



THE RIGHT WAY

Right Youth . Right Place. Right Time.



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Physical Fitness correlates to
Intellectual Creativity

Light the Night and Start the
New Year

Excelling Beyond- Awards,
Tournaments & Graduation



Investing in Excellence

Excellence is not a skill – it’s an attitude “Investing in Excellence” is more than a mantra at Youth Opportunity. Investing in excellence is a culture; it’s a commitment to our youth, families, employees, and the communities we serve. By becoming better team members, we enable better youth, creating a better society which creates a better world. Being better leaders means being more educated in all areas of our programming and care. Education is not expensive; ignorance is. The recent Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee was a tremendous success in so many ways. Everyone in attendance came away with a sense of purpose and personal commitment to be a better leader and servant to our mission of helping at-risk youth across America. The purpose of the Leadership Conference was to unite and create a company-wide culture in delivering outcomes with fidelity and compliance, through a uniform and comprehensive process across the Youth Opportunity national continuum of care. We are looking forward to the next Leadership Conference with tremendous enthusiasm!



EVART YOUTH ACADEMY *Ewart, MI*



The first snow of the year in Ewart, Michigan called for some outdoor activities for youth and staff. At one point it was hard to tell who was enjoying themselves more, youth playing in the snow or the supervising staff watching them enjoy themselves. The youth went sledding and used their creativity to build some awesome snowmen. One youth made a “mini-me” snowman, complete with his hairstyle. It’s amazing what a little bit of snow can do to the true spirit of the youth. For a brief period they are transformed. It was a remarkable sight to see and experience. Featured below is Ms. Jen Mohler, Director of Programming for the Ewart campus. Ms. Mohler is always working on creative activities for the staff and youth. During the month of December she put in many hours of Christmas shopping and wrapping presents for the youth. In addition, Ms. Moehler facilitated a secret Santa gift exchange for staff



and hosted a holiday luncheon with prizes. She is very dedicated to recognizing the hard work and dedication of the staff. During the month of January Ms. Mohler created certificates of recognition for the staff and presented them during an all staff training, honoring many for their years of service. She continuously goes above and beyond for both staff and youth. Its great to have individuals on the team who are dedicated to the youth and proactive in making sure that they know they are loved and cared for.

NEW HOPE YOUTH ACADEMY

Mt. Pleasant, MI



New Year, New Hope, New Opportunities! The goal is to start the New Year off in a positive direction. Staff at New Hope are working hard to provide hope and purpose for the youth. They are diligently working to get them acclimated to real life events that a typical teenager would experience. Part of these efforts include the youth having the opportunity to attend Money Courts, a fitness center with recreational options. They also enjoyed a trip to Discovery Museum located in Mount Pleasant , MI. The museum was developed to inspire creativity and exploration for youth. The many hands on activities were enjoyed by all those in attendance.



“Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity - John F. Kennedy”



PATHWAY OF HOPE YOUTH ACADEMY Evart, MI



The youth at Pathway enjoyed some leisure time while on holiday break. The weather was unseasonably warm allowing the youth to spend some quality time outside. The youth built snowmen, went hiking and also exploring. In addition they have spent time accessing their creative sides. They made slime, baked cookies and pies, made 3-D snowflakes and several other crafts. They are excited about returning back to school and knocking the end of the year out of the park. They have many extracurricular activities coming up in the near future, including basketball , wrestling , and of course a *Snowcoming Dance*. The near future includes sledding and ice skating for everyone's pleasure.



ROCKDALE YOUTH ACADEMY Rockdale, TX

Christmas was a very big deal on the Rockdale campus. The youth enjoyed receiving stockings stuffed with goodies and a very personalized breakfast made by the Administrative Staff. The breakfast was very diverse and included tamales, bacon, burritos, donuts, kolaches, chocolate milk and orange juice. Every year staff ensure that each student receives a Christmas present by creating an angel tree. Staff chose a student and bring them a gift to open during the annual Christmas party. It was heartwarming and emotional to hear that ,for some, this was the only Christmas gift they have ever received. There are some great students who are always very thankful. The staff were good sports too by wearing their ugly Christmas sweaters to entertain the youth.



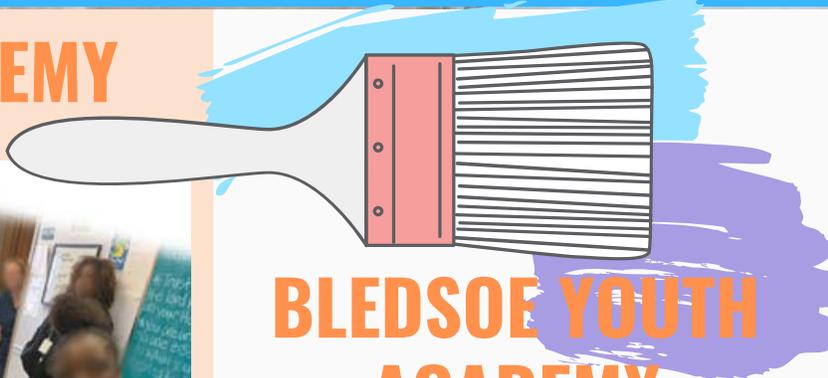


CLEVELAND YOUTH ACADEMY

Cleveland, TN



Youth at Cleveland had the opportunity to “Light the Night” on New Year’s Eve. Staff decorated the campus with glow in the dark balloons and youth received glow in the dark necklaces and bracelets. A fun time was had by all ringing in the New Year! The New Year’s celebrations continued with some new experiences. The youth were treated to an authentic Crab Boil with all the fixings: crab, potatoes, corn, eggs and butter dipping sauce. Several of our youth had never tried crab legs before, let alone attended a Crab Boil. It was a real treat for everyone!



BLED SOE YOUTH ACADEMY

Gallatin, TN

Bledsoe is continuing to make the campus feel like a home. To begin, staff threw a Christmas party for the youth. Everyone played games, laughed and thoroughly enjoyed each others company. The youth have also received their first round of uniform pajamas. They were very excited about them. They have also enjoyed learning some technical skills by assisting with repairs and painting the building.





LEBANON YOUTH ACADEMY Lebanon, TN



Lebanon has enjoyed a wonderful holiday season, and hopefully it has brought some joy into the lives of the young students there. Over the last six weeks or so they have conducted 10 in house incentives which included McDonald's Monday and Fun Friday, sponsored by the education staff. They have also received 18 incentive outings These scheduled outings come from the suggestions of our Youth Advisory Committee. They communicate with program staff, to plan monthly cost-effective outings for the boys to enjoy as a reward for positive behavior. The outings have included local parks, skating rinks, community recreation centers, Movie's at the theater, college basketball game, trampoline parks and

laser tag. These incentives are earned by exemplary weekend behaviors, which include youth receiving no disciplinary consequences from Friday to Monday morning; and maintaining a standard of work and behavior during the school week. During this winter season our youth also received brand new winter coats and volunteer gift bags from the local church support groups.

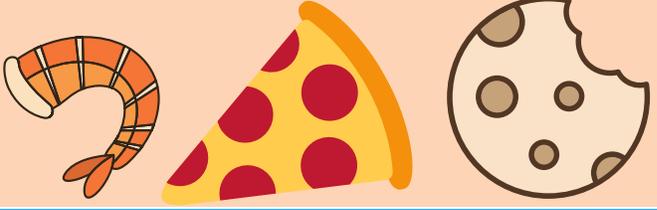


ELIZABETHTON YOUTH ACADEMY

Elizabethton, TN



Youth were able to spend time with their families towards the end of the year. Youth decorated the campus for their Family Day Celebration and developed the delicious menu. The menu consisted of steak, shrimp, fried chicken and a host of other sides and dessert. The youth at Elizabethton participated in a few events to help them bring in the New Year. They took a trip to visit the Bristol Speedway in Lights as their monthly incentive. As they said goodbye to 2019, the youth started the year off right with a New Years pizza and hot wing party.



HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

MEMPHIS YOUTH ACADEMY

Bartlett, TN



Music, dancing and LOTS of food. This is how youth from Memphis brought in their New Years. The young men rang the New Year in with joy. The young men have a vision for their future. On New Year's Day youth created their own personal vision boards. What will you be doing in 2020 and what are your life's goals? These were the question that were asked of them before they put their creative minds to work. The youth were encouraged to see themselves in a positive light. The boards were designed with pictures that represented making a difference in the community, graduating from high school and going to the prom. " Without vision the people perish" - Ronald Reagan.



MT. JULIET YOUTH ACADEMY

Mt. Juliet, TN

Mt. Juliet youth have been shown the love and care they deserve over the past month. Celebrating National Mentor month Steadfast Mentoring hosted a night filled with dinner and games for the youth. The night was filled with laughter, fun and A LOT of game playing. The very next day youth were visited by employees from Crye-Leike. With them came the Hunt Brothers Pizza Truck. The youth were able to create their own pizza with whatever toppings they desired. The Crye -Leike team also brought the youth duffle bags embroidered with their names and filled with gifts.





DAVIDSON COUNTY JUVENILE CENTER

Nashville, TN



During the previous month Davidson staff celebrated the youth and their accomplishments. Staff held a Christmas celebration consisting of music, food, spoken word and a video game tournament. The students were excited to play against each other and staff. The students are very skilled in everything they do. Students spent Christmas Day eating all sorts of food (fried chicken, baked chicken, glazed ham, turnip greens, sweet potatoes, Mac N Cheese, buttered rolls, banana pudding)! The day was also spent doing crafts, playing games, and other fun activities.

BROOKSVILLE YOUTH ACADEMY

Brooksville, FL



To finish off a great year, five youth from Brooksville, were invited to the Nature Coast Technical High School basketball tournament. The youth were able to watch three different games over the course of the tournament. In between games, they enjoyed snacks from the concession stand. The youth were picked by Mr. Lonnie White, who is the Lab Manager at Brooksville through Hernando County School Board. Mr. White also serves as the Junior Varsity Girls Basketball coach at Nature Coast High School. The youth were excited to be in the stands watching the games and cheering the players on!



BROWARD YOUTH ACADEMY *Pembroke Pines, FL*



The youth at Broward participated in a CARES mentoring event at Miami Art Basel. The artwork at the museum brought out intriguing conversations from the youth. It really inspired most of the youth to start taking their artwork serious, especially when they found out how much most of the artwork was being sold for. CARES is a pioneering, community-mobilization initiative dedicated to healing the effects of centuries of structural disparities that are destroying multitudes of Black children’s lives. Mentoring works miracles. We meet our mandate to break the cycle of generational Black poverty by building a bridge to healing and wellness in mind, body, spirit and community in those places where

Black children are losing ground. Across the nation, CARES recruits, trains and places caring, culturally competent mentors in schools and youth-support organizations desperate for Black volunteers. As part of our vocational programming at Broward Youth Treatment Center, we are always working to set up different types of trips for the youth to go on. We try to focus the visits on different sites that will expand their minds to the variety of career opportunities that await them. Recently our youth had the opportunity to visit the Hilton Hotel “Embassy Suites”. Our hosts gave the youth an amazing tour and treated them to a delicious continental breakfast. Being enlightened by the benefits of working at the Hilton gave the youth a new perspective on what to look for in future employment. We also hosted a Family Day recently at Broward Youth Treatment Center. This was a time where the family of the youth could come within a certain time frame to enjoy, play, and engage with each youth. To watch the families engage with one another in the way that they did placed a warm feeling in our hearts like never before. On this particular Family Day, we were thankful for all the parents/guardians that participated. We were also grateful for all the things that we have, which is family.



TEACH

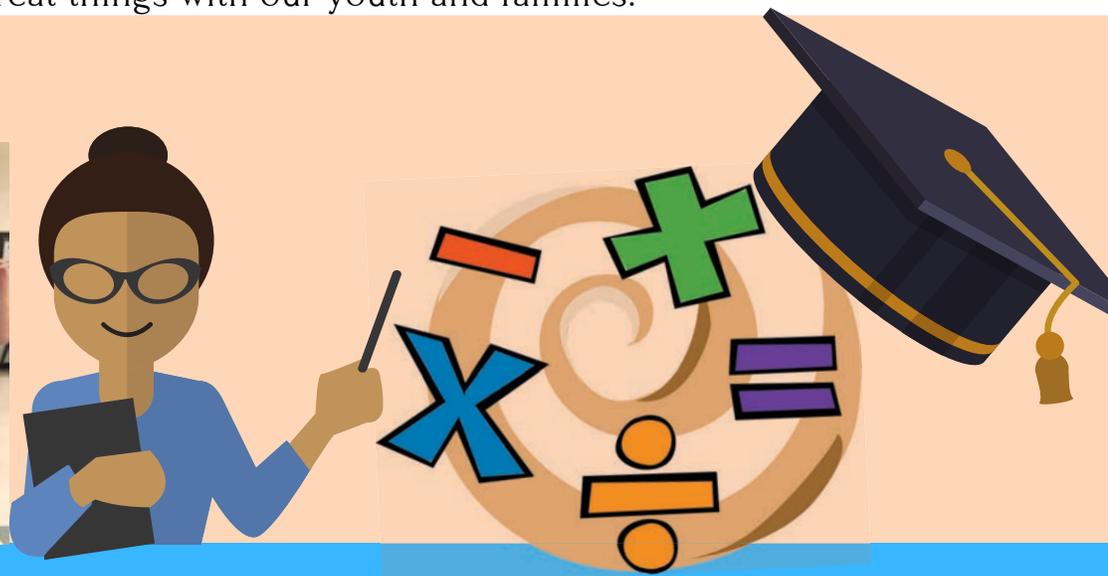
CRESTVIEW YOUTH ACADEMY *Crestview, FL*



Crestview is believed to have some of the best teachers in the state of Florida! The teachers go above and beyond to make sure that youth live up to their true potential. Ms. Olive, a Crestview math teacher, has taken time to create her very own Math Awards ceremony. The youth that were honored are excelling above all the youth in the program! The young men at Crestview have reached so many great milestones after overcoming some extremely tough obstacles. They continue to prove that there is hope within this generation. The campus ended this year by graduating two more youth, which brings the overall total to 15 graduates! Fifteen young men who have achieved something that they would have never thought was possible prior to coming to this program. In addition to celebrating the graduates, the campus has celebrated other huge accomplishments. Department of Juvenile Justice's NW Regional Director of Residential Services, Lori Jernigan,



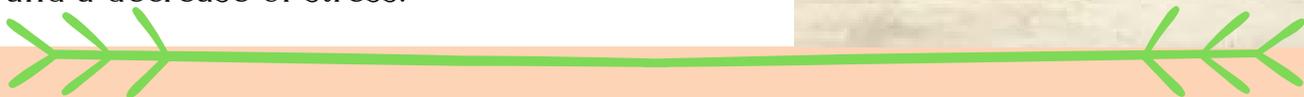
joined Brian Neupaver (Youth Opportunity Chief Operating Officer) and Joseph Nixon (Youth Opportunity VP of Florida Programs) to honor Crestview Youth Academy's success in receiving the Youth Opportunity Investing in Excellence 3rd quarter trophy. Teamwork, Leadership and Culture have been evident through Crestview's commitment to providing quality services, creative programming and divergent thinking. This is reflected in their work with the youth, ultimately demonstrating outstanding achievements across all disciplines. As a team, they have continued to work hard and cohesively to improve systems and in strengthening areas of safety and security within the program, while continuing to accomplish great things with our youth and families.





KISSIMMEE YOUTH ACADEMY Kissimmee, FL

To kick the year off, Kissimmee proudly hosted a basketball game against Orange Youth Academy. Mr. Manny and Mr. Curry selected great players from Kissimmee to compete for a fun-filled event. Our youth were very eager to engage in a good game of basketball with the youth from Orange and did an awesome job of working as a team resulting in a 20 point win over the other team. Both teams showed off their skills on the court. Our youth were so energetic dribbling up and down the court. They were passing the ball for fast-break runs, doing layups, and shooting shots off the backboard. The Clinical team at Kissimmee Youth Academy were recently able to partake in a “Yoga” session. The session was led by certified yoga instructor Ms. Robin Williams. Staff were engaged in a variety of yoga routines that consisted of many long stretches and lunges. The stretches were coupled with the utilization of deep breathing techniques. Many stretch points were felt, and the group felt relaxed and a decrease of stress.



HARRISBURG YOUTH ACADEMY Harrisburg, AR



Harrisburg Academy had their second Family Day and it was a great success! Of the 20 girls on the campus 16 families chose to participate. The Youth Advisory Board worked hard at collaborating with staff to create a meaningful event for their families and peers. They created a skit, “A Christmas Miracle,” and performed it at the event. There wasn’t a dry eye in the building. The holidays can be stressful for the youth and it we want to ensure that they fill loved during this time. The girls enjoyed Christmas bags and stockings filled with all kinds of goodies and treats. They really enjoyed building gingerbread houses, and many of the young ladies expressed that this was the best Christmas they ever had.



OCALA YOUTH ACADEMY Ocala, FL



The community has been heavily integrated with the youth at Ocala. Several members from the Miracle Deliverance Center delivered a Christmas service to the youth. There was even a special live performance from the NGP Band and their singers! This was a time for our youth to not only listen to songs of praise, but receive words of peace and comfort during the holiday season. One of the youth requested to sing a solo, which was breathtaking for everyone, including his peers. Following the program, the youth received Christmas gifts. Mr. Rommel Lopez with The Libre Institute organization provided food for everyone. On January 2, 2020, Ocala Youth Academy celebrated its one year anniversary since the program opened! To celebrate, the employees were treated to a delicious Zaxby's meal. Building a team isn't always easy, it takes dedication along with hard work. That dedication and hard work has been evident over the course of this last year. Youth had the opportunity to give back to the

community. Ocala Youth Academy teamed up with Habitat for Humanity in a joint effort to revitalize and beautify what was once a sore spot on their grounds. The moral and message behind our mission was that things will be what we make them. Work and persistence are what transformed a rock and weeds into a small garden and it will be those very same values that transform their lives. Our youth responded extraordinarily well and represented themselves, their families, and Youth Opportunity in the most positive light imaginable. The boys worked hard and as a team to accomplish our tasks. Equine Director Velvet Saulsberry, Recreational Therapist Rashard Coleman, and Youth Care Worker Lorra Wright accompanied the youth. It was a great day for all parties involved. The youth did such a wonderful job that their services are now in high demand. We hope to further our relationship with Habitat for Humanity and continuously give back.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

TO ROANE, REDWOOD, DERMOTT, LEWISVILLE & MANSFIELD YOUTH
ACADEMY'S

We're sorry that we missed you this month. We know everything is going well and we can't wait to see what exciting and enriching updates you have for
The Right Way next month!



Right Youth. Right Place. Right Time.



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