

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENTS



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*Committed to Positive Youth Outcomes
and Family Engagement*

UP CLOSE WITH RONALD D. HUNTER



Ronald (Ron) D. Hunter, CEO of YOI, is inspired every day. Ron was asked what inspires him; read the article below to learn more.

“What Inspires me?” I am often asked the question “What Inspires me.” When we take measure of life and all it has to offer inspiration has many faces.

When I see a single working, mother being the best she can be at work, with her children and finding the time and spirit to help others, that’s inspiring!

I am inspired when I watch a friend operate several companies while never missing his children’s events-even if it means rising at three o’clock in the morning catching a flight across country to be there (he is a quadriplegic with no use of his arms and legs, only his beautiful mind) – “That’s inspirational.”

“Inspiration has many faces”

When I see, someone helping the less fortunate without asking anything in return-that’s inspiring!

What inspires me is knowing “when the heart is right-the mind is right.”

God Bless

DCJDC: Changing Lives



Changing Minds

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

Starting April 2017, the youth of Davidson County Youth Center (DCJDC) began YOGA classes that will be offered 2x a week.

Yoga can offer stress reduction in the way the students are able to manipulate their bodies and provides a mindfulness element of the practice; teens will find relief and learn to balance their lives.



When teens begin to match their breath to movement, they begin to slow down and notice what their bodies are saying to them. Coming in tune with the needs of the body lets you nourish it in ways that you may ignore under the stress of daily life. Teens can use the breathing exercises outside the yoga class as well, calling on their breath to bring calm to chaotic situations. Additionally, during each class the hope is that each youth is allowed to experience guided meditation which allows the teens to leave behind their busy lives for a peaceful oasis within their minds.



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BYTC Career Day

On March 23, 2017, Broward Youth Treatment Center (BYTC), a non-secure program for boys, ages 13 to 18, which is operated by Youth Opportunity Investments, LLC (YOI), hosted a “Career Day” for their youth.

Community volunteers varied from lawyers, activist, motivational speakers, superintendents, authors and music

producers. The facility wanted to highlight some non-traditional jobs to inspire our youth into becoming entrepreneurs. Showcasing the road to success can come in many forms with hard work, passion and discipline.



The youth were very excited for the information learned. **One youth stated he wanted to proceed further into opening up his own barbershop.** The “Career Day” was held during school times therefore, the youth were grateful for a different learning experience. We would like to thank our community leaders and educators for making our career day a success.

Happy 18th Birthday, TCSI!

The Center for Success and Independence celebrated its 18th birthday on April 15, 2017, with a weekend chock-full of festivities. The fun began on Friday with the Center’s annual Easter Egg hunt. In addition to candy and other treats, special prizes in some of the eggs included outings with staff members for lunch, ice cream, donuts, haircuts and manicures. That afternoon, the boys and girls feasted at a crawfish boil.



The teens continued the celebration on Saturday with Field Day activities along with a cookout. Clients and their families as well as staff enjoyed a festive birthday cake decorated with the Center’s logo. The weekend celebration wrapped up with the clients decorating cookies with volunteers on Sunday. It was definitely a “full” and memorable birthday weekend for Center clients and staff alike.



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MUSKEGON RIVER YOUTH HOME HAPPENINGS



BY J. WING, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, MUSKEGON RIVER YOUTH HOME

Spring is upon us and warmer weather leads to progress for several projects at the Muskegon River Youth Home (MRYH) in Evart, MI. Construction is ongoing outside the Reflective Treatment Unit with contractors expected to begin pouring cement for an outdoor recreation area. This secured area will greatly enhance the options for clients to enjoy outdoor activities and they are eager to see completion.

Another project we are excited to work on and develop is the creation of several outdoor garden boxes that our non-secure clients will be able to utilize. Clients will be able to enjoy eating and learning the nutritional benefits that come with growing fresh vegetables and they will also develop a sense of pride and responsibility in helping to take care of the plants and watching them grow.



PREA audits recently occurred at both this facility and the Pathway of Hope facility. We are proud to report again we were certified as being fully compliant with the PREA juvenile standards at both facilities.

Staff in service training is ongoing and always expanding to include new areas to promote staff development and better prepare them for situations they may face. Recently, employees underwent a powerful webcast training on recognizing and dealing with clients having experienced past trauma.

There are several new faces around campus that are contributing to the mission and working hard to make a positive impact at MRYH. This includes several new Direct Care Staff, new Counselors and also myself, the proud new Assistant Director of Operations. I bring a diverse background from several aspects of Criminal Justice from Law Enforcement to Offender Success along with my passion for mentoring and helping youth be the best they can be. I am excited to be here and part of the team and take pride in what we do here. We are actively recruiting for additional Direct Care staff so please send quality candidates our way.

Spotlight on Kissimmee Youth Academy



On April 5th, 2017 Kissimmee Youth Academy, a 46-bed high-risk program for boys ages 14-21 that provide mental health overlay

services (MHOS), substance abuse overlay services (SAOS) and services for youth that are borderline developmentally delayed (BDD/DD) welcomed Just Be U (JBU) mentors Mr. Kelvin Mattair and Mr. Sampson Jackson. JBU is a non-profit organization that provides mentorship to at risk youth based on 9 principles. Self-Respect, Honoring Family, Universal Appearance, Healthy Lifestyles, Respect Womanhood, Accepting Accountability, Never Giving Up, Positive Decision Making and Visionary Goal Setting. The youth were heavily engaged while both mentors spoke about the challenges they faced navigating the various pitfalls of life. Throughout the speech, the youth asked a barrage of questions on how to Just Be U! The interest level has increased amongst our youth and they have solicited for both mentors to come and visit with them regularly.

