

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENTS



Volume 72 / Issue 25

*Committed to Positive Youth Outcomes
and Family Engagement*

UP CLOSE RONALD D. HUNTER



Ronald (Ron) D. Hunter, CEO of YOI, has experienced various career and life changes. Read below to understand his view on change.

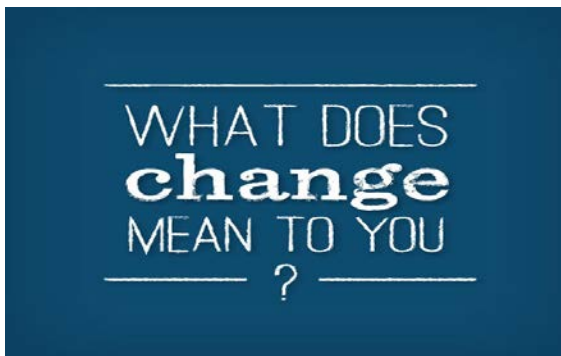
“Change Is a Chance”

Most often the word change means difficulty or uncertainty. In actuality change is a chance to explore alternatives, broaden our mobility & confidence circle in life. Change is challenge or better yet, a choice which can lead to improved relations with an individual or outcomes of a certain place or thing in our lives.

“EMBRACE CHANGE”

Change is one of the great tyrannies of life; you cannot prevent change, you can only accept it. Embrace change as your partner in progress.

God Bless



Celebrating YOU: June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

6/01 Lakisha Likely
6/01 Stephanie Zhao
6/03 Matthew Vincent
6/03 Reginald Woods
6/05 Consuelo Garvin
6/05 Dontavious Simon
6/06 Sharita Officer
6/07 Angel Rivera
6/11 Lionel Banks
6/12 Alvaro Guevara
6/12 Joseph McCall-Callender
6/12 Ralph Rodriguez
6/14 Aderemi Adeoba
6/14 Jamie Bechtol



6/17 Charles McCray
6/19 Wayman Dismukes
6/20 Robbin Barnes
6/20 Zelma Jackson
6/23 Ashlee Johnson
6/26 Patricia Burnett
6/27 Cassandra Davis
6/27 Stephanie Johnson
6/27 Julie Woods
6/28 Monti Bailey
6/28 Shannon Roggow
6/29 Valiant Bondie, II
6/29 Justin Cornell

Work Anniversaries

13 years: Mark Haley (MRYH)
7 years: Jewel Murray (TCSI), Alfred Scott (TCSI)
5 years: Ross McCauley (MRYH)
4 years: Johnnie Baldwin (TCSI), Cindy Stitt (MRYH)
2 years: Elizabeth Santamaria (TCSI)
1 year: Chanelle Ellison(TCSI), Marilyn Ledbetter (MRYH),
Melissa McBride (YOI), Joseph Nixon (KYA),
Pamela Porter (MRYH)



YOI/DCJC Partnership

YOI has served youth in collaboration with the Davidson County Juvenile Court (DCJC) for nearly two years. There has been meaningful progress during the past six months in transforming detention services into a therapeutic environment. We thank Judge Callaway and her staff for continued partnership in this transformation.



YOI and DCJC have partnered to participate in two national initiatives to include Reducing Isolation in youth facilities and a Juvenile Justice model data project. A special thanks to **Dallas Scott** and **Melissa McBride** for bringing success to the forefront!



Local College Students Hold School Supply Drive for TCSI

By Sharon Dearman, Director, Marketing and Development, The Center for Success & Independence, TX

Students from the Project Management class at Lone Star College of Kingwood, Texas, selected **The Center for Success and Independence (TCSI), TX** as the beneficiary of their semester “Project Growth” initiative. The college students presented the Center with journals, pencils, notebook paper and other school supplies needed by the teens who reside here during their treatment.



Youth at the Center attend class Monday through Friday in addition to participation in individual, group and family therapy sessions.

The Lone Star College students were tasked with identifying the needs of a local charity, raising the funds to support the project, and presenting their project to the charity’s leadership. The students will also present their project to Lone Star College faculty and students in May.

The Center and our youth truly appreciate the support of these local college students. We look forward to continuing to work with the Lone Star students and faculty who organized the school supply drive. With 95,000 students, Lone Star College is the largest institution of higher education in the Houston area and one of the fastest-growing community colleges in the nation.

MRYH Spotlight: Life Skills Coach, Denise Moore and Program

By J. Wing, Assistant Director of Operations, Muskegon River Youth Home



One of MRYH’s dedicated essential team members is Life Skills Coach, **Denise Moore**. Ms. Moore has worked at the facility for 11 years and has devoted 27 years to working with youth. The Life Skills Program was created to prepare clients for adulthood by giving them the vital information and tools needed to be successful and self-sufficient. In this program, Ms. Moore meets with clients in groups and individually when needed, to cover topics such as sex education, parenting

skills for expectant parents, career guidance, college preparation, job skills, personal finance and budgeting. Ms. Moore informs clients about assistance programs and makes necessary referrals. Ms. Moore also assists with preparing clients for discharge from the facility, including housing arrangements, financial assistance, and takes steps to ensure a continuum of care plan is in place for long term success.

Another Life Skills Program responsibility in which Ms. Moore takes great pride, is arranging adoption families for the youth. This is a rewarding, life-changing experience when a good match is made and a loving family is created. One of the proudest moments of Ms. Moore’s career was having a former client return to our facility and share that had it not been for her teachings in the Life Skills Program, they would not have survived independent living. Ms. Moore’s clients say that they learn a lot from her and know that she cares about them and their success.

Thank you, Ms. Moore, for your passion in all you do for our youth and organization; your impact is widespread and ever-lasting!

newsletter contact: communications@youthopportunity.com





YOI Morale Committees Honor Mothers

On Thursday May 11, 2017, the Morale Committee of **Broward Youth Treatment Center (BYTC)**, a non-secure program operated by **Youth Opportunity Investments (YOI)**, hosted a Mother’s Day brunch for its staff and teachers. The ladies were treated to a huge spread to include cheese grits, bagels, fish, waffles, fresh fruit, Haitian beef patties, biscuits, rolls, conch fritters, bacon and much more.



Program Director, Latoya Singletary is excited about the success of the brunch!



Mother's Day brunch at BYTC.

The women and some of the men showed their support by ensuring no food went to waste; they thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful gesture! In addition to the food, each Mother received a flower courtesy of Youth Opportunity Investments, corporate.

The following day, the Morale Committee of **Kissimmee Youth Academy (KYA)**, a secure program operated by YOI, hosted their own Mother’s Day event. The Mothers were treated to several types of danishes and fresh fruit while also receiving a gift bag from every woman’s favorite, Bath and Body Works. The Mothers were extremely impressed by not only how much thought was put into the event but more notably that the committee didn’t just give them samples but actual full-size body cream and body sprays.



KYA Mothers posing after receiving their Bath & Body Works gifts.

YOI and its leadership team has made the Morale Committee a priority in its programs. The Morale Committee is not just an event planning committee or a random place to vent. It serves as an opportunity for staff to be an integral part of program planning and implementation. It’s a strategic initiative that has been placed into policy to ensure action. The Morale Committees of YOI has a vision, serves as a place for information gathering and information sharing, has a budget and has the support of program administration. As a result, happier staff leads to happier kids; the proverbial win-win.

Youth Opportunity Investments: The Name Says It All!

According to [Inc. Magazine](#), a company’s name “...plays a monumental role in [company] growth.” It’s how people find us on the internet, refer to us when talking to others, and it is a valuable resource – It Is Our Brand! So, when you refer to the company, especially in written communication, please remember that our official corporate name is:

Youth Opportunity Investments





Committed to Positive Youth Outcomes and Family Engagement

Spring-Bling SPRING BREAK at DCJDC

By Dallas A. Scott, MS, Director of Program Support



Recently, students and staff at Davidson County participated in several SPRING BREAK events hosted by Program Administration & Shift Managers. The events included Baby



Think It Over, Big Mac Bingo, Yoga Mindfulness, Basketball Shoot

Out, Spaghetti-Building, and an Awards Ceremony and BBQ at the end of the week! Both staff and youth had a great time and planning has already begun for the upcoming "FUN IN THE SUN EVENTS" scheduled for the 4th of JULY 2017!



A "Family" Reunion

Burt lived at the **Muskegon River Youth Center (Ladoga)** formerly The Indiana Children's Christian Home (ICCH), from 1991-1993. He was eleven years old when he first arrived. Twenty-five years later, Burt started to wonder where his ICCH "family" was and this sparked his desire to schedule a reunion. **Youth Opportunity Investments** collaborated with Burt to make sure the April 29th



reunion would be an event to remember. Burt worked tirelessly in anticipation of the event that included food, games, music and karaoke. The attendees shared memories, a good time and tears of joy & closure. YOI provided the reunion

site, food and drinks donated by **table by Market District** and **Bru Burger**, and helped coordinate a tour of the former home. The attendees, including former teachers, staff, and residents, shared words of appreciation and thanks to **Ronald D. Hunter, David Bower** and Youth Opportunity Investments for helping to make the event a success.



"Gratitude is showing appreciation from the Heart" – Ronald D. Hunter



Prayer Path