



Newsletter

August 2010

Volume 4, Issue 38

Inside this Issue

In the News	2
News Reports	2
Other News	2
Meeting Calendar	3
Member Update: On The Radar	3
Upcoming Events	3-4
Member News	5-10

Mark Your Calendar
FJJA Board Meeting
Thursday,
Sept 16, 2010
Largo, Florida
Operation PAR

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

Legislative News

Special Session Ends Quickly

The growing antagonism between the Legislature and Gov. Crist came to a head during the July special session and legislators took only two hours to reject the governor's request to approve putting a constitutional amendment (SB 2a) banning near-shore oil drilling on the November ballot. Many lawmakers felt it was unnecessary for the Governor to call for the session since Florida law already bars the drilling in question. Crist fired back, saying the Legislature was suffering from "an arrogance of power." Speaker Cretul countered by saying "The fact remains that he has called us here at the last possible moment to consider a constitutional amendment for which he never proposed any language and permitted far too little time for reflection and review."

September Special Session Likely

Lawmakers will likely return in September to take up post-spill related issues. Senate President Atwater ordered a Senate committee to begin going through what, exactly, the state might be able to do. Word around the capital is that Senate and House leadership is supportive of a special session in October to address issues that generate revenue such as the recently signed gambling compact, renewable energy, and oil drilling. A committee week is already scheduled for the week of Oct. 5-9. If a special session is called, Governor Crist will ask the legislature to sign off on the gambling pact. Some legislators have expressed concerns that the signed compact fails to meet the requirements by lawmakers to protect the state's pari-mutuel industry.

FJJA Participates in Nonpartisan Public Policy Briefing Webinar With Children's Campaign and Voices for America's Children

A candidate briefing webinar hosted by the Children's Campaign and Voices for America's Children was held this month. Designed to educate candidates and to help inform their policy platform for children, featured speakers included: **Dr. Wil Blechman**, Director, **Dots for Tots**, addressing prenatal, infant, and child health; **David Bundy**, President/CEO, **Children's Home Society of Florida**, addressing child protection and child welfare; **Phyllis Kalifeh**, President & CEO, **The Children's Forum**, addressing early

learning and child care; **Jon Heymann**, Executive Director, **Jacksonville Communities in Schools**, addressing before and after-school care; **Cathy Craig-Myers**, Executive Director, **Florida Juvenile Justice Association**, addressing juvenile crime and public safety; and **John Hall**, Executive Director, **Florida Center on Fiscal and Economic Policy**, addressing Florida budget and revenue issues.

In addition, national experts from Voices for America's Children provided the federal update and national perspective.

In the News

Florida Times Union - [Grant to target at-risk girls at two Duval schools: Initiative will benefit from \\$500,000 in funding.](#)

Reclaiming Futures - [Transferring Juveniles to Adult Court: New Research on What Works](#)

Florida Times Union - [Reduced cost, recidivism in redirection for Florida youthful offenders](#)

New Reports

Redirections: July 2010

http://www.evidencebasedassociates.com/what_we_do/redirection/quarterly_reports/redirectionQ2_10.pdf

Kids Count Data- July 2010

Eighteen percent of children in Florida live in poverty, even with the national average, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count report just released. Florida was right in the middle of the states on the poverty benchmark, with Mississippi worst in the nation at 30 percent and New Hampshire having the smallest percentage of children living in poverty at just 9 percent. To see report, click here. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Other News

Local Communities To Discuss Community Based Juvenile Justice Models

Last year, Eckerd Youth Alternatives circulated a proposal to potentially pilot a juvenile justice community based care model in Circuit 6. The proposal was later withdrawn.

Many juvenile justice stakeholders had questioned the timing of the pilot proposal during the difficult legislative session and requested that the proposal be further researched and studied. Additionally, many stakeholders felt further input from the provider community was needed regarding how an idea of this scope could be realized.

Now, it appears that three communities are poised to begin a local discussion on how a community based juvenile justice model might be developed.

Miami Dade Juvenile Justice Services Division, in Circuit 11, DISC Village in Circuit 2, and Eckerd Youth Alternatives, in Circuit 6 are taking the lead and laying the groundwork for upcoming discussions.

FJJA will be providing more information in the coming weeks about the upcoming discussions in the three pilot areas.

Changes at DJJ

With the recent departure of previous Chief of Staff Kelly Layman, Secretary Frank Peterman has appointed Christy Daly Interim Chief of Staff. Christy joined the DJJ leadership team in 2007 as Director of Legislative Affairs and also served as the External Affairs Director. Most recently Christy has been serving as Executive Director of the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation.

Call for Presentations: Plans Underway for Adolescent Conference 2011

Planning for the 15th Annual Adolescent Conference has started. The conference, convened by the Florida Juvenile Justice Association and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association will be held in Orlando in February of 2011.

We have begun our search for featured speakers and workshop leaders for the event. This conference attracts hundreds of attendees from across the state and addresses a multidisciplinary audience of professionals working with Florida's at-risk youth.

We need your help in identifying the experts to lead this year's conference. We are looking for experts whose strategies are working to positively change the lives of high risk, delinquent and substance involved youth.

For a copy of the "Call for Presentation," go to [Adolescent Conference Call for Presentation.](#)

The deadline for proposal submission is September 10, 2010. Please submit presentations for consideration to lynn@fjja.org by end of business September 10, 2010.

Member Update: On the Radar

2011 Legislative Planning

FJJA is prioritizing consensus items, developing a calendar and drafting a proposed legislative agenda to present at the FJJA September board meeting. To inform our work, FJJA plans to meet with DJJ, and other stakeholder partners as part of our annual planning.

Actions – FJJA is also working on the following:

- Identifying the data and messages that will be needed for upcoming session.
- Organizing local presentations to support the juvenile justice continuum prior to session.
- Increasing efforts to support legislators in their election and reelection campaigns.

2011 Adolescent Conference Planning

FJJA planning committee is working to develop a scope of workshops for the upcoming conference. A call for presentations was released earlier this month.

Update: To see 2011 Adolescent Conference Call for Presentations, [click here](#).

Contracting and Procurement Recommendations to DJJ/Provider Workgroup

FJJA presented list of recommendations to the DJJ/Provider workgroup on June 26th.

Update: DJJ has responded to FJJA recommendations. To read DJJ response, [click here](#).

Recidivism Recommendations to DJJ Executive Leadership

Workgroup members presented recommendations to DJJ on August 11th. As we are heading into a very difficult legislative session, FJJA will recommend that discussions continue on this very important issue.

Update: To see FJJA recommendations, [click here](#)

Evidence Based Programming Recommendations to DJJ EB Steering Committee

FJJA has compiled recommendations made during retreat discussions.

Update: FJJA has sent a letter to the Evidence Based Steering Committee. To read FJJA letter, [click here](#).

Workforce Development Recommendations to DJJ Executive Leadership

FJJA has compiled recommendations made during retreat discussions.

Update: FJJA has sent letter to Deputy Secretary Rod Love. To read FJJA letter, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events

September is Recovery Month

Recovery Month is September 2010 and DISC Village, Inc. Prevention Services is working together with Frenchtown Outreach Center and Big Bend Cares to create awareness and support. To get involved, please contact Prevention at 850-574-6240 ext. 343. DISC Village needs volunteers and well as support for the events. Upcoming events include:

September 17 - 5K Walk

September 19 - Gospel Fest

September 24 - Black-Tie Gala and Silent Auction

FJJA 2010-2011 Meeting Calendar

Board of Directors Meetings

- Thursday, September 16, 2010
Largo - (Operation PAR)
- Thursday, November 11, 2010
Orlando- (Center for Drug Free Living)
- February 2011
Orlando – Adolescent Conference, from 1-5 pm, hotel location TBA
- Thursday, April 6, 2011
Tallahassee - (DISC Village)
- June 2011 – Board Retreat – TBA

Executive Committee Meetings

- Monthly Conference Call
First Monday of every month, 2 pm
- Legislative Session
Conference Call Every Monday, 2 pm
- Meetings prior to board meetings for 9/15/10, 11/10/10, 2/11, and 4/5/11

Upcoming Events

Office of Court Improvement and DJJ Host Distance Learning Workshops

The office of State Courts Administrator, Office of Court Improvement, and DJJ are hosting two distance learning workshops.

Circuit Courts throughout the state are taking part in this event and providing a central location for participants to view the live training. For a list of locations, [click here](#). For additional information, including how to register, go to the [Family Courts](#) website or contact Polly Ryan at ryanp@flicourts.org.

Monday, August 16, 2010, from 1-4 pm, *Parent Involvement: Working with Resistant Parents in the Juvenile Justice Process* will be in the George Edgecomb Courthouse, Courtroom 1, 800 East Twiggs St., Tampa.

Thursday, September 2, 2010 from 1-4 pm, *Understand and Motivating Today's Youth in the Juvenile Justice System* will be in the Orange County Courthouse, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL.

DCF Hosts Dependency Summit in August

Florida's annual statewide Dependency Summit, scheduled for Aug. 24-26 in Orlando, is an exciting opportunity for child welfare professionals to share best practices and continue the advancement of child welfare practice in Florida.

At the Summit, child protective investigators, community based care administration and case management staff, as well as judges, general magistrates, Children's Legal Services attorneys, law enforcement, medical and mental health providers and child advocates join together to benefit from increased coordination, communication and creativity.

The event is structured to allow for multidisciplinary workshops, meetings by profession and planning sessions for local child welfare representatives.

Last year, the Dependency Summit set the record for convening the largest number of child protection professionals for basic and advanced training in serving children at risk and families in crisis.

To learn more, or to register, go to: [Dependency Summit](#).

Milk and Cookies Parties Planned By The Children's Movement

The Children's Movement, a statewide group of highly influential and non-partisan business, professional and community leaders will be hosting a series of "milk and cookies" parties. The emphasis is on making the well-being and education of our children the state's highest priority. The goal is 1,000 people in each and every event location --in order to attract and show the media and decision makers that children are NUMBER ONE in Florida. The series of statewide events is backed by a grant from the Kellogg Foundation.

Event Locations:

Monday, 9/6, Pensacola,

Tuesday, 9/7, Tallahassee,

Wednesday, 9/8, Gainesville and Ocala,

Friday, 9/10, Jacksonville

For more info and more event locations and dates statewide, go to:

<http://childrensmovementflorida.org>

ARISE - Time Management Webinar

September 8, 2010, 11:30-12:30. ARISE is pleased to offer a life skills webinars free of charge to anyone who would like to sharpen or refresh their basic life skills.. Call 1-888-680-6100 or to sign up go to

[ARISE webinar](#).

Prevention Conference

Different Roles, Common Goals: Advancing and Empowering Lives - 2010 Statewide Prevention Conference, September 29 - October 1, 2010, Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. For more information and to register go to [Prevention Conference](#).

Innovations in Treatment

Gateway Community Services second annual Spring Conference, April 6-8, 2011, in Jacksonville. Participants will explore the future of treatment and attitude in today's changing world. For more information, go to [Spring Conference](#).

Member News

John Morgenthau Memory Honored At Okeechobee Youth Development Center

On July 14th, Okeechobee Youth Development Center held a dedication ceremony of their newly erected softball field and a special memorial service to recognize the legacy of John Morgenthau, founder and former COO of G4S Youth Services. This event culminated with the inaugural John Morgenthau Classic played between staff members from Okeechobee Youth Development Center/Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House and Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Corrections Center.

With more than 25 years of experience in the juvenile justice and corrections management field, he devoted his career to protecting children. Prior to forming G4S Youth Services, he was a partner in the firm of Morgenthau and Plant Associates providing consultation, technical assistance and training to correctional agencies throughout the country. He worked with legislative bodies and served as an expert witness in federal and state cases on issues related to juvenile justice and corrections.

John was a pioneer in the Florida Juvenile Justice system. He worked for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services for twenty years where he served as the Delinquency Residential Services Program Administrator, Detention Services Program Supervisor, System Accreditation Manager, Acting Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Standards and Training Council, Staff Development and Training Administrator, Chief, Bureau of Staff Development and Training and Superintendent of two residential community-based treatment centers.

It is said that he led by example, humor and wisdom. His “teachable points of view” expressed the company’s values in plain English and his pearls of wisdom referred to as “Johnisms” will forever remain a part of the G4S culture.

The event included a luncheon where friends and family shared memories and words of appreciation for John’s work and wisdom.



Guest speakers were, from left: G4S Youth Services Senior Vice President Peter Plant; G4S Youth Services OYDC/OIHH Facility Administrator Joseph Hasselbach; G4S Youth Services Co-Founder Dr. Gail Browne; John’s Wife, Cathy Morgenthau; Okeechobee County Commissioner Joey Hoover; and G4S Youth Services CEO Kerry L. Knott.

Member News

Youth's Paintings Donated to Newly Renovated Okeechobee Health Department

As part of a Restorative Justice project, one of the youth at Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correction Center (OJOCC) designed three paintings to present to Frank Kruppa, Administrator of the Okeechobee Health Department.

During renovations of the county's Health Department building, Mr. Kruppa contacted the OJOCC and requested that the youth create paintings for offices and the lobby of the building .

One of the program's youth, who had never painted on canvas, was very interested in creating the paintings. Armed with paint, paintbrush, canvas, and pictures, he set out to accomplish this task.

Within three weeks, he had completed his first picture and was anxious to try another. All in all, he painted three different pictures to dedicate to the Health Department as part of the Restorative Justice project. When presenting the pictures to Mr. Kruppa, the youth remarked that he was happy for the experience of working on canvas and for being able to present his paintings to the Health Department. Mr. Kruppa presented the youth with a certificate of appreciation.



Drumming of the Arts Program Held at Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility

Led by volunteer instructor Alvon Griffin, the Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility kicked off its Drumming of the Arts program on July 11, 2010.

All of the youth assigned to CJRF participate in the program which is designed to introduce performing arts to youth who would not normally have the opportunity to experience it.

It teaches them the importance of social skills and impulse control by means of rhythmic drumming and a constant focus on making music from scratch.

They are taught a numeric sequence where each number has its own unique sound. The Drumming of the Arts program has become a key component of treatment process at CJRF because it provides a positive outlet for negative feelings.



Member News

Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House Vocational Programs Broaden Horizons

Many exciting events have occurred in the recent weeks and months at the Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House.

OIHH recently began an intensive vocational program through Home Builders Institute with seven students are enrolled.

Another inventive vocational program, Urban Tails, pairs youth with shelter dogs. They care for and train the shelter dogs that are adopted back into the local community.

OIHH is excited to offer a variety of exciting and inventive programs that help broaden their horizons and give them a fresh start when they return to their local communities.

Darryl Olson Visits Palmetto Youth Academy

Recently, Darryl Olson, Assistant Secretary for Residential Services of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice toured the Palmetto Youth Academy.

Youth showed Mr. Olson the displays of their activities and accomplishments, as well as family photos. He had in in-depth conversation with the youth who were anxious to hear his point of view on many issues.

Summer Graduation Ceremonies Held At Palmetto Youth Academy

On July 30, 2010 the Education Department of Palmetto Youth Academy held its Summer 2010 Graduation ceremony for four graduates. Two of the youth earned their GED and two earned their high school diplomas. Parents and family members were present to share in this special occasion. Guest speakers were Butch Morley, soccer coach and Melissa Johnson, DJJ contract monitor.

All of the graduates have plans to further their education at community colleges in their home towns. The teachers also presented awards to other youth for various accomplishments including creativity, fitness, and academic achievements.

Palmetto Youth Academy wishes to recognize Dr. Jacqueline Jones, principal, and the faculty for another successful academic event.



PACE Center for Girls Receives Numerous Recognitions As It Celebrates 25 Years of Believing in Girls

As PACE Center for Girls continues to celebrate its 25th Anniversary throughout 2010, the organization has received several local and national recognitions for its efforts.

Among several recognitions made throughout the state, the Hispanic Women of Distinction and the City of Wilton Manors recognized the PACE Broward Center for the services provided in Broward County. The Tampa Bay Women in Networking will recognize the PACE Centers in Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco Counties at their upcoming 6th Annual Women's Symposium. In Lee County, L. Gail Markham, CPA and founding partner of Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, P.A., was presented the Servant Leader Award for 2010 by Leadership Lee County for her service as Chair of the PACE Lee Board of Directors.

Nationally, Greatnonprofits.org, an organization that develops tools for volunteers and supporters to review and share information about nonprofit organizations, recognized PACE as one of the top 10 organizations empowering women. PACE received the recognition based on dozens of reviews written by PACE supporters. One PACE supporter affirmed PACE's impact by saying, "no where in the world do the lives of girls matter more than right here."

Member News

Lake Academy Implements *Girls Matter*

Lake Academy is blossoming. Gone are the days of residing in a secure building geared towards males. The program has become gender responsive. What does that mean? A gender responsive treatment environment is one where young women are recognized for their abilities, strengths, and individuality. It recognizes that young women come from worlds of trauma and violence where safety has often not been attainable.

Lake Academy and G4S Youth Services has partnered with Dr. Lawanda Ravoira and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) Center for Girls and Young Women to train and implement *Girls Matter*, an all inclusive approach affecting the young ladies' surroundings.

Staff are trained to recognize that girls process things differently than boys. First and foremost, *safety* matters. Strategies are developed to offer young ladies an opportunity to be safe physically, mentally and emotionally. Interventions are utilized to allow young women to effectively deal with core issues in surroundings they feel safe in therapeutically. Staff learn that communication, relationship and hygiene all matter. Curriculums and scheduling are utilized placing emphasis on how girls operate.

In addition to *Girls Matter*, Lake Academy is in the process of implementing the Sanctuary model. This is a complimentary trauma informed, organizational structure with focus on safety and seven core commitments: non violence, emotional intelligence, social learning, open communication, social responsibility, growth and change and democracy.

Combined, *Girls Matter* and Sanctuary create a setting that embraces the young lady and offers her optimal surroundings and promotes pro-social change.

Pasco Academy Holds Cultural Celebration

The ladies of the Pasco Girls Academy embarked on an international journey to broaden their horizons by way of a cultural celebration. The activities included the youth



conducting research about different countries and cultures and the creation of a bulletin board decorated with flags and facts. Staff participated by dressing in cultural attire and food from around the world.

OYA Holds "Jamaica Jam"

Not only does the Orange Youth Academy look to inspire, uplift, and motivate the young men, they also like to show their appreciation for staff. In July, OYA combined their monthly themed meal with staff appreciation. The youth chose the theme "Jamaica Jam" and the staff came out in their best island dress in hopes of winning the first place for demonstrating the best Jamaican



"swagger." Youth Tracey Fair, Care Worker I, took the first place spot and Sheena Fencher, Youth Care Worker II, came in a close second.

The residents enjoyed a fun filled day with activities including a water balloon toss, balloon towers, tug of war and a special lunch with lots of Jamaican flair!

Polk Halfway House Youth Attend Tracy McGrady Tournament

Youth of the Polk Halfway House had the opportunity to attend the Tracy McGrady Tournament in Auburndale, Florida during the month of July.

A member of the PHH Community Advisory Board since 2008, McGrady is currently a free agent in the NBA but has played for teams such as the Orlando Magic, the Houston Rockets, and the New York Knicks.

The annual tournament is a community event hosted by Johnnie Lawson, the program's Assistant Facility Administrator, and McGrady. The youth were able to attend all of the games and interact with McGrady while at the games.

Member News

Hillsborough Youth Learn About The Training and Education It Takes To Be A Fireman

Hillsborough County's Deputy Fire Chief and two firemen visited Hillsborough IRT recently. The youth learned what training and education a fireman is required to have. They tried on the fireman's uniform and competed in a relay to see who could get outfitted for a fire the fastest. At the end of the program, the youth went outside to see the fire truck. All aspects of the truck were explained them and they got hands on experience with the Jaws of Life, extension ladder, as well as learning about fire hose curling, carrying, and storing.



Facelift, Summer Fun at OGA

The girls at the Okeechobee Girls Academy have dreamed of an activity room complete with an exercise area, library, TV and Playstation, a beauty station, computers with games and space for arts and craft activities.

Their dream started with a space in great need of a facelift, requiring numerous hours of labor and love.

In the past month this project has moved to the front burner. Residents in the Home Builders Institute Vocational Program tore out a wall and with the help of a shift supervisor, OGA girls removed metal bunk bed pieces.

Improvements have been made to the floor and the process continues with plans for the walls, restrooms and furnishings.

The heat of the summer has taken a toll on staff and youth alike. The girls have been anxious to get back outside and let off some steam. During the last week of July, the girls had their opportunity to get a good work out and to enjoy a barbecued sausage sandwich on the side. Both Precious and Distinct dorms went head to head in the program's first kickball tournament. Everyone was ready to win. Amid the shrieks and screams of a girls' kickball game, Distinct took the prize. All of the girls showed excellent sportsmanship.

Cypress Creek Juvenile Offender Correctional Center Activities

Quality Assurance

A big congratulations goes out to the staff at Cypress Creek Juvenile Offender Correctional Center for maintaining "Deemed" status during QA this year. The program received the highest QA score in the State of Florida.

Monthly Theme Meals

Each month at CCJOCC the dorms take turns preparing a special meal for the entire facility. In July it was Delta Dorm's turn and their theme was "Summer Time." The youth and staff enjoyed chicken wings with a side of carrot sticks and celery, macaroni salad, rolls, apple cobbler and ice cream. August is Bravo dorm's turn and everyone at the program is looking forward to seeing what their theme will be and what they will be serving for lunch.

Look Who's Singing Now

Cypress Creek JOCC is proud of its new youth choir who sing gospel, praise and worship songs. Volunteers as well as some dedicated staff members accompany the youth as they sing and the youth look forward to any opportunity to perform. During the program's recent Community Advisory Board luncheon, the choir did an awesome job performing for the guests. The youth really enjoyed themselves and the program is very proud of the youth and the staff that made assembling the choir possible.

Birthdays Are Special At MGA

The girls at Martin Girls Academy celebrate birthdays with a special party. The birthday girl is allowed to invite one guest for



ice cream cake and ice cream. The party is attended by the treatment team members and administrative staff. Family members are also allowed to bring a cake which is shared with the whole facility.

Member News

Okeechobee Youth Development Center Holds HBI Trade Olympics

In celebration of the first year, on July 30 Project CRAFT – Okeechobee Youth Development Center youth participated in the Home Builder Institute's "HBI Trade Olympics." There were five events that demonstrated teamwork, trade skills knowledge, ability to communicate and how to follow instructions under pressure. Two of the trade events, landscaping soccer and trade skill race, allowed the students to showcase the skills they have learned which are landscaping, plumbing, carpentry and electrical. A tug of war demonstrated their ability to work as a team. Finally, a blind scavenger hunt and a bucket race proved fun for all. This was a great opportunity for Jim Vensel, Community Advisory Board Chair, and support staff to see how HBI's training affects the youth.



Between competitions, there was a reception and student graduation. Laura "Lady Ram" Ramsey, a Global Boxing Union Middleweight World Champion, was guest speaker. During the ceremony, five HBI students were recognized and received PACT certificates in Facility Maintenance from the National Association of Home Builders.

In closing, the students and staff said goodbye to their Christina Kuhn, former Project Coordinator. She was recently was promoted to an HBI Program Manager. Larry McKane, local business owner of Uncle Larry's Rim Ditch Café and G4S Administration and Mangers, donated the food and refreshments.

Okeechobee Girls Academy Provides Volunteer Services To Human Society

The Home Builders Institute program located at Okeechobee Girls Academy has had an exciting month. The girls have been volunteering their time at the local Humane Society Pet Rescue Center. The girls have helped bath the animals, clean kennels, and walk the dogs for fun and exercise. This has been quite an experience for the girls and is their way of giving back to the community.

The girls, under the guidance of the HBI Instructor, have several projects to help improve the facility for the animals. Some of these projects include placing a skim coat and sealant across the floors, which will improve the appearance of the kennels, install a water heater, and assist with electrical needs at the facility. Over the last month, the girls have worked hard at building a doghouse to donate to the Humane Society. This will provide additional shelter to the animals.



The students enjoy helping the shelter with improvements and at the same time learn skills that are associated with their trade. The students currently volunteer two days a week at the shelter and will continue to provide services as long as their needed.

Laura Ramsey, a Global Boxing Union Middleweight World Champion, known as "Lady Ram," visited the girls and provided a very moving motivational speech. She gave each girl with an autographed picture and also provided the facility with an autographed T-shirt that is to be given to the student who has the excels the most from the time they come into the program.