



City of

Belle Glade

"Her Soil is her Fortune"



Youth Empowerment Center (YEC)

Summary Report 2016-2017

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The City of Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) provides youth with quality and affordable educational, recreational, and family support services that foster positive physical, social, emotional, cognitive growth, and development. The goal of YEC is to support youth to succeed in school and to contribute to their positive personal development by offering a variety of activities that suit their needs. Participants at YEC range from 11 to 18 years of age and over the fiscal year 2016-2017, YEC served a total of 83 youth of which 61 were males and 22 were females.

The YEC provides programming, services, and activities year round. The YEC operates Monday through Friday from 3:00 - 7:00 pm during regular school days, school holidays and throughout the summer from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.



Promoting Education

At the Youth Empowerment Center education is a key component. We encourage and support the youth to excel academically, one of our biggest motivations for the youth is the annual College Tour Experience. During spring break the City of Belle Glade and the City of Riviera Beach YEC's partnered together for the Multi-State, six day, 2017 College Tour Experience. Eighteen Students had the opportunity to visit the following six historically black colleges and universities: Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, Fisk University, Tennessee State University, West Virginia State University, University of the District of Columbia and Howard University. The youth were given a tour of the campuses, met with advisors and financial aid counselors and experienced the full college life.



Promoting Education (Continued)

The YEC is proud to announce that 13 of the program participants have successfully completed high school and receive their high school diplomas. We would like to congratulate the Graduates and wish them much success on their future endeavors.

Youth Empowerment Center Class of 2017

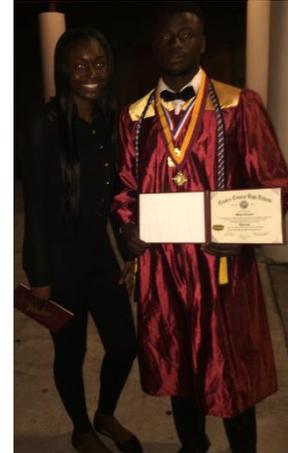


Glades Day School

- Markens Pierre

Glades Central Community High School

- John Charles
- Herby Charles
- Jenoute Mrytil
- Jean Noel
- Touzard Joseph
- Wesley Edouard
- Ericka Green
- Verlanie Rosevard
- Siupry Rinvil
- Ruben Joseph



Everglades Preparatory School

- Armina Amilcar
- Vanessa Charles
- Ahrianna Myrick



Promoting Education (Continued)

For the 2nd year Glades Central High school honored the high school seniors that were on track for graduation at the “Principal’s A Team” ceremony. Representatives from the school district, local principals and community leaders were present as the students were given jackets and honor cords to wear during the 2017 graduation ceremony.

The YEC has 12 Seniors that attend Glades Central this year, of those 12 Seniors 10 of them are on track for Graduation as of December 2016. Congratulations to the Seniors on their accomplishments.



Jean Noel one of the 2017 recipients of the Mary O. Evans Spirit of Excellence Award. Jean was awarded to award for his commitment to excel both academically and in his community all while facing every adversity that could come his way. Jean lost his older brother (who also a member of the YEC), in 2013 to gun violence, he was an innocent bystander. Two years later he lost his best friend and the closest person to a brother to a terminal illness. Jean received several academic scholarships to help further his educational career. He currently attends Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida



Promoting Career Readiness and Summer Internship

Six deserving students were offered internship positions in various city departments based on their interest. The students got the full employment experience from the interview process, to pre employee procedures, orientation and finally paid internships for 10 weeks.

Internship recipients gained valuable work experience in the following departments; IT, Building and Planning, Parks and Recreation, and Marina/Campground.



Ruth Dorce, IT Department Summer Intern

My overall experience as an IT intern was amazing. Being that this was my first internship I did not expect it to go as well as it did. As an IT intern I got to shadow my intelligent bosses Mr. Hector and Mr. Rigo. They were the perfect examples to follow, they were efficient and diligent in making sure I know how the IT department worked and that I gained something from this experience. My first assignment was to observe them troubleshoot a computer remotely. They were so proficient in completing the task that I was able to take excellent notes and mimic their action in completing my next assignment which was fixing a PC remotely. Shadowing my intern supervisor has not only given the skills I need to work effectively in this field but they also displayed other characteristics such as professionalism, hardworking, and respectfulness that I can take with me to apply to my everyday life.



Talaika Robinson, Building and Planning Summer Intern

My experience of working my first internship had its ups and downs, but my overall experience was very beneficial. I was placed in the Building and Planning department under the leadership of Ms. Annette Parchment, she is a very tough but fair supervisor. She takes pride in her department and how it is ran. This is one aspect that I admire about her and something I will take with me as a life lesson, no matter what always take pride in what you are doing. There were a lot of great people in this department, it was like a family environment everyone smiled and greeted each other and made every individual feel welcomed.

Promoting Health & Wellness

The YEC in Collaboration with Living Hungry provided educational workshops and cooking demonstrations on healthy eating. During the cooking demonstration, each group took turns preparing a healthy snack. Living Hungry in partnership with the Palm Beach County, Youth Services Department provided each teen weekly with a box of fresh fruits, produce, vegetables, and other food items so that the teens would have food for the weekend.



Promoting Health & Wellness – Continued)

Youth Participated in various recreational and physical fitness activities including golf and fishing academies.



Community Involvement & Leadership

The YEC empowers youth to become leaders and engage in their community. For example, youth volunteered to prepare Backpacks and disburse school supplies at the annual “Back to School Bash.”

