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DJJ Names 2013 DJJ Youth Ambassadors

DJJ Youth Success Day was held this month at the Capital to share the successes of at-risk and troubled youth. Each year, Florida DJJ, the Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA) and the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation (FJJF) celebrate *Youth Success Day* at the Capitol. At the same time, organizations across the state serving juvenile justice youth celebrate locally as well.



Secretary Walters, Cathy Craig-Myers, Christy Daly and 2013 DJJ Youth Ambassadors.

FJJA was on hand to join Secretary Walters in recognizing the 2013 Youth Ambassadors and emphasized the importance of highlighting Florida's youth success stories. "Staying on the right path isn't always easy for young people, many who face family struggles, educational challenges, substance abuse, or behavioral issues. We continue to be inspired by youth who have successfully turned their lives around," said Cathy Craig-Myers, Executive Director of the Florida Juvenile Justice Association. "Their commitment to change makes these youth an important asset to Florida's future success."

- **Christopher Casanovas**, a Home Builders Institute graduated in April 2010. His HBI training, experience and certification helped him to get a full time job and he is now working as an electrician in South Florida. Christopher is active in his church, he coaches little league football, and contributes time to "A Stand up Man," a community mentoring group.
- **Dennis Patton**, a youth preparing to graduate from Eckerd Challenge, is anxious to move forward. A child of divorce and raised by a single mother, Dennis has set both short-term and long-term goals for himself. Dennis plans to earn a commercial driver's license. He says his goal is to provide for his family through honest work.
- **Kiara Warren**, who became a mother at the tender age of 13, was nominated by Prodigy Cultural Arts Program. Kiara started on the wrong path but the judge referred her to Prodigy and she has turned her life around. Kiara is a dedicated mother and remains committed to her education. She plans to become an ultrasound technician after she graduates from Evans Community School in Orlando this year.
- **Danny Lugo**, another Prodigy nominee, is an honor roll student taking advanced placement and honors classes at Alonzo High School in Tampa. Danny is active in Students Working Against Tobacco, Teen Outreach Program and the Community Advisors Program. Danny demonstrates both civic responsibility and leadership, and is always willing to help with younger students.



2013 Annual Retreat Agenda Highlights

- Part II - Re Visioning FJJA
 - Part I Visioning Report
 - Develop Org Plan
- FJJA Officer Elections
- Financial Report
- Year in Review
- Legislative Update
- Finalizing FJJA's 985 recommendations for 2014 Legislative Session

For retreat info see page 7.

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

President's Budget Proposes Spending on Youth Programs, Services

President Barack Obama recently introduced his 2014 budget proposal this month, highlighting new efforts to increase funding for education and juvenile justice. The President's Budget requests a \$1.5 billion increase for treatment and prevention services, over the fiscal year 2012 level. Other highlights include \$70 million for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) Title II, State Formula Grants Program (increase of \$30 million over FY12 final); \$40 million for JJDP Title V Delinquency Prevention Program (an increase of \$20 million over FY12 final) with no earmarks or set asides taken out; and \$30 million for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program.

Reports of Interest

Vera Institute: [Measuring Success: A Guide to Becoming an Evidence-Based Practice](#)

Vera Institute has worked with juvenile justice system service providers in many settings as they build and monitor their programs. It produced this handbook on the basis of experience in the field, and in collaboration with the Institute for Public Health and Justice at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. While the guide grew out of requests from juvenile justice service providers for a roadmap toward becoming an evidence-based practice, its recommendations have applications beyond juvenile justice.

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

National Juvenile Defender Center: [Missouri Justice Rationed: An Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Juvenile Defense Representation in Delinquency Proceedings](#)

This case study of Missouri's indigent defense system has identified that the current system suffers from crushing caseloads and inadequate resources. The system is forced to ration services, and youth are often discouraged from and systematically denied counsel throughout the state. The report features ten key recommendations:

1. Ensure Timely Appointment of Counsel.
2. Reduce Waiver of Counsel.
3. Afford Representation at All Critical Stages.
4. Allocate Sufficient Resources.
5. Strengthen Monitoring and Oversight.
6. Establish Data Collection.
7. Recognize Juvenile Defense as a Specialized Area of Practice.
8. Reduce Youth in the Adult System.
9. Adopt Standards of Practice.
10. Address the Role of the Deputy Juvenile Officer

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

Upcoming Events

Coalition of Juvenile Justice National Conference: May 1–4, 2013

The Coalition of Juvenile Justice will host its national conference on May 1–4, 2013, in Washington, DC. In keeping with the conference theme, “Building Supportive Communities To Prevent Violence and Delinquency,” sessions will focus on fostering collaborative efforts between schools, courts, law enforcement, service providers, and families to prevent or limit youth involvement in the justice system; reduce firearm offenses; dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline; provide evidence-based responses to children exposed to violence; and promote equitable access to services.

<http://www.juvjustice.org/2013conference.html>

National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day: May 9, 2013

Every year in early May, communities across the country hold awareness day events to highlight the importance of mental health to a child's development from birth. This year's National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day will focus on the needs of young adults (ages 16–24) with mental health needs, especially in the areas of education, employment, and housing. It also aims to raise public awareness about how resilient young adults with behavioral health challenges can be with the help of family, friends, and health services providers. During the past year, nearly 30 percent of young adults experienced a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder, and more than 35 percent of people ages 18 to 25 used illicit drugs. National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. <http://www.samhsa.gov/children/national.asp>

Global Youth Justice Training Institute: June 11–13, 2013

This training institute, to be held in Provincetown, MA, is designed to help adult staff and volunteers enhance and expand teen court, youth court, or peer court diversion programs. Training topics will include fundraising, partnerships, social media, service connections and resources, and grant writing. Registration information is available online. http://www.globalyouthjustice.org/Training_and_Events.html

Girl Bullying and Other Forms of Relational Aggression National Conference: June 30–July 2, 2013

Hosted by Developmental Resources, this conference will provide attendees with research findings, insights, practical strategies, programs, and resources related to bullying with a focus on relational aggression in girls. Topics include: Transforming Aggressive Young People, Empowering Bystanders to Become Interveners, What Works With Middle Schoolers, and Girls With Disabilities Facing Bullying. The conference will take place in Las Vegas, NV. Registration information is available online. <http://www.stopgirlbullying.com/>

Washington, DC, USA

May 1, 2013 - May 4, 2013

<http://www.juvjustice.org/2013conference.html>

National Girl Bullying & Other Forms of Relational Aggression Conference

Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

June 30, 2013 - July 2, 2013 Upcoming trainings/webinars

<http://www.stopgirlbullying.com/>



Important Dates to Remember

May

- May 3, 2013, Legislative Session ends

June

- June 12 -14, 2013, **FJJA Annual Board Retreat**, Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa (Arrival date is June 11)

Trainings

ARISE Drop it at the Door ONLINE training

This is a 40 hour self-guided course. Instructors are available to assist during this training. Watch for it at <http://at-riskyouth.org/>

Upcoming Life Skills and Drop It At The Door Trainings

- May 22-23 , 2013 - 2-Day ARISE Drop it at the Door Training
- June 10-14 , 2013 - 5-Day ARISE Life Skills Master Training

All sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Seacoast National Bank, 3001 PGA Blvd, Palm Beach Gardens Florida. To register for this training, call Yasmin Isaacs at ARISE, 561-630-2021

Upcoming Webinars

Reclaiming Futures Webinar

Tuesday, April 30 at 10 a.m. (PDT)/1 p.m. (EDT)

Webinar Registration: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/174233176>

What you'll learn:

- uniting juvenile courts, probation, adolescent substance abuse treatment, and the community for cost effective juvenile justice reform
- Communities have a compelling need to break the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime

About the presenters:

- Susan Richardson is national executive director for Reclaiming Futures.
- Margaret Soukup is the project director for Seattle-King County Reclaiming Futures, in Seattle, Wash.

In the News

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange: *OP-ED: [There is More Than One 'System' in Juvenile Justice](#)*

Center for Public Integrity: [New therapy proves effective for juvenile sex offenders](#)

Rapid City Journal: [Proposed overhaul of Nebraska's juvenile justice system is advanced](#)

Seattle Times: [Don't seal all juvenile-court records](#)

News Service of Florida: [Advocates pressing for more measures to curb abuse of incarcerated teens](#)

Baltimore Sun: [Juvenile justice reforms: worth the wait](#)

The Times Tribune: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/top-court-issues-final-juvenile-justice-report>

Member News

Psychotherapeutic Services Receives CARF Accreditation

Psychotherapeutic Services has received a three year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), for ten program types to include:

- Intensive Family-Based Services: Family Services (Children and Adolescents)
- Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health (Children and Adolescents)

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.



Avon Park Youth Academy Works To Make A Difference

Avon Park Youth Academy youth and staff volunteer to help developmentally challenged adults at the Highlands County Area Ridge Center.

A couple of years ago the youth were helping the Center teach the residents how to play basketball. A former APYA youth, Kyle, was amazed that a blind man tried so hard to make baskets and was successful more often than not. Recently, Facility Administrator Pete Zeegers received this touching email from Cindy Marshall of the Ridge Area ARC:

"Bobby, who is one of my special athletes who is blind, called me yesterday to tell me he was in Arcadia and saw Kyle at Wal-Mart. OK, actually Kyle saw Bobby, recognized him and walked up to him to say hello. Kyle was with his bride and stopped to talk to Bobby for a long time. Kyle and Bobby



developed a very close relationship while the APYA youth were playing basketball together a couple years ago. Bobby has often asked about Kyle and wondered if he was doing well. Kyle was very impressed with Bobby's abilities to shoot baskets even though he was blind. Kyle admitted to Bobby back then that he was unsure about working with people with disabilities but was so glad to have the opportunity to do so.

Bobby wanted me to tell all of you that he loves you for allowing the youth to be a part of our Special STARS program. He has made a good friend and this friendship has allowed young men like Kyle to accept people with disabilities.

I thought this was awesome and it's good to know that your young men at Avon Park Youth Academy are out there making a positive influence in this world."

Member News

Riverside Academy Honors Grandmothers

On March 9th, young men from Riverside Academy participated in the "Grandmothers Gala," organized by our community advisory board member Ms. Tonya Lewis. This event honored one hundred grandmothers for taking the responsibility of raising their grandchild or great grandchildren.

Eleven Riverside youth joined eighty-nine other young men at Reagan Park for the event. The young men assisted with the setup, decorating and all of the details for the festivities.

When the grandmothers arrived, they were greeted by a young man with a rose and escorted to their seat. Once all the grandmothers were seated the young men returned to their own grandmother and asked her to dance the first dance with them. To say many of these young men were nervous would be an understatement, but with the help of their grandmothers they did very well.

Each of the young men served their grandmother dinner. Beautiful bouquets of roses were given to five honorees including Mrs. Curtiss Walker Wilson, Dr. Aaron Smith, Floyd Joy Rivers, Bishop Elect Michelle B. Patty, and Florida House of Representative Betty Reed, in honor of their hard work and dedication to the Tampa Bay area.



A Truly "BIG" Man



On February 20, Big James Henderson delighted the youth at Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correctional Center with his ability to rip two phone books in half.

Mr. Henderson, a five time winner of the Super Heavyweight World Bench Press title and world record holder for bench pressing 711 pounds, spoke to the youth about serving three years of a 50-year prison sentence and the need for change.

Towering at 6'5, Big James gave many personal examples of how he has been challenged by life and how he has overcome those obstacles. He spoke of his time in prison and the trials he faced before coming to learn that he was worthy of success. After offering two young men the opportunity to rip one phone book apart, Mr. Henderson ripped them in half in a matter of seconds.

His humor and perseverance kept the youth attentive during his two hour presentation.



**MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS TODAY**

2013

FJJA ANNUAL RETREAT

Arrive June 11, 2013

Depart June 14, 2013



Hotel Reservation Deadline: MAY 7, 2013

[Click here to make your reservations](#)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

\$129 Hotel Rate
per night

For those who would like to extend their visit,
this rate is available from June 9-16, 2013.

Hotel reservations will be handled through the Florida Juvenile Justice Association office this year.
If you have questions about hotel reservations, please contact Lynn Redmond at 850-671-3442 or Lynn@fjja.org.