

THE RIGHT WAY

RIGHT YOUTH. RIGHT PLACE. RIGHT TIME.



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COVID-19 Challenge

The last 90 days have been some of the most challenging and daunting times of our lives. We have and will continue to be tested mentally and physically while we systematically adjust to this unique burden thrust upon us.

Sometimes an unexpected challenge is what we need to wake up the soul. My hope for all who have done so much in the face of this unexpected pandemic is that we find the courage and faith to not only endure, but remain true to our values and love for each other. We have a very special purpose and role to play for the the youth entrusted to our care.

This is an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of all who meet and deal with us each day.





Crestview Youth Academy

Crestview Youth Academy had a special guest come and speak to the youth. Mr. Kent Osborne is an experienced Youth Motivational Speaker & Recording Artist. He travels all around the globe speaking to misguided youth and has a demonstrated history of working in the speaking industry. His mission is to keep youth out of prison by sharing his life experiences, which he now uses as a blueprint to success by teaching the youth not to make the same mistakes he did. The youth were very engaged while Mr. Osborne spoke to them, and really enjoyed having him at the program!



Kissimmee Youth Academy



Are you ready to be entertained? That's exactly what the youth at KYA provided on Wild Out Wednesday! The Magic Allstars took on the Celtic/Sun's Allstars in a head to head battle of hip hop comedic vernacular! Youth displayed their freestyle rap and comedy wit in a series of topics provided by AFA's Mr. Manny & Mr. Nixon! The Clinical Team were judges and The Magic Mod was crowned champions.

This was a fun filled event that had our youth actively engaged and they are looking forward to competing in the future. Thanks to all the staff and youth who participated!



Ocala Youth Academy

Ocala Youth Academy hosted its very first Narcotics Anonymous group meeting. Narcotics Anonymous was gracious enough to send us four wonderful souls to share and shed light on their stories.

Each speaker went into great detail, creating vivid images that resonated and related to our youth's plight towards self-betterment and sobriety. The men made it clear that they were not proud of the things they had done, but took full responsibility for their choices, which was the overall and prevailing message for the evening.

Our guest speakers stressed the importance of them seizing the opportunities that lie before them each day. A great deal of our youth gravitated toward this message and had so many questions that we did not have time to answer them all.

We'd like to thank Rec Therapist Rashard Coleman for reaching out to Narcotics Anonymous. Hopefully this a door opened so that we can further our relationship. This was definitely a night to remember.

DO
Amazing
THINGS!





Broward Youth Treatment Center

“Choose a job you love and you’ll never work a day in your life.” Thanks to our extraordinary education department for putting on a great Career Day, right before the “safer at home” orders went into effect. The youth of Broward Youth Treatment Center were visited by several people who were specialists in their field. In attendance was a Financial Advisor, Police Officer, Contractor and a Marine. The gentlemen shared with the youth not just what they do for a living, but what got them to that particular destination in life. One of the youth says he really could relate to the Financial Advisor’s life story and he enjoyed the stories he shared about the way he overcame all of his obstacles to now becoming something great in his life.

It’s not about where you start, but about your drive to the finish line and how eager you are to finish as a great achiever. When most people think of “culinary arts” they mostly think of just cooking food. Culinary arts includes more than just cooking. It also includes menu planning, supervising and training kitchen assistants, the management of food supplies and kitchen resources, aesthetics of food presentation --- all of which our youth learn in the Culinary Arts program. Broward Youth have the privilege to take a course in culinary arts to obtain their Safe Serv certification.

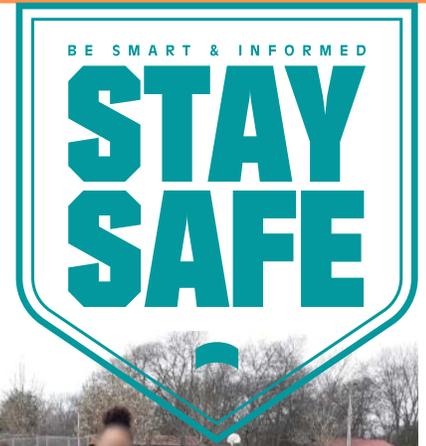
Not only are we proud of our Culinary Arts program, but we just recently had a youth obtain his diploma. When asked what his future aspirations are, he stated, “I want to become an attorney. I’m going to school to study law and I want to start looking up law schools.” Whatever their aspirations may be, whether it’s a career in plumbing or becoming a doctor, we encourage it all, because the world needs every career just as much to thrive.



Mt. Juliet Youth Academy

Following a difficult month of March for the community, including a F4 Tornado, Mt. Juliet Youth Academy came together and took cases of water and other supplies to the Mount Juliet Community Center to donate supplies toward the relief efforts.

We've been trying to make the best of the "safer at home" orders related to the COVID-19 lockdown. We have had several "activity days", fun meals, and parties for staff to try and relieve some of the stress that has been brought on with the current circumstances. For one of the activities, the youth were split up into four teams, and staff were the fifth team. Each team was required to use their team building skills. Then the winners of each game won a prize and each youth received a goodie bag for participating in the various projects.



Elizabethton Youth Academy

Our youth were able to celebrate the "Lucky" month of March by creating wishes on our shamrock wall and eating Green Eggs and Ham. The youth were very focused on their education this month and several have come very close to graduating.

Given the current world climate, our youth have done well with completing visits virtually via computer and having more phone calls with their family and workers.

Our Employee Morale Committee was in full swing this month, including a raffle for several great items and a "Moose Kissing Booth" to raise money for our next Employee Morale Outing.

Bledsoe Youth Academy

Our youth have been enjoying various incentive activities like basketball on our brand-new courts (with two very nice goals), music from our boom box, video gaming systems, art projects and various motivational activities. When Youth Opportunity took over management, the program had 18 youth assigned. The program's physical plant needed numerous repairs and upgrades, many of which have been completed recently. Some of these completed renovations within the building were:

- Remodeling of the building – this included repairing plumbing and bathroom tiles, sealing the showers, and adding new toilets and fixtures; new wooden bunk beds replaced the metal ones, all youth rooms were painted in fresh white with Carolina blue trim, and all youth storage cubbies were reconfigured for 5 youth per room and painted; fencing was added and the new basketball court was poured, giving the youth ample amounts of yard space for them to be able to play group sports; lastly there were several additional build-outs that now provide additional dayroom space, office spaces, and several other functional spaces used for storage.
- Issuing of school uniforms
- Educational Initiatives – youth learned how to make a lava lamp in Science class; they were also given all the fun ingredients to make hot fudge sundaes; and we introduced Milk Shake Mondays, which the youth look forward to!
- Issuing of Report Cards to the students

The administration, faculty, and staff at Bledsoe Youth Academy are proud of our youth and the constant positive choices they are making towards successfully completing their programs.





Memphis Youth Academy

It doesn't matter if we are on the outside or the inside, Memphis Youth Academy is always "flowing" with creativity. Recently for recreation, the residents were encouraged to let their creative juices flow. The residents were put in two groups, asked to come up with songs, poems and raps that would rhyme with a particular word that was given to them by the Recreation Specialist and other staff.

The residents were encouraged to work with each other and to remain positive. They had 10 minutes to create their songs. The young men soared above and beyond the call of creativity. The young men were also encouraged to dance this month. Dancing and creating music brought about an absolutely different spirit and atmosphere. This is why we often do various activities surrounding music.

Our residents had so much fun and their innovative minds and imaginations were outstanding. It is amazing what happens when we encourage our young people to do what they love and do it modestly.



Cleveland Youth Academy



It has turned out to be a very trying month for us at Cleveland Academy and all over the world. COVID-19 has halted all outside activity for us but we haven't let it stop us! Our youth and staff were excited to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! The halls of the academy were St. Patty's Day themed - from rainbow walls to cloverleaves and leprechauns. We were able to watch a movie about the history and purpose of St. Patrick's Day. In the spirit of the holiday, we all wore green and even baked green cupcakes! Even though we aren't able to go out, we still found gold at the end of our rainbow!



Lebanon Youth Academy

Lebanon Youth Academy kicked the month off with our youth continuing to enjoy incentive activities like going to the movies, and a college basketball game before the COVID-19 restrictions on travel were implemented. Lebanon Youth Academy's Cultural Diversity Project for the month was our infamous scavenger hunt. Lebanon Youth Academy celebrated St. Patrick's Day and Irish American heritage by teaming up with their peers to complete a scavenger hunt around Lebanon Youth Academy. Therapists and staff led a discussion on the history of St. Patrick's Day and Irish American heritage with residents at Lebanon Youth Academy.

Following the discussion, residents and staff were tasked with understanding the concept of working as a team to solve clues and complete the St. Patrick's Day scavenger hunt. Residents, with the help of staff, were asked to complete a scavenger hunt with their team members by following clues to lead them to the "pot of gold". Upon completion of the scavenger hunt, Residents and staff shared in sweet treats and green Kool-Aide to celebrate their accomplishment and St. Patrick's Day fun.

Due to the current condition of our country, we have not been able to get out into the community like we would like to, but we made the most out of it here on campus! We spent most of the month working on our ListenUP Project, which is an art contest between multiple residential facilities. The purpose of the contest is for youth to spread messages that concern them to adults through their personal artwork. Paint, canvases, markers and many other supplies were given to us by Oasis Center to help us prepare for the event. This project brought much excitement to our TOPS program, and we are looking forward to seeing how our art entries hold up in the contest!





Pathway Youth Academy

This month has been quite different, as it has been for everyone. The COVID-19 pandemic has kept us secluded, but we have made the best of it. We have attempted to keep our schedule as normal as possible. Our Residents are participating in online school at Pathway. We have taken some outside adventures by going to Hartwick Pines, some of the local parks, and hiking many of the trails.

We had a fun project for the month that the girls finished. The project started with having the girls use their creativity and make rainbows out of colored paper. The topic was, "What makes me unique," and the girls were asked to list these characteristics on their rainbows that they made. It was nice to hear the girls comment about each other's positive characteristics.



Evart Youth Academy



Many of our youth come into our care because of some not so great circumstances they have endured or have caused. This does not mean they are not people and deserve some normalcy in their lives. We currently have a young lady with us who is expecting her first child and will be going into an independent living situation once she leaves.

Our staff worked hard to surprise her with a gender reveal baby shower! She was showered with diapers and numerous other things for the baby as well as her favorite foods.

The look on her face was priceless, and was the very reason we put this together for her!



baby



Rockdale Youth Academy

In hopes of keeping the youth in good spirits and not overly worrying about what is going on in the outside world, specifically with their loved ones, we added activities to keep them busy. This includes arts and crafts, games like facility wide Bingo where the numbers are called out by radio to all the dorms, where all can play at the same time. Another favorite is music trivia where music is played over the radio and each dorm has a chance to guess the name of the song, and the artist that sang it. We have some competitive kids! The therapist and case managers spend extra time with the kids and play games and cards with them.

The most popular event this month was a basketball tournament. Members of administration and supervisors volunteered to coach teams of randomly selected youth. Using a makeshift scoreboard, through the span of two weeks, games were played until the final two teams remained. The winning team will have their picture taken and placed beside a plaque for all who pass the hall way to see, and a pizza party! This was such a success that we decided to have this tournament every year and build our wall of fame with pictures of every championship winning team. We may have to do it twice a year!



Dermott Youth Academy

Despite these trying times for our youth and staff here at Dermott Youth Academy, we are still managing to have a great time. We held our “Family Day” as well as “Youth Achievement Awards”. For Family Day, we had a very large turnout totaling 76 visitors! Our “FA’s Outstanding Youth Award” of the Quarter was youth IB. Youth IB has shown tremendous progress through the iChoose System™, as well as with treatment.

We also wanted to make sure to mention that “Carpenters Daughters” broke ground on the new storage room that the youth are building in one of our vocational programs. Lastly, we couldn’t let the month of March pass without any March Madness. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, outings, visitation, and most movements were restricted. So we took to our own courts and held a March Madness 3 on 3 Tournament with the dorms. Dorm A was the proud champion of the tourney!



Lewisville Youth Academy

We've had a very busy month here at Lewisville Youth Academy with several exciting events! At the end of March, we had our awards ceremony. The treatment team has found the award ceremony to be a way to reinforce positive behaviors. On a monthly basis, the youth look forward to the award ceremony because they enjoy the recognition that they receive from the treatment team as well as from their peers. We also had our Spring Fling field day. The youth enjoyed a fun filled day of being outside, playing games and interacting with education teachers without the school work. There were plenty of games for the youth to play, and some of their favorite treats for them to snack on. The teachers did a great job of engaging with the youth to create a day of fun in the sun.



Mansfield Youth Academy

We are so grateful in Mansfield that we were able to hold our quarterly Family Day right before contact restrictions were implemented. We had 30 visitors for our youth from siblings, to parents, and grandparents. Blending a mix of conversation and game time with a BBQ lunch, we also provided family therapy and campus tours of our model bungalow. It was a great success that we capped off with our new tradition of offering family photos to capture the memories.



Since the visitation restrictions, we happily report that we are safe and healthy on campus. Our groups are taking an active role in creating visual reminders and tools, increasing engagement and bringing a strong hands-on learning opportunity. Our wood shop is in place with Paxton Patterson classes resuming, and the boys have built tables and flower boxes to further beautify our campus. We are working to keep family relationships in place, despite the visitation restrictions, by increasing the time/frequency of calls home, including video calls when available. Our boys love getting to see their loved ones.



Youth Opportunity at a Glance

Youth Opportunity was founded in 2009. Our corporate headquarters are located in Carmel, Indiana and our regional headquarters are located in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Youth Opportunity has multiple locations with an operational presence in Michigan, Tennessee, Florida, Texas, and Arkansas with specialized programming ranging from substance abuse to sexually reactive rehabilitation.

With a national established footprint combined with a dynamic team of seasoned leaders, Youth Opportunity is uniquely positioned to offer best in class care in an effective and therapeutic environment.

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