been able to establish strong relationships with shelter youth, working to help them learn positive decision making and to improve self-esteem. Demetrice does all of this with such a great passion and desire to improve the lives of the youth she encounters each and every day.



Name: Christian Dukes
Agency: Henry & Rilla White Youth Foundation
Title: Lead Residential Counselor, Miami Substance Abuse Treatment Center (MSATC)

Christian is an excellent role model for both staff and youth. He has deftly handled a number of medical emergencies, keeping in communication with our nurse, the DHA and the Administrator with each incident. Christian is a trained/certified T4C facilitator and runs Boys Council groups at the MSATC.



Meet the 2012 Adolescent Conference “Unsung Heroes”

Name: Yolanda Hicks

Agency: G4S Youth Services, LLC

Dade Juvenile Residential Facility

Title: Youth Care Worker II

Role model, mentor, tutor, care giver, are just simply some of the titles that can be used to describe staff member Ms. Yolanda Hicks. A five year employee at Dade Juvenile Residential Facility, she has played a vital role in the successful program completion of every resident that has come through the program doors. Working with a population that many struggle to be successful with, Ms. Hicks has developed a relationship with the residents of the program that presents them with a sense of hope upon release.



Name: Sam Davison

Agency: G4S Youth Services, LLC

Okeechobee Youth Development Center

Title: Recreation Supervisor

Mr. Davison's positive attitude is infectious and can be felt by the youth, staff and visitors. Currently serving as Recreation Supervisor for the Okeechobee Youth Development Center, he possesses the ability to inspire individuals to work toward mutual goals set. Mr. Davison was entrusted to create meaningful incentives and activities for youth, family and visitors. Through dedication and hard work Mr. Davison is credited for taking the Okeechobee Youth Development Center's Behavior Management to new heights as evidenced by the reduction of incidents and use of youth restraints.



Name: Tierra Allen

Agency: G4S Youth Services, LLC

Okeechobee Girls Academy

Title: Youth Care Worker I

From before dawn and well beyond dusk, Ms. Allen is hard at work with the girls at the Okeechobee Girls Academy. Ms. Allen assists with on and off property activities; serving as a mentor to many of the girls in the program. Ms. Allen also assists the program school by escorting and supervising students when taking their GED exam and frequently assumes roles and duties beyond her job including taking the girls to church, bowling, parades, and other community events.



Name: Mary Huddleston

Agency: G4S Youth Services, LLC

Okeechobee Juvenile

Offender Correction Center

Title: Teacher

Mary Huddleston works as a teacher at the Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correction Center. Mary epitomizes the meaning of being a team player and is always willing to step in to lend a hand or offer assistance whenever needed. Recently, Ms. Huddleston started an evening reading club for our youth to help in FCAT preparation. Ms. Huddleston is caring, fair, trustworthy, and respectful and represents many of the character strengths that we strive to teach our youth.



Name: Johnny Shine

Agency: G4S Youth Services, LLC

Spring Lake Youth Academy

Title: Direct Care Staff

John spent his first 30+ years of his career as an engineer. Lucky for us he decided that he wanted to trade a big paycheck for a job that held more personal meaning. John is a dedicated employee. He also teaches advanced reading, making thoughtful choices about reading materials to ensure they have a life lesson and make for a fruitful discussion about life. In one girls words, "He sees beyond what we see in ourselves."



Meet the 2012 Adolescent Conference “Unsung Heroes”

Name: Colleen Franzese
Agency: PACE Center for Girls
Title: Spirited Girls! Teacher

Colleen is the Spirited Girls! teacher, management back-up and lead teacher for writing schedules, scheduling staff, and administering the FCAT. Colleen wrote and trained advisees on the new Covey curriculum, became a certified first aid/CPR instructor, and initiated the new Spirited Girls! curriculum. She brings in speakers from companies like Google, coordinates volunteer opportunities such as Light the Night and arranges programs like BRAZEN with the health department. Colleen also models emotional and physical healthy behavior, providing a calming influence. And, she's fun! The girls love her, as evident by the cards they write which adorn her classroom walls.



Name: Lydia Brown
Agency: PACE Center for Girls
Title: Counselor

Lydia just celebrated her 10th anniversary and is affectionately known as our "2 for 1 special" serving as our nurse and as a counselor to girls who have complex medical issues as well as those on psychotropic medications. Lydia advocates tirelessly for girls we call "stinkerbells", demands they get the services they deserve even if it means working long hours and often ignores the pleas of the Executive Director to go home and get some rest. Lydia can always be counted on to "do the right thing", work until its done, and mentor staff and girls. She's our hero!



Name: John Lalacona
Agency: PACE Center for Girls
Title: Math Teacher

John spent his first 30+ years of his career as an engineer. Lucky for us he decided that he wanted to trade a big paycheck for a job that held more personal meaning. John is a dedicated employee. Someone walking through his classroom would see him totally engaged with his students, crouched at their desks to help them understand their math problems. He also teaches advanced reading, making thoughtful choices about reading materials to ensure they have a life lesson and make for a fruitful discussion about life. In one girls words, "He sees beyond what we see in ourselves."



Name: Andrea Bethea
Agency: Home Builders Institute
Title: Employment Specialist/
Case Manager

Andrea Bethea works is an amazing Employment Specialist/Case Manager at HBI's Tampa program and was recently willing to expand her role by providing services to the students at HBI Orlando. Andrea maintains pristine documentation and works tirelessly to ensure students at both programs are prepared for the utmost success. By the time her students complete training they are ready, willing, and able to enter into the world of work and often times end up furthering their education as well. Her encouragement, commitment, guidance and attention to detail are appreciated by all her students and fellow staff.



Recently Released Reports

New Reports Reveal Discriminatory Juvenile Justice Practices in Tennessee and Nebraska

In a recently released report, the U.S. Department of Justice documented that young black children in the juvenile justice system in Memphis, Tennessee, were more likely than white children to be detained and even tried as adults -- for the same crimes. After a review of over 60,000 Memphis juvenile court cases, the report found "serious and systematic" failures not only based on race, but on a failure to protect the due process rights of youth. The report does not recommend any official action against the juvenile court and juvenile court officials have begun moving to remedy discriminatory practices.

To read report, [click here](#).

New Legislation in Colorado Attempts to Stop Direct File of Youth

Youth in trouble with the law in Colorado now have the right to judicial review before being transferred to the adult criminal justice system. On April 20, Governor Hickenlooper signed HB1271 into law, thanks in large part to the work of NJJN's Colorado members. The Colorado Juvenile Defender Coalition led the effort in partnership with the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar and the support of the Pendulum Foundation. Under HB 1271, prosecutors no longer have unilateral discretion to transfer youth to the adult criminal justice system. The new law:

- Raises the minimum age of direct file to 16;
- Limits the offenses to the most serious crimes (class 1, 2, violent sex offenses) and to repeat offenses (mid-level violent crimes and other sex offenses with prior felony adjudication);
- Provides for reverse transfer hearings (to occur at the time of preliminary hearing);
- Reforms youth sentencing (no mandatory minimums for mid-level crimes of violence, optional juvenile treatment for certain offenses, and misdemeanor convictions have to be dealt with in juvenile court).

To read more about direct file, [click here](#).

[U.S. Department of Justice: *Journal of Juvenile Justice*](#)

This journal addresses a variety of issues in juvenile justice, such as juvenile victimization, delinquency prevention, intervention, and treatment. This issue features articles that address truancy intervention, polygraph testing for juveniles, homeless youth and arrest history, education in juvenile detention facilities, and juvenile reentry.

[Arkansas Juvenile Justice Reform: *A Blueprint for National Success?*](#)

[Across the Nation, *State Legislatures Focused on Children in 2012*](#)

In The News

[Orlando Sentinel: *Gang Shooting Case: Adult Charges for 2 Teens Rare*](#)

[Orlando Sentinel: *Our Take on Juvenile Justice*](#)

Member News

Bay Area Youth Services Celebrates 30 Years of Services

Bay Area Youth Services, Inc., chartered on April 9, 1982, is proud to celebrate its 30th Anniversary by hosting Open House in all locations during April and May.

The agency was founded by Bill Bowman with a vision of improving the quality of life and increasing the potential of Florida's youth. Since that time, BAYS has provided quality services for youth and families throughout Central Florida and has grown into a multi-faceted organization with seven office locations and over 60 employees.

Our agency is extremely proud of the work that has been accomplished over the last 30 years and we look forward to the future and the challenges that lay ahead. With hard work, a great staff, and the assistance of our juvenile justice partners, BAYS hopes to successfully continue our mission for another 30 years!

Upcoming events will be held on May 22, 2012, Circuit 20 from 1-3 pm at: 2830 Winkler Avenue, Suite 103B in Fort Myers and on May 24, 2012, Circuit 6 from 10am until 1pm at 7619 Little Road., Suite. 225B in New Port Richey. We invite our community partners, DJJ staff and other supporters to attend and celebrate!



POLK HALFWAY HOUSE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE GARDEN



Youth planted a restorative justice garden at the entrance of the facility.

Vegetable Garden To Benefit Homeless Shelters in Volusia County



In April, the Daytona Juvenile Residential Facility youth and staff started "The Victim Vegetable Garden" project, dedicated to the victims and community that our youth have harmed. Youth at the facility are responsible for this horticulture project ensuring that it is watered and cleaned on a daily basis. "The Victim Vegetable Garden" includes a variety of vegetables and fruit that will be donated to the homeless shelters in the Volusia County area.

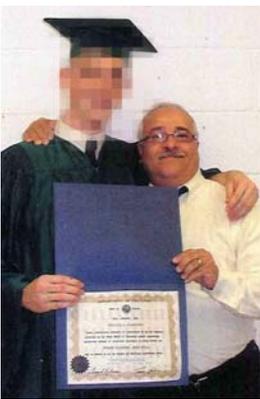
Home Builders Institute C-CORE Orlando Members Lend a Hand to Rebuilding Together

Mentors and youth from the Orlando Home Builders Institute (HBI) C-CORE Mentoring Program recently participated in "National Rebuilding Day," the signature event of *Rebuilding Together*. National Rebuilding Day is a special day that brings national attention to the plight of America's low-income homeowners and the communities in which they live. Nearly 40 HBI C-CORE mentors and youth, along with local HBI Project CRAFT participants, were thrilled to take part in this worthwhile community service project on the home of a disabled Colony Cove resident. It took the group approximately five hours to complete painting and landscaping projects on the home that was in great need of these improvements.



When one youth was recently asked about their C-CORE experience, she said, "C-CORE has become my family. My participation has improved my relationship with my family!" Another youth stated that they "used to do activities with no meaning. Now, I understand what is important in life and that includes giving back". A third youth stated that "I have been introduced to a new role in the community and I can be a part of the solution. I feel better about myself the more I get involved."

"Civic engagement is an essential component of our C-CORE program, and it provides our youth with a valuable opportunity to engage with their local community while learning new skills," said Tadar Muhammad, Director for Special Projects with HBI. "Volunteer opportunities like this help make a huge difference to the local community and we are thrilled to put our skills to the test and lend a helping hand."



CJRF Youth Earns GED, Gold Level Ready To Work Certification

At a graduation ceremony held at Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility, four youth were awarded their GED. Heath, a 17 year old youth, also received the Florida Ready to Work Certification at the gold level, the highest achievable level. With the assistance of Sam Cerezo, Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility Community Case Manager, Heath was hired by a local contractor and while working for that contractor, he enrolled in a Culinary Arts School and earned the Florida Ready to Work Certification and Safe Food Handling Certification. These certifications placed him in the top percentile of his class.

CCJCF Hosts Annual Water Day for Youth and Quarterly Regional DJJ Meeting

Annual Water Day was recently held at Cypress Creek Juvenile Correctional Facility. All youth that received less than three (3) incidents, had no physical interventions, physical altercations, and no controlled observation placements for a 30-day period were allowed to enjoy a day of fun in the sun. Based on youth surveys, this event has proven to be an effective tool for the program's behavioral motivational system.

Also, CCJCF hosted the Quarterly DJJ regional meeting with Billy Starke Small, from DJJ's North East region. He shared and reviewed current trends within the region and DJJ.

In addition there were several awards given at the conclusion of the meeting for all of the programs who achieved top scores in the new quality improvement process.

Dade Juvenile Residential Facility Youth Visit and Speak at Area Schools

"Do the Right Thing," a program that focuses on education and how to avoid negative or risky situations and decisions, is sponsored by a partnership with Dade Juvenile Residential Facility (DJRF) and the Florida City Police Department. Recently, five DJRF youth visited a total of five area schools to share their stories.



The ultimate goal of the program is

to spread the word about "doing the right thing." Residents were given an opportunity to interact with law enforcement in a positive manner and youth were able to better understand what law enforcement does for the community. This event unites two public safety entities in the local community that will continue to work together in an effort to positively impact the lives of community members. In addition, the youth had lunch with the Chief of Police and many of the officers. Described by Chief Taylor as an amazing experience and said the youth served as great ambassadors for DJRF and DJJ.

Avon Park Youth Repeats Last Year's First Place Win in Softball Classic

Partners in the local community joined efforts with individuals with disabilities to play in the 13th annual Special STARS Softball Classic at the Highlands County Sports Complex. This coed slow-pitch softball tournament was an exceptional event that had six local teams competing in the tournament. Each team featured four special athletes playing with three male and three female partners from the community.



The Avon Park Youth Academy (APYA), coached by Pete Zeegers, was the winner of the tournament. This was their second year in a row to win. They beat Coffee News, coached by Andy Basso, in the final game 16-5 to take the first place trophy. In addition to the team trophies, Larry Rivers, of APYA, won the Special Athlete Sportsmanship award.

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, & Training Events

Florida Partners in Crisis (FLPIC) and the Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals (FADCP) have announced the **2012 Annual Conference and Justice Institute** which will take place July 12-13, 2012 at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld. For information go to www.flpicannualconference.org.

75th Annual Conference of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, July 15-18, 2012, New Orleans, LA. For more information, please contact the Conference Planning and Marketing Department at (775) 784-6920.

American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) Annual Conference July 19-21, 2012, Orlando, FL. Contact: <http://www.amhca.org/>

7th Annual National School Safety Conference, July 23-27, 2012 Orlando, FL <http://www.schoolsafety911.org/>.

Training Institutes 2012 — Improving Children’s Mental Health Care in an Era of Change, Challenge and Innovations: The Role of the System of Care Approach, July 25-29, 2012, Orlando, FL. <http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/training/88504.html>.

National Conference on Addiction Disorders (NCAD), September 28-October 2, 2012, Orlando, FL, Contact: http://www.accp1.org/meetings_welcome.shtml

Moment of Change-Intervention: Approaches for Professionals, October 8-11, 2012, Palm Beach, FL. Contact: <http://www.foundationsrecoverynetwork.com/events/index.htm>

Free Webinars

For information on all of the webinars below, click on this link, <https://fadaaevents.webex.com/fadaaevents/onstage/g.php?d=666132285&t=a>

Medication Assisted Treatment 101, Dr. Michael Sheehan, Operation PAR, Thursday, May 17, 2012, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Behavioral Health Integration in the Patient Centered Model of Care: Challenges, and Opportunities, Dr. Dennis Mayeaux, Past President Florida Academy of Family Physicians (FAFP), Friday, May 18, 2012, 1:00 p.m.- 3 p.m.

Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care Pathways: Practical Approaches, to Implementation, Rick Hankey, Sr. Vice President/Hospital Administrator, Lifestream Behavioral Center, Thursday, May 24, 2012, 2- 4 p.m.

Social Networking – Use of AVATARS, Dick Dillon, Diplomat of the International Academy of Behavioral Medicine, Counseling and Psychotherapy, Wednesday, June 13, 2012, 10:30 a.m.-Noon.

The Adolescent Brain and High Risk Behaviors, Michael Nerney, Executive Director of Michael Nerney & Associates, Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.