

YSD Scoop!



Volume 3 | Issue 4

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County
Youth Services Department



Youth at the Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center Summer Camp thank YSD.

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Highridge Family Center Annual Summer Program



The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's (YSD) Highridge Family Center held its annual Summer Program. The center's residents participated in fun activities, such as the Norton Museum of Art Afterschool Arts Outreach Program. The museum's 8-week program provides students with the opportunity to explore architecture from the past and present.

Residents also participated in Spirit Week, from July 24-27, during which each day had an exciting theme such as crazy socks day, hat day and team spirit day. In addition, residents also made arts and crafts, participated in indoor and outdoor activities, played bongo drums and created inspirational collages.

Not One Hungry Homeless Student Weekend Backpacking Event



Living Hungry and the South Florida Hunger Coalition invited Youth Services and Future Leaders United for Change to participate along with 300 Florida County Commissioners, County Administrators, County Attorneys and other local government leaders in the “Not One Hungry Homeless Student Weekend Backpacking” event on Wednesday, June 28, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

Attendees hand packed 502 weekend backpacks of food including handwritten notes of encouragement for homeless youth in the County. This event was part of the Florida Association of Counties’ 2017 Annual Conference & Educational Exposition.

Proposers & New CBAs



As a result of a Request for Proposals, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners approved funding for 21 new Community Based Agency (CBA) programs.

CBAs are organizations that receive funding from the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners through its Youth Services Department. The Outreach and Community Programming Division monitors funded organizations for strict program compliance and service integrity.



The Department’s goals for the CBAs are to:

- Provide direction and support to CBAs to ensure successful implementation of contract requirements
- Ensure funding supports the needs identified in the Birth to 22 Youth Master Plan
- Ensure funding supports evidence-based and promising practices

“People working together in a strong community with a shared goal and a common purpose can make the impossible possible.”

- Tom Vilsack

Green Futures Summer Internships



The Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management Department (ERM), in collaboration with Youth Services, developed the Green Futures Internship/Mentoring Program. The paid internship/mentorship program lasted four weeks at 30 hours per week, and was offered to eight youth.

Interns assist ERM staff in their daily assignments to preserve, protect and enhance Palm Beach County land and

water resources. As a result, interns acquired knowledge, job skills and exposure to careers in environmental resources management. Their experiences were summed up in a final project.

As part of their assignments, the interns collected sand temperature data, monitored a prescribed burn, and examined sea turtle nests.

Chef Christine Cooking Tour of 3 YECs



Belle Glade YEC



Lake Worth YEC



Riviera Beach YEC

Living Hungry and the South Florida Hunger Coalition partnered with the three Youth Empowerment Centers (YECs) funded by Youth Services to arrange a cooking tour with Poverello's Chef Christine on July 17, 20 and 24. Sixty-five teens learned the importance of cooking with healthy ingredients, quality nutrition and fresh produce.

"Thank you for the opportunity to feed your teenagers with quality nutrition and fresh produce ... Healthy habits stick!" said Maura Plante, founder and CEO of Living Hungry.

The cooking tour was part of the Weekend Fill-the-Gap Feeding Program at the YECs, where teens received food for the weekend.

65 teens took part in 3 cooking classes

61 out of **65** said maybe, likely or very likely to try the recipes at home

95 percent said they had fun cooking.

1,560 packs of food were delivered.



Summer Food Service Program SPIKE Event



Youth Services, in partnership with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, hosted a SPIKE event on Thursday, July 13, at the Westgate Park and Recreation Center.

This event celebrated the healthy, free meals and snacks available to youth in Palm Beach County during the summer months. The Summer Food Services Program (SFSP), administered and monitored by Youth Services and funded by the USDA, provides free, nutritious meals and snacks for children in low-income areas. This helps ensure children receive the nutrition they need to learn, play and

grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

“Summer meals are essential in this county,” said Youth Services Director Tammy K. Fields. “Good nutrition is imperative for our youth to grow, learn and develop. This need does not go away when the school year ends.”

School-age children may receive free meals and snacks through SFSP. Meals and snacks are also available to persons, over age 18, who participate in school programs for people who have mental or physical disabilities. There are 73 SFSP sites throughout Palm Beach County providing free meals.



“The first wealth is health.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

3rd Annual Super Summer Spelling Bee



Youth Services hosted the third annual Super Summer Spelling Bee on Thursday, July 20, at the Club Managers Association of America Therapeutic Recreation Complex in Lake Worth.

More than 170 students in the Summer Camp Scholarship and Summer Food Service programs participated. The spelling bee provides academic activities to encourage the spirit of learning while preventing summer slide.

“Children can experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer months,” said Geeta Loach-Jacobson, director of Youth

Services’ Outreach and Community Programming Division. “The spelling bee is one way that we can prevent summer slide for our campers using a fun and exciting method of learning.”

Participating agencies included the Palm Beach County Attorney’s Office, PBC Community Services, PBC Parks and Recreation, Palm Beach County School District, Children’s Services Council, City of West Palm Beach, Literacy Coalition, United Way of Palm Beach County, Florida Atlantic University, Prime Time Palm Beach County, Early Learning Coalition, Palm Beach Post and Florida Power and Light.



Back to School Bash



The Youth Services Department proudly participated in the Putting Kids First Community Back to School Bash on Saturday, July 29.

The event was held at six different locations throughout the County, including Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach, the Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Village Academy in Delray Beach, Pahokee High School in Pahokee, Tanner Park in South Bay, and Bridges at Belle Glade.

The bash, started over 20 years ago by five local nonprofits, has expanded to serve 17,000 children throughout Palm Beach County, with the generous support and organization from the Palm Beach County Office of Community Revitalization

The event’s purpose is to prepare children with the necessary school supplies to help them learn, be successful and confident during the new school year and beyond.

Youth Services Doctoral Psychologist Interns Graduate



(L to R) Loren Berry, PsyD, psychologist and training committee member; Sam Brustad, PsyD, intern; Shayna Ginsburg, PsyD, chief of clinical services at the Education & Training Center and training committee member; Amanda Terrell, PsyD, psychologist and training committee member; Patty Russo PsyD, intern; and Twila Taylor, PsyD, chief of clinical services at the Highridge Family Center and training committee member

The Youth Services Department’s first class of psychology interns graduated Thursday, Aug. 3, from our American Psychological Association (APA) accredited Doctoral Internship Program.

Youth Services Employee Retreat



The Youth Services Department held a team building retreat on Thursday, Aug. 3, at the South County Civic Center in Delray Beach. The retreat was lead by Team Building Coach and Facilitator Nancy Lewis Heins, M.A.

Youth Services Department staff were able to learn more about each other and the value each member has and its

impact on the team.

“You have a phenomenal team - each a powerful vessel to touch the lives of so many who are the FUTURE of our world ... I am humbled by the powerful dedication, intention, and heart that flow through the YSD team community,” Nancy wrote.

“Remember: upon the conduct of each, depends the fate of ALL.”

- Alexander the Great

Youth Services at the Special Needs Hurricane Shelter



Tammy Fields, Youth Services Department Director and Special Needs Shelter Manager, coordinated efforts at the South Florida Fairgrounds in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Irma in September.

Youth Services staff assisted with set-up, registration, check-in, assisting clients, serving food, making arrangements for clients to go home, as well as break down. Youth Services' mental health team provided crisis intervention and counseling services. Staff collaborated with doctors and

nurses, with the goal of providing a safe shelter environment for geriatric, adult, and youth occupants, as well as staff and volunteers.

"We truly have a very special and dedicated staff. I watched so many of you as you interacted with citizens with care and compassion ... I couldn't be more proud to be the Director of YSD," said Youth Services Director and Special Needs Shelter Manager Tammy Fields in an email to the staff after the hurricane.

"My wife and I just returned Wednesday from the special needs evacuation center at the South Florida Fairgrounds. We felt that we must comment about the wonderful volunteers who took care of us there. They were most helpful in addressing any of our needs with courtesy and interest in making our stay as comfortable as possible while taking care of more than 500 people requiring special attention of various kinds.

(Letter to the Editor submitted to the Palm Beach Post)



Amongst the chaos and uncertainty this elderly couple holding hands as they slept at the Special Needs Shelter.

Youth Services Presents at 2017 GIS Expo

Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Youth Services director of Outreach and Community Programming; Gregory Gabriel, Youth Services planner; and David Rafaidus, Palm Beach County Community Services Department planner presented on Community Programming and Data Visualization at the 2017 South Florida GIS Expo.

The presentation was geared to the social services arena, with the implementation of ArcGIS desktop and ArcGIS online to provide decision makers with the information needed to allocate services and funding across Palm Beach County.

The Youth Services Department in its work with Birth to 22, advertised a Request For Proposal (RFP) to address economic access, safety and justice, social emotional learning, and parenting and role models. Presenters discussed the challenges of data gathering, sorting and visual replication, to effectively show the gaps and resources in Palm Beach County, and to determine allocation of funding based on

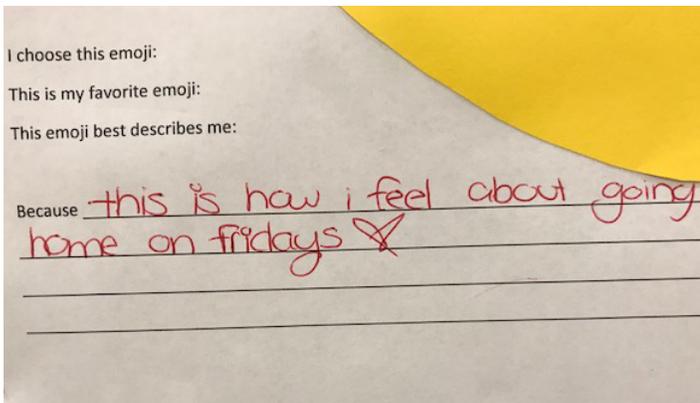
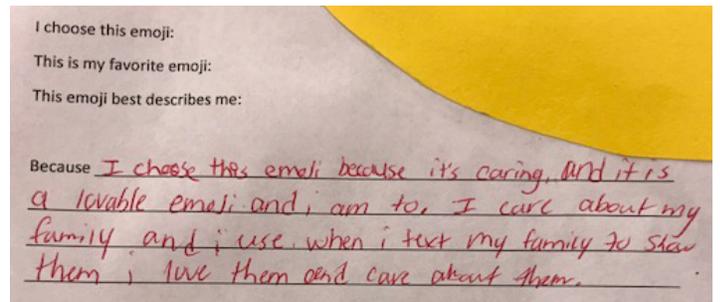


(L to R) Gregory Gabriel, YSD planner; Geeta Loach-Jacobson, YSD director of Outreach and Community Programming; and David Rafaidus, Community Services Department planner

need, evidence-based programming, geographic area and population.

In attendance were GIS experts, social service representatives, government entities and managers.

Highridge Family Center Implements Monthly Themes



The Youth Services Department’s Highridge Family Center marked its second year implementing the Sanctuary Model of Trauma Informed Care by designating a “Theme of the Month.” The theme for September was Safety. Staff

and residents reflected on how to recognize and manage emotions by creating their own Safety Plans. Staff and residents also designed wall décor, such as emojis to reflect emotions.

Q&A with Carmen Bersch



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our biggest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Administrative Assistant Carmen Bersch. Carmen is responsible for secretarial work, providing support to the Director of the Youth Services Department, scheduling appointments, reserving and setting up conference rooms for meetings, keeping an up-to-date filing system, and interacting with other County departments, outside agencies and the public.

1. Where is your hometown?

Fajardo, Puerto Rico

2. What was your first job?

I was 16 years old. I worked at Westchester Square Hospital in New York where my mom worked as a nurse. I had to fold patients' sheets, towels, gowns, etc., in the laundry room downstairs in the hospital's basement. It was by the morgue and I would be so scared when the funeral guy would come to collect dead bodies.

3. What are the three most important skills your need for your job?

The Director's calendar must be kept up to date constantly, multi-tasking and organizing meetings.

4. What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?
I like my co-workers. There is excellent team work.

5. Is there a memorable moment that you would like to share in relation to your work here, at YSD?
When I started working at the Youth Services Department, I never dreamed this Department would have so many wonderful programs to help our youth in Palm Beach County, and that Youth Services is affiliated and working together with other agencies to support and help achieve a better future for our youth. It is amazing, and there is still so much more to be done.

6. What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

I like to read, be on Facebook, and when I can, I like Jazzercise and water aerobics.

7. What is the most important lesson you've learned in the last year?

There are so many people that are in a worse situation than where we stand, and sometimes we tend to forget this and feel sorry for ourselves. There is so much to give, and it is very rewarding when you do.

8. Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?

Portugal where my grandmother was from.

9. What is your favorite quote?

Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."
-Mattie Stepanek

10. Who or what inspires you?

When I read the scriptures, it soothes my anxieties, and helps me be a better person.

11. Is there something about you that your fellow coworkers would be surprised to know?

I wanted to be an airline stewardess when I was growing up, and travel all over the world. Needless to say, never became an airline stewardess, and have not been anywhere.

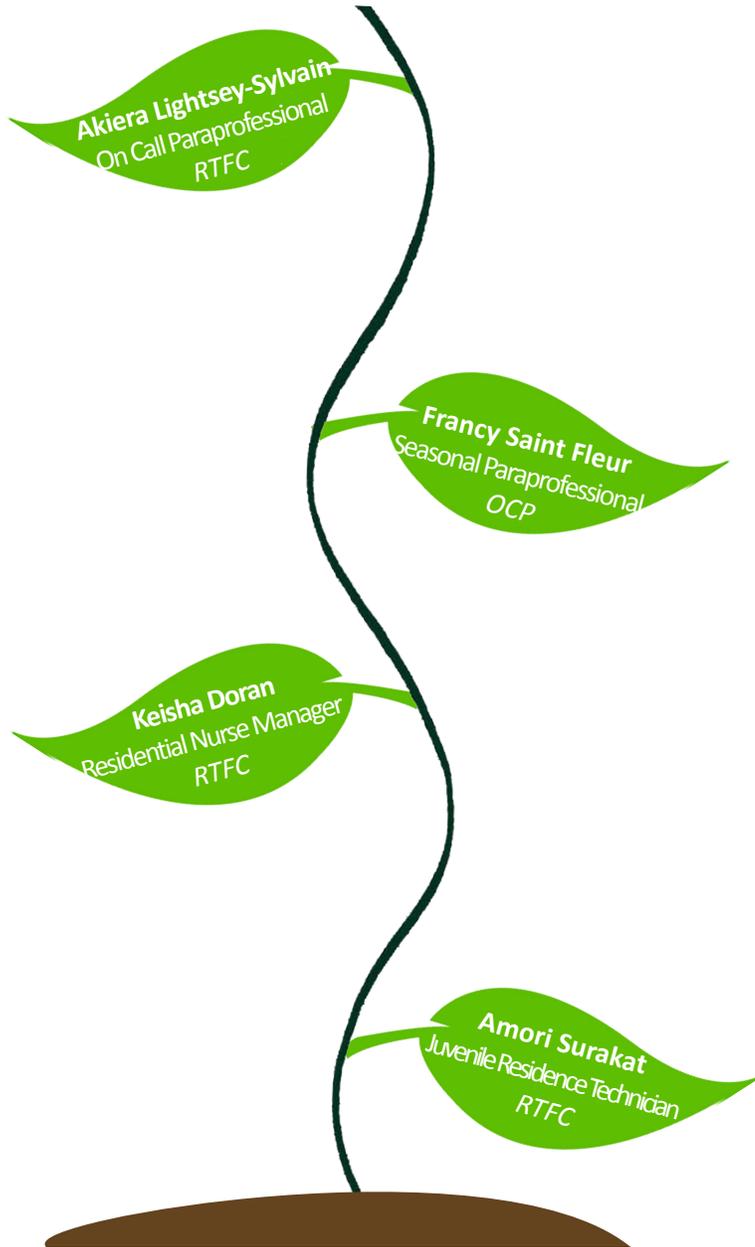
"Unity is strength ... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

- Mattie Stepanek

YSD is Growing!

Join us in welcoming our newest team members!

The following Youth Services employees were hired between July 1 and September 30.



Well Done!



Dr. Loren Berry, a psychologist with the Youth Services Education and Training Center has become a certified family trauma professional through the International Association of Trauma Professionals (IATP).

Congratulations!



Nohemi Medrano, LMHC, is the Youth Services Department's newly licensed family therapist. Congratulations, Nohemi!

Promotions



Berthard Duvelsaint
Juvenile Residence Technician
RTFC

Stacey King
Juvenile Domestic Violence
Mediation Program Coordinator
RTFC

Giselle Badillo
Secretary
RTFC

Retiring

Laurie Pine Farber
Juvenile Domestic Violence
Mediation Program Coordinator
RTFC

“Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Craig Kramer, PsyD, Youth Services postdoctoral resident at the Education and Training Center, presented on Child Abuse and Neglect to the Foster Grandparent Program at the Area Agency on Aging in West Palm Beach and the Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County in Boynton Beach in August.

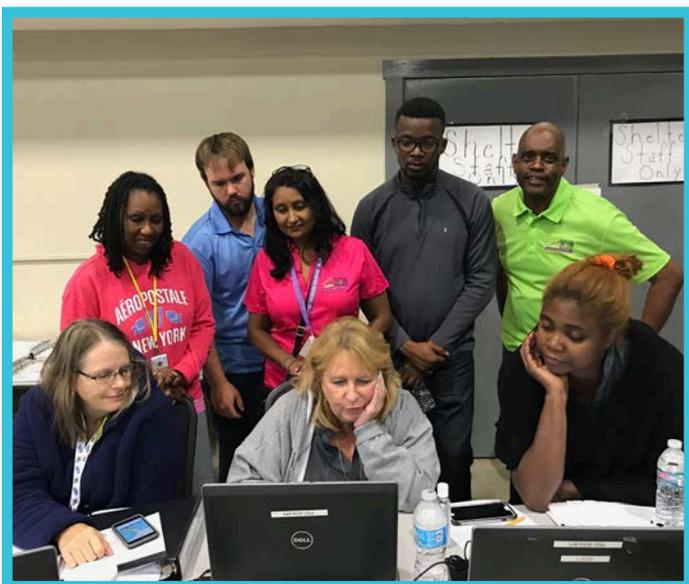


Ike Powell, Youth Services program specialist, participated in a Back to School event with Ties That Bind, Hi-Fives for Student Success, at U.B. Kinsey/Palmview Elementary School of the Arts on Aug. 14.



Youth Services Mental Health staff stayed at the Special Needs Shelter during Hurricane Irma.

(L to R) Residential Youth Counselor John Harre; Chief of Clinical Services at the Education and Training Center Dr. Shayna Ginsburg, Psy.D.; Psychologist Loren Berry, Psy.D.; Chief of Community Based Clinical Services Tanya Tibby, LCSW; and Licensed Family Therapist Beatriz Ayala



Preparing for the arrival of Hurricane Irma at the Special Needs Shelter: (Top L to R) Program Coordinator Jacqueline Burke, MSW; Program Coordinator Gus Wessel; Director of Outreach and Community Programming Geeta Loach-Jacobson; Planner Gregoy Gabriel; and Senior Program Specialist Ike Powell

(Bottom L to R) Contract Manager Barbara Wheeler, Youth Services Department Director and Shelter Manager Tammy Fields, and Chief of Community Based Clinical Services Tanya Tibby

Share Feedback and Stories!

Do you have feedback on our newsletter or have an awesome story to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Contact Youth Services
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@PBCYSD

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Director of Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services

Michelle Liska

Director of Outreach and Community Programming

Geeta Loach-Jacobson

Director of Residential Treatment and Family Counseling

Dr. Tony Spaniol

Editor/Graphics
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Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners