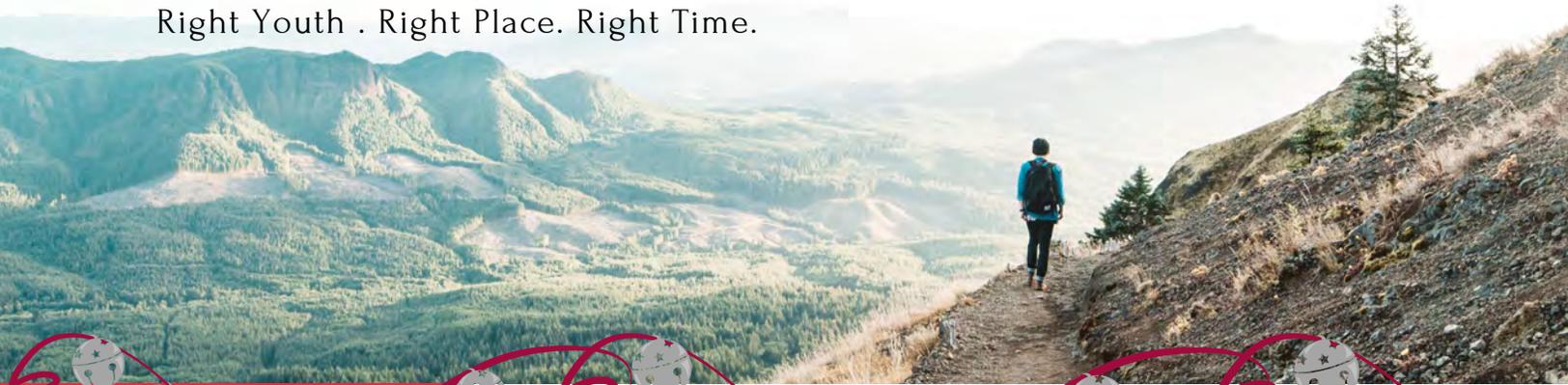




THE RIGHT WAY

Right Youth . Right Place. Right Time.



IN THIS ISSUE

Holiday Festivities -

Decorations, Hot Chocolate & Santa

Red Carpet Event -
rocking the runway with
fashion and fun

Excellence -

Excelling in the classroom &
the Community



Leaders for A Better Tomorrow

I have often pondered the ideology of a New Year and its impact on society in the one second it takes to create a new year! What really transpires other than the continuation of well laid plans or the proliferation of bad habits and pessimism brought on by people who are accustomed to mediocrity? My wish for the New Year & all years is that somehow we as a sophisticated human race will find a way to correct our value system! For without it we cannot repair our economic system!



Ronald Hunter,
Youth Opportunity
CEO

The intellectual deficit among our leaders and lack of concern for the future of our children and grandchildren are at stake. With the nation's debt over twenty three Trillion dollars and climbing our elected officials are spending more time concerned with keeping their elected positions than focusing on being fiscally responsible and creating real reform to assist middle class America. We need leaders that understand business and will suffer the consequences of not compromising the principals that built our great nation. Last but certainly not least we need to renew our faith in God by not allowing the political correctness to exclude the most powerful means for our society to sustain our way of life.



Jim Hill,
Youth Opportunity
President

We wish to thank each and everyone of our over 1,000 employees nationwide for supporting our mission of helping at risk youth and families have a better way of life.



ROCKDALE YOUTH ACADEMY

Rockdale, TX



What better time than Christmas time? Staff from Rockdale can agree as they spent time celebrating their most recent high school graduate. The student was honored with a graduation ceremony and a lunch reception and has already started making plans for his future. He has begun to research career paths and has taken an interest in technical studies and welding. In addition to celebrating his accomplishments,

youth and staff participated in holiday festivities. They decorated the Rockdale campus with lights, Christmas trees and various decorations. The youth were very excited about Christmas thanks to volunteer staff who have made the children feel wanted and loved. These volunteers hosted a Christmas party for the kids consisting of pizza, games and LOTS of Christmas cheer.



PATHWAY OF HOPE YOUTH ACADEMY

Evart, MI



December has been a very educational month for youth at Pathway. Beginning with topics of Diversity and Inclusion, youth and staff visited the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan. The museum exhibits a large collection of artifacts that spanned the segregation era from reconstruction until the civil rights movement, and beyond. Next up, students visited the Card Wild Life Museum to see and learn about rare animals. Many of the girls have been focused on preparing for their exams at school. Their schedules are so busy with extracurricular activities such as cheer leading, band, and wrestling that they are looking forward to this Holiday Break. The students were able to spend some quality time with family and friends frosting cookies, doing arts and crafts and taking pictures in a photo booth.





NEW HOPE YOUTH ACADEMY

Mt. Pleasant, MI



The youth at New Hope have been able to enjoy the holidays as well as practice community etiquette. On December 5th, New Hope was able to attend the Foster Closet Christmas Party. There were many activities everyone could partake in and enjoy. Youth were able to go home with a few extra gift cards, and prizes. Youth were also able to attend the Mt. Pleasant Christmas festival in the downtown district. They were able to enjoy hay rides(a first time experience for some) , hot chocolate, a light parade, and many treats. The students were overjoyed to be surrounded by holiday festivities. In addition, youth attended "Christmas in Clare". Where students visited Mr, and Mrs. Clause, snacked on doughnuts and s'mores, and had a special guest visit from Frozen's own main character , Olaf the Snowman.

EVART YOUTH ACADEMY

Ewart, MI



The focus this month has been on celebrating the winter season. The students utilized their creative minds by building snowmen, sledding, and other winter activities . They also went ice skating and shared Christmas gifts with each other. The students participated in the local Evergreen Festival parade with a "Candyland" themed float they built themselves.

MEMPHIS YOUTH ACADEMY

Bartlett, TN



Championship football and the college experience! Students from Memphis were able to attend the Conference Championship game featuring the Memphis Tigers vs. Cincinnati Bearcats. This was a great opportunity for the students to practice proper etiquette in large settings. They have never attended an event of such magnitude. After the game the youth continuously talked about the fun they had and what they hope to experience when they go to college. It is always great to hear them discussing higher education with a positive future!



LEBANON YOUTH ACADEMY *Lebanon, TN*



Lebanon had a very busy end of the year. First, they hosted a quarterly Community Advisory Committee meeting for both Lebanon and Mt. Juliet Youth Academy. Among the attendees were two juvenile deputies from the Wilson County Sheriff's Office, two members from Wilson County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), and two individuals from local churches.

The committee met to discuss the operation of the academies, options for community support activities, interest in volunteers, and support from the community for the Christmas season. Next, Lebanon had its last family day event of the year. The clinical staff invited all of the youth's families, DCS workers, and Omni coordinators. Shift Supervisor, Kevin Franklin, and Kitchen Coordinator, Ayanna Richardson, were responsible for planning and preparing the food for the day. They spent the majority of the night preparing smoked ham, fried turkey, greens, mac and cheese, and other sides and desserts. During this event youth were able to enjoy time with their parents, grandparents, siblings and children. Everyone played cards and

board games. Families were also able to meet some of the people responsible for helping the youth become successful adults. Finally, youth and staff spent some time learning about Native American values and culture. After listening to articles and exerts read by, Special Education Teacher, Lynette Bishop, and two Lebanon students, staff and youth compared Native American values and culture to the American value system. This activity helped everyone recognize their own values and reminded them of what was important.



BLED SOE YOUTH ACADEMY

Gallatin, TN

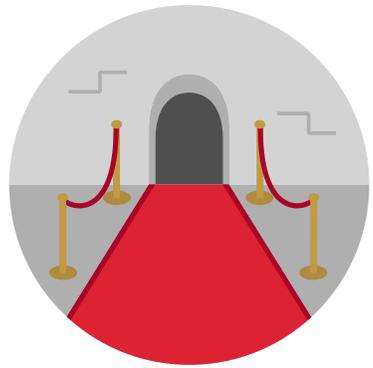


Bledsoe Youth Academy is happy to be apart of Youth Opportunity as of December 21st. Our new relationship will assist us in making a major impact for the youth and families that we serve. The Youth Opportunity transition team conducted orientation for all current staff in just a matter of days. The team exemplified the true meaning of "teamwork". The Bledsoe staff and youth assisted in getting the job done. Bledsoe is now licensed for 30 beds to accept more youth. Everyone is very excited about the new beds, bedding, furniture and games. In addition, the campus is undergoing remodeling of the kitchen and dining areas along with upgrades in landscaping. These improvements will assist in making the facility like a home.



MT. JULIET YOUTH ACADEMY

Mt. Juliet, TN



Mt. Juliet had their annual Red Carpet Event. All of the girls were able to participate in some way. All walked the runway dressed up in their formal wear, some also performed a dance or a song in between the fashion show segments. All the families were invited to attend and provide support to the students. The youth thoroughly enjoyed every part of the Red Carpet Event this year. The students also had their Christmas outing the week prior to Christmas. They went to lunch at Chili's and then they walked around the Opryland Hotel to look at all the decorations and Christmas lights. The youth also spread holiday cheer by making Christmas cards and delivering them to the local nursing home. They enjoyed spending time with the residents and reflected on how their thoughts and cards brought joy to the residents in the home.

ROANE YOUTH ACADEMY

Rockwood, TN



Since Family Promise of Roane County opened in October, youth from the Roane campus have partnered with them to aid the community. This month, the students helped tape candy canes on approximately 400 flyers about the Family Promise program. Family Promise provides services for homeless families in Roane County. These flyers will be given out during the Roane County Christmas parade. Hundreds of people attend the parade yearly and will be receiving this information in an effort to help the community. "It makes us feel good to help people," stated one of the students after the event.



DAVIDSON COUNTY JUVENILE CENTER

Nashville, TN



The staff from Davidson shared the joys of Christmas. They participated in Secret Santa and feasted on an assortment of finger foods. Staff were able to laugh and admire each other's Christmas sweaters (some ugly, some not) and finding out their secret Santa! Christmas music and holiday decor set the mood for an intimate time of appreciating the gift of each other and reflecting on the impact they have on the youth.



ELIZABETHTON YOUTH ACADEMY Elizabethton, TN



As we celebrate the “Season of Giving”, Elizabethton students have been in full swing with the holiday season. They were able to participate in an off-campus Christmas party, hosted by the Carter County Community Advisory Board. During this event they decorated ornaments and placed them on a Christmas Tree. This decorated tree will be used as a backdrop for Christmas pictures taken for low-income families. Steadfast Mentors were able to attend the Christmas party and support the youth. It was a night filled with decorating Christmas cookies, eating



delicious food, taking Christmas pictures, and singing Christmas songs with Santa. It was a beautiful moment to see the smiles on the faces of the students, and the experience touched every heart that was involved in making this event happen. The youth were also able to decorate the campus and enjoyed spending time decorating their own Christmas Stockings. They were fully prepared for "Santa" to fill them with many goodies. The youth are preparing to bring in the New Year with their friends and are excited to see what the year 2020 holds.

CLEVELAND YOUTH ACADEMY Cleveland, TN



During this wonderful season youth were blessed with Christmas dinner, entertainment, and gifts sponsored by the SUNRISE Rotary Club. The Rotary Club is a service group that strives to make a difference while encompassing and embracing diversification. The students were overjoyed from all the love that they received during this time. They enjoyed the gifts and the students were given matching sweatshirts. The Christmas festivities continued as

youth enjoyed a hot chocolate and Christmas movie night at Cleveland. The youth also spent time giving back to the community. They went to the local soup kitchen and served a traditional Christmas dinner to the homeless individuals within the community. They helped prepare the meals and hand out plates as individuals walked in. The youth loved the opportunity to help others and even asked if they could go back next month to help again.





BROOKSVILLE YOUTH ACADEMY

Brooksville, FL



Within the last month, Brooksville celebrated their most recent graduate, This young man successfully passed all of the required GED tests on his first try. The campus held a graduation ceremony for him the same day as his release date from the campus. In attendance were peers, program staff, teachers, school board members and family members. They all congratulated him and wished him continued success. The graduate was extremely excited to see the rewards of his hard work on this dual-celebration day!

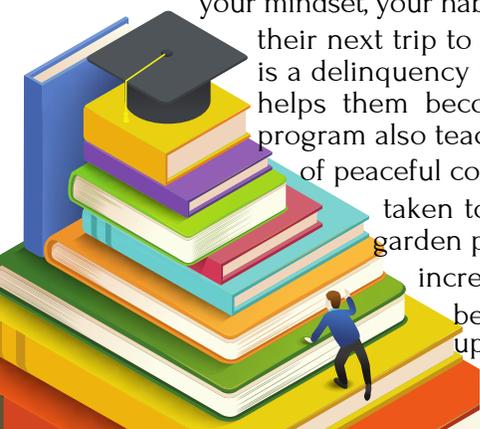
BROWARD YOUTH ACADEMY

Pembroke Pines, FL



Academics, Physical Health, and Community Service have been the focus for the youth at Broward throughout the last month. With only being a few credits away from earning a high school diploma, one of the students from Broward has acquired a job. With his continued focus, hard work, determination and goals in mind, he will be leaving the program as a high school graduate with a job and working to move up in the company. This young man isn't our first to be employed within the program and definitely will not be the last! When the young men that come to this program seek change with determination, we are able to lend a hand and help them change. Not only do eligible youth have the opportunity to work, they also get to workout! Youth along with their recreational therapist have been conducting workouts at LA Fitness Gym. During their visits to the gym, the youth learn proper gym workouts and receive help with properly using the different equipment. Over the course of their workouts, it has become apparent that each youth is starting to become more confident in themselves and their abilities, more than ever before. When you realize you can change

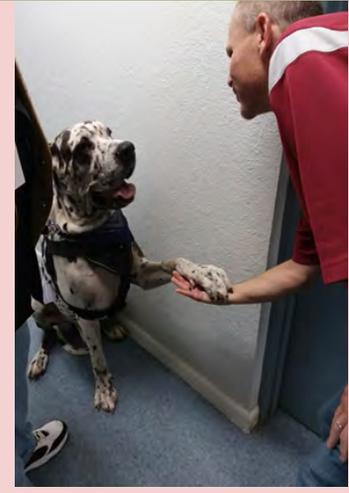
your mindset, your habits follow. After that very first workout, the youth were ecstatic and anxious to know when their next trip to the gym would be! Youth from Broward also participate in Impact of Crime (IOC). IOC is a delinquency intervention that introduces youth to restorative justice concepts. This curriculum also helps them become more accountable by recognizing and decreasing irresponsible thinking. This program also teaches them how crime impacts victims and communities and engages them in the use of peaceful conflict resolution strategies. As part of their participation, some students were recently taken to a gardening patch. The community depends on the fruits and vegetables from this garden patch. The purpose of this outing was not just to teach them agricultural skills, but to increase the knowledge on the history of this gardening patch. As a result, the youth began to empathize for the people within the community whose meals depend on the upkeep of the garden.





Ocala Youth Academy *Ocala, FL*

Youth and staff from Ocala have had an eventful month. They had the opportunity to meet Harley, a very friendly and well-groomed therapy dog owned by Mental Health Therapist, Mr. Myers. This was a great therapy for youth and staff. Youth, staff, and families also celebrated Family Reunification Day. Reunification therapy can be difficult when children are uncertain about being reunited with their parents, but this day brought such joy, fun, and laughter among youth and their families. Those who attended did so with excitement in their eyes, knowing that they will reunite with their child. Therapists, case managers and nurses were onsite and interacting with the youth and their families to improve the multitude of dynamics. Family day gives the kids something to look forward to. Families enjoyed the delicious meal prepared by our kitchen staff while listening to music. Each family was entered into a raffle for a chance to win giveaway prizes as well! In addition the Equine Program Students were hosted by Dr. Rullan of Performance Equine Veterinary Services . As part of their Equine Program Educational Series they were given an exclusive tour of one Florida's state of the art veterinary hospitals by



his professional staff, Ms. Kristi Beran. Before the tour, all of our Equine Program Students were briefed on the facility safety and appropriate body language while in proximity to the horses at the facility. All of our students maintained excellent compliance and as a reward for our youths respectful and pleasant demeanor they were allowed to meet Zeke! Zeke is an 18-hand tall warm-blood who is currently a high-level dressage horse. Due to our youth's positive energy and body language Zeke was happy to greet all of our students. While on this tour our Equine Program youth were shown how this practice uses the most innovative equipment and advanced medical techniques available to keep our equine partners as healthy and strong as possible. Our students were allowed to watch one of the horses receive treatment in the aqua pacer. An aqua pacer is used to help competition horses prepare for the show season and as rehabilitative therapy. After learning about the Aqua pacer, The students attended a brief information session on the theraplate. The theraplate is a flat plate that the horses getting treatment stand on. Next on the tour the students were shown the hyperbaric chamber. The host explained how the hyperbaric chamber uses oxygen as a medical treatment that delivers pure oxygen to the body under higher than normal pressurized environments. The students were shown how the Hyperbaric Chamber is used to help horses recover from some of the most catastrophic injuries to enhancing the recovery of sports related injuries. Our hosts were very generous with their facility and time, their staff gave individual attention to our equine program students and answered all their questions in a friendly, professional, and easy to understand manner. This demonstration of professionalism was useful in helping the students develop their own professional skills.



THERAPY DOGS



Therapy dogs play a special role in providing comfort and affection to individuals in a hospital, retirement home, nursing home, hospice, schools, or other situations that will support those in need. There are three main classifications of therapy animals: Animal Assisted, Facility Therapy, & Therapeutic Visitation. Therapeutic Visitation Animals, which is what Harley is classified as, are household pets that are trained and taken to many locations where they provide comfort and joy for people that are living away from home due to mental or physical illnesses. To have an animal become certified as a therapy animal they must be well tempered, obedient, clean and well groomed, current on all vaccines, well behaved around other dogs and strangers, at least one year of age, and well socialized. They must also pass an examination to test their obedience and temperament.





CRESTVIEW YOUTH ACADEMY

Crestview, FL



Heroes come in many shapes and sizes. Youth took the time out to write thank you notes to our staff that currently serve in the U.S. Military, as well as to those who have previously served. Through heartfelt messages, the youth showed their gratitude for the hard work and dedication to not only Crestview, but to the country. The staff of military veterans and current servicemen were incredibly touched and appreciative of the messages the youth gave them. What better way to invest in a

better tomorrow than by encouraging youth to strive to be successful and go after their goals. With the love, support, and encouragement from staff at Crestview two high-risk youth have *applied* and have been *accepted* into Northwest Florida State College (NWFSO). These two students were able to attend NWFSO Freshman Preview Day. During this event they received a full campus tour and had the opportunity to meet with their college advisors. They took a sample college course as well as attended a Majors Fair. They also socialized with students in their respective departments. It was amazing and heartwarming to see the joy on the young men's faces as they networked and enjoyed being around other college freshman at the school.



KISSIMMEE YOUTH ACADEMY

Kissimmee, FL

The goal of Kissimmee is to ensure that all youth are provided the opportunity for success through education, skill development, and on-site job training. To ensure there are no barriers to success the campus hosted a "Florida licensing on wheels" (FLOW) event. The FLOW mobile unit allowed 24 students at Kissimmee to obtain a Florida ID. This is required as part of their exit portfolio upon release. In order to provide the best service to the youth it is important to have a cohesive staff and a healthy organizational culture. The morale committee organized an evening of fun, laughter and food for staff. It was a successful event as staff were able to unwind and socialize in a stress free environment.



DERMOTT YOUTH ACADEMY

Dermott, AR

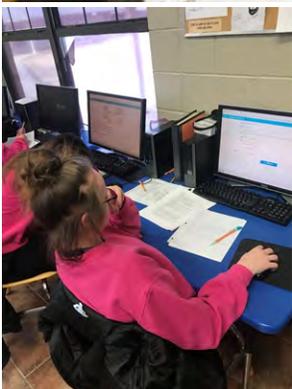


The last month at Dermott has been focused on creating the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and developing the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The CAB was given a tour of the Dermott facility by the YAB. During this tour the newly created board

was given an overview of the program services, activities and incentives of the program. The members of the CAB include the Mayor of Dermott, the Assistance Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Monticello MeGehee, the Chaplan from Arkansas Department of Correction, a foster parent, a pastor, a deacon and a business owner.



HARRISBURG YOUTH ACADEMY *Harrisburg, AR*



Staff at Harrisburg have been taking great strides in providing a safe and therapeutic environment for the youth in their care. More recently education has become the main focus, which is something the facility struggled with before Youth Opportunity came into the picture. There are currently 3 students who have taken the GED test and passed with flying colors. In addition to excelling in education, students are utilizing their creative minds. The Diamond Diva's, a small group within the Youth Advisory Board, are steadily coming up with fun activities. They will be assisting with planning activities for the upcoming Family Day. Students are learning new skills they can apply to their every day life. They have recently learned to refurbish old furniture and had a great time doing so. Harrisburg Academy is continuing to make strides helping our youth obtain the necessary life skills to become successful in the program and beyond!



LEWISVILLE YOUTH ACADEMY

Lewisville, AR



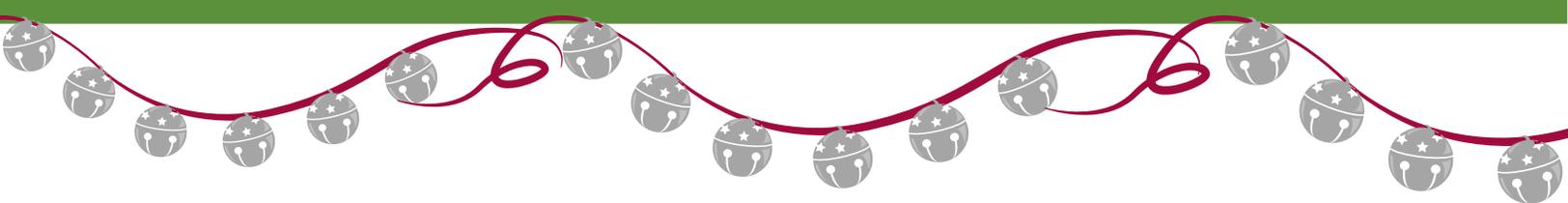
With the excitement of bridging the relationships between youth and their families, staff recently hosted an inaugural Family Day event. Families traveled from all over the state of Arkansas to visit their sons, brothers, cousins, and nephews. As always, there were a variety of fun filled activities. These activities included dominoes, bingo and face painting. The families also enjoyed a tasty lunch. The day ended with various raffles to win gifts and gift cards. All families, youth and staff raved about the day and stated they will be anxiously awaiting the next event!



MANSFIELD YOUTH ACADEMY

Mansfield, AR

With a growing team comes fresh energy and an eagerness to change the lives of the young men at Mansfield. Staff and youth celebrated the holidays by decorating cookies and eating waffles. The youth enjoyed recreational activities when possible, especially basketball and football. Youth are also excelling in education. Finals went well resulting in new GED graduates. One of the students has also been honored throughout the state as Student of the Month due to his significant progress academically.



Right Youth. Right Place. Right Time.



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