

# THE RIGHT WAY

RIGHT YOUTH. RIGHT PLACE. RIGHT TIME.



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Outdoor Socializing at a Distance

Adapting to COVID-19 Restrictions

## Because We Care!

By: Brian Neupaver, COO of Youth Opportunity

Where does one begin to express the gratitude of a company that is so humbled by the undying commitment and perseverance from over 1,000 of its employees? During the past few months, Youth Opportunity has witnessed its employees step up to face a unique, devastating virus that has negatively impacted our entire country. In the face of uncertainty, our people have faced this adversity in champion fashion.

Personally, I am honored to be a part of an organization that has its heart in the right place when dealt such an unexpected challenge as the COVID-19 pandemic. Youth Opportunity is made up of heroes, dedicated individuals who have put aside their physical and psychological well-being to make sure the youth we serve receive the best possible care.

What have we learned? I believe we have learned that life is fragile, and many things in life are beautiful and should not be taken for granted. I

also have a newfound respect for front line individuals in critical fields like social services and healthcare serving as emergency medical personnel, police, and fire rescue.

Overall, we are a great nation building a brighter future for all who are willing to sacrifice just a little to gain a lot.





# Lebanon Youth Academy

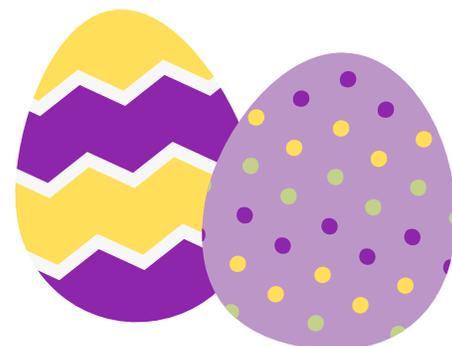
Lebanon Youth Academy kicked the month of April off with an Easter egg hunt. Incentive activities like going to the movies, and a college basketball game have been put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions on travel.

Although restrictions have been put into place, that still doesn't stop us with being innovative at Lebanon Youth Academy. Youth and staff alike took place in this auspicious occasion and it was noted by one of the youth, "this is the most fun that I have had in my whole life," in referring to the Easter egg hunt. Inside the Easter eggs were rewards such as, two hours of free time on the computers, two hours of extra game room time, and a free meal of their choice.

Incentives such as rewarding good behavior is in full effect at Lebanon Academy and we recently upgraded our game room to be more fun, enticing, and entertaining for those who earn the privilege and attract others who as of yet have not earned the privilege.

Lebanon Youth Academy has been trying to make the most of the COVID-19 lock down. The staff and youth have had a couple of "activity days" as well as a cookout on the grille to try and relieve some of the stress as a result of the current circumstances.

Throughout the month of April, we carried on with our McDonald's Mondays and recently implemented Wendy's Wednesdays, for all of those who have earned an adequate amount of points through good behavior towards staff as well as their peers.



# TEACH

## Davidson County Juvenile Center

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, our facility had many volunteers providing on-site services for the youth. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, alternative ways to offer programming has been sought after. One volunteer agency was up for the challenge. From the Heart offers weekly music studio sessions with youth in detention via Zoom. The sessions are facilitated by volunteer, Kerry Frazier. The youth are taught how to set up the equipment, find various beats, and how to record their own music. Youth Opportunity staff is on hand to provide security, support and guidance. The first few days were a little rocky as the youth had to build up their confidence. By the third session, the youth were setting everything up with little to no help needed. From the Heart is funded by the Metro Arts Commission and we are very grateful for everything they are doing for our youth!



## Elizabethton Youth Academy

Elizabethton Youth Academy anxiously anticipated the month of April in hopes the Easter Bunny would visit.

They decorated areas waiting for his arrival and participated in dying Easter Eggs. Once the Easter Bunny arrived with his baskets, the youth were able to have an Easter dinner and an Easter egg hunt which held many surprises and gifts for the youth that found the special eggs.

Thank you to the mentors from Steadfast Mentoring who continue to provide Bible Study, puzzles, games and other activities for our youth in effort to keep them engaged in activities.

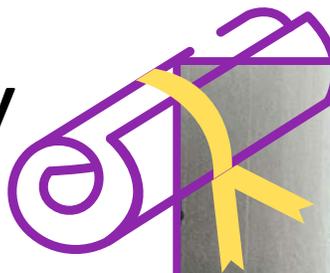




# Bledsoe Youth Academy

Amid the pandemic, Bledsoe Youth Academy graduated their first student. The commencement address was given by Ms. Renee Maxwell. She urges the student to remember that the choices he makes from this point forward will shape the path he travels and the young man he will become.

Immediately following the ceremony, the school celebrated the student's achievement with cake and ice cream. We are so proud of this young man and look forward to his continued success!



# Cleveland Youth Academy

Covid-19 has certainly put a damper on some of our activities, but this hasn't stopped us from getting creative. We hosted a staff celebration, which our youth were also a part of. We were also able to bless a co-worker with a lovely baby shower. With the spring weather rolling in, we have been teaching our youth about spring and different cultures. We also had the opportunity to learn about which types of flowers were most suitable for our garden and climate. Our youth had a fun time planting the flowers and putting up a bird feeder! One of our wonderful staff member's donated her time by making each youth and staff a mask to stay safe during the pandemic.





# Roane Youth Academy

With the current global pandemic, the youth and staff at Roane Academy were feeling stir crazy! The Morale Committee and Activities Director, Ms. McClain, decided that this month's youth incentive would be combined with the monthly morale event for staff at the upcoming Field Day. Secretly the group planned a "Luau" theme for all to enjoy with a lei and grass skirts included! The youth and staff knew that we were having Field Day, but they had no idea what all was in store!

The staff showed up to work in Hawaiian theme attire. Each department set up their own booth and chose an event or game for the youth and staff to participate in. The admin department facilitated an "Egg Walk." Ms. McClain had a "Candy Necklace Station." Operations did a flag football tournament. Maintenance made custom Corn Hole boards and did a Corn Hole tournament. Nursing had a "Ball Drop" which was like a life size Connect Four game. The Kitchen did "Ring Toss." Education did life size Tic Tac Toe! The youth enjoyed being competitive and winning the games, and the staff also got involved and played against them!

Our AFA's Mr. Woods and Mr. Jones prepared Pork Shoulder, homemade BBQ with all the fixins', "Pina Colada" slushies, and enough sweets for an army! Each youth and staff also received a goodie bag filled with candy and party favors.

With music in the background, laughter and chatter among all, you could see and feel that all the hard work put into planning the Luau made it a success!





# Memphis Youth Academy



Everyone was excited for the anticipated Basketball Tournament; staff vs. youth. The youth were ready to compete! To add to the excitement, we were surprised with a visit from none other than “J-Man” Palmer from the semi-pro league, The Tropics. Although it has been a long time since he graced the courts, he did make a brief appearance! Both teams came at it with their A-game and it was close, but the youth won 69-60. It was a great game, great weather and great team work.



Several days after the basketball tournament, we were faced with a different challenge that many across the nation face – the COVID-19 virus. Our Pandemic Plan was implemented as we addressed new and arising situations on a daily basis. In 48 hours, we went from one to four cases, and with the assistance of our corporate team, addressed our needs and were able to test all of our staff and youth. Through it all, we have become more knowledgeable about the virus and the character of our dedicated staff and support team shine through!



# Mt. Juliet Youth Academy

The youth at Mt. Juliet Academy have been on lock down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, that has not stopped the fun from happening. In an effort to stay extra safe, a staff member made cloth masks for everyone. Additionally, activities have no more than for 4 or 5 to a group.

The Easter celebration was the highlight of April. The girls participated in an Easter egg hunt, crafts, and dying Easter eggs. We have tried to keep the quarantine fun for everyone with games, tournaments, spirit weeks, Skype calls with family, and movie days. As the weeks progress and the uncertainty of returning to "normal" continues, we will strive to make the best of it.



# Ocala Youth Academy

At Ocala Youth Academy, we push for a strong and high morale, which means the employee puts in effort, takes initiative, and is committed to the organization while achieving organizational goals.

The Morale Committee at Ocala Youth Academy decided to show our staff appreciation by hosting our 1st TIKI TENT FRIDAY event. This day included freshly made fruit smoothies and pina colodas made by Mrs. Greene, Transitional Case Manager, and delicious food prepared by Mrs. Henderson, Food Service Manager. We topped it off with soft island music playing, socializing, and a little dancing. We strive to continue building morale and maintain a positive culture. A special thanks to maintenance for all they do!

Our youth equine program participated in a fund raiser for the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF). The fund raiser is in support of Giving Tuesday Grain with a goal of \$13,000. Contributions to this fund helps TRF with costs of supplying grain for the program's horses. Youth submitted their art work of our program horse, Hurricane Sergio, to the TRF Pony Power Drawings to Brighten the World. The TRF. This shows our supporters just how much the TRF horses mean to the youth whom love and care for them. They raised was over \$16,000!

We were honored to show our appreciation to all the mothers that work at the facility. The Staff Morale Committee prepared a beautiful Mother's Day brunch. After the mothers enjoyed a variety of foods, they departed with a decorated cupcake displayed in a martini glass and long stem roses of their choice





## Kissimmee Youth Academy

Our Administrators are better than yours! What started off as an idea by AFA Mrs. Buchanan came through to reality. AFA's Mr. Manuel and Mr. Curry along with FA Mr. Slayton hosted a BBQ for the KYA Youth and Staff. With COVID-19 causing so much chaos and uncertainty in the world, the administrator's wanted to reward the youth for their good behavior and the staff for their continued hard work and dedication. The food was amazing and well appreciated.

"Taco Tuesday" has become very popular at Kissimmee Youth Academy. The menu consisted of a variety of soft and hard shell tacos. The youth and staff were all happy and looking forward to the next one. Kudos to the Morale Committee for putting everything together and a special thanks to all who assisted to make this a successful event!



## Brooksville Youth Academy



Brooksville Youth Academy showcased their lyrical talents at our first Rap Battle. Choosing between instrumental background music or a cappella, youth volunteered to come center stage and perform their original beats and lyrics. With roaring applause after every song, each performer walked away with a smile and more confidence in their writing.

At the end of the show, youth were given a chance to vote on their favorite performance. Astonishingly, every performer had multiple votes and we had no choice but to call it a five-way tie!



# Crestview Youth Academy

Crestview Youth Academy believes all our youth need education to stop the stigma surrounding mental illness, so we dedicated a week to Mental Health Awareness. Staff dressed up in their mod colors and youth decorated posters and participated in group discussions.

It's spring time and the youth at Crestview Youth Academy love the warmer weather. We are having football tournaments and basketball games to build teamwork.

We want to recognize one of our former youth. Youth B completed his treatment and was released home. Unfortunately, Youth B passed away in his home town shortly after. Staff McIntyre put together a balloon release memorial. Youth and staff shared a memory and as balloons were released, we played his favorite song. We love you, Youth B. Once a Warrior, always a Warrior!



# Redwood Youth Academy

The youth at Redwood Youth Academy competed in an academic competition known as the Brain Bowl. The youth were divided into groups of 5 and were responsible for coming up with a team name. Each team then picked a captain and a co-captain that were in charge of answering questions presented to the group by a proctor. There were 4 rounds that were comprised of 20 questions from categories such as Math, Social Studies, Science, and Language Arts.

All youth participated in a professional manner while displaying integrity, positive social interaction, and great sportsmanship. The competition was intense and all teams performed at a high level with a final score of 144 for the winning team. The second-place team kept the competition close with a final score of 141 while the third-place team finished at 140 points.

Congratulations to the Jaguars on a job well done, and also all the staff that made it possible!

*Congratulations*

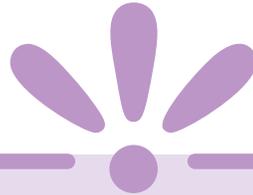


## Broward Youth Treatment Center

Given all the time within the facility, the youth have been exercising their mental processes, using both their logic and creativity. The youth are putting together different pieces of furniture around the facility and have found a major interest in it. This led to building shelves for the facility, providing life skills, and team building as the youth worked together to complete this project.

There is an monthly incentive given to the youth for following the procedures of the program, progressing in academics, improving in group sessions, etc. Once the "Youth of the Month" is chosen, they can choose from a variety of activities. Due to COVID-19, the youth have not been able to leave the facility so the staff created various indoor options.

Broward Youth Treatment Center was busy showing their appreciation for not just their own mothers, but the mothers at BYTC as well. The youth created Mother's Day poster boards, homemade bracelets, and signed cards to mail to their mothers.



## Rockdale Youth Academy

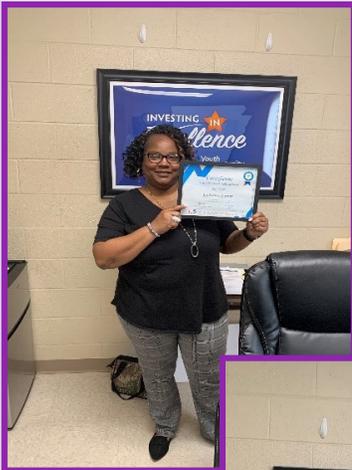
This has been a month full of adjustments for youth and staff at Rockdale Academy due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are still striving for excellence, and in doing so we have had some exiting events. We started the month off with our Monthly Incentive. For the incentive, the staff created an obstacle course for the youth to complete, followed by hamburgers and hot dogs with a movie.

We celebrated Easter with an Easter egg hunt with our youth, follow by a delicious meal prepared by our kitchen staff. The youth really enjoyed this activity and meal, and the staff enjoyed celebrating with, them because we understand that it is tough to be away from family for the holidays.





# Dermott Youth Academy



Dermott Youth Academy recognized two staff for “Employee of the Month.” The co-winners were Mr. Cebra Jordan, Maintenance, and Ms. LaJuana Danzy, Administrative Assistant. Both have gone above and beyond, exhibiting a willingness to extend a helping hand across their departments to ensure we exceed our monthly goals.

We would also like to recognize, Ms. Christine Lattimore, HR Coordinator, for performing at a 5-star level when it comes to hospitality and staff appreciation. Ms. Lattimore has shown great leadership and a willingness to take on tasks outside of her direct duties to ensure a higher quality of productivity is maintained.

Dermott Youth Academy is honored to recognize our exceptional staff and their daily contributions.



# Harrisburg Youth Academy

Harrisburg Youth Academy has been working diligently to ensure that staff and the youth we serve stay healthy and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Youth and staff have worked together in ensuring that all areas are clean and disinfected daily. Everyone is practicing good hand washing skills to decrease the opportunity to spread germs and minimize the chances of contracting COVID-19. Visitation has been cancelled at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but our case management and clinical team have been working diligently to ensure that all youth get at least two phone calls to their families each week.

Harrisburg Youth Academy has pulled together as a team to support each other during this difficult time.



# Manfield Youth Academy

Easter was an awesome holiday in which the campus was able to set aside some of the stress happening across the globe and celebrate with an Easter egg hunt.

Our staff and residents also began the preparation process to transfer oversight and supervision of our program to another company. Youth Opportunity has made a lasting and positive impression on the lives of our residents and staff.

Our campus continues to pull together to Invest in Excellence!



# Evert Youth Academy



This year Easter was a little different for everyone. Most of us were unable to celebrate with our families or have those big Easter dinners. We celebrated it with our staff and youth. While social distancing posed a new obstacle, we were still able to get it done to show our staff and youth how much we care. A huge shout out to Mr. Cooley, who brought in his personal smoker and cooked BBQ chicken and ribs. The youth enjoyed Easter bags filled with candy.

We have had to improvise with the pandemic. Gardening can be a very therapeutic outlet, so some of our youth enjoyed planting flowers. We had several other activities for our youth to complete.





## New Hope Youth Academy

“Incredible change happens in your life when you decide to take control of what you do have power over instead of craving control over what you don't.” — Steve Maraboli.

The last several weeks have really driven this message home. The lives of the residents, staff, and people in our community along with the rest of the world now live in a much different place. We have been creative, enthusiastic, and ever adjusting to each new development. We have learned to work together, support one another, and all with a little more grace. The residents and staff alike have all stepped up to make the best of what we've been given.

We have been taking advantage of the days we can step out for a walk and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. The residents have enjoyed an Easter celebration egg hunt along with some birthdays and the wonderful meals these events bring.

POSITIVE  
VIBES

## Pathway Youth Academy

Even though we in quarantine, we have had quite a busy month. We started out the month working on our Diversity Project. Each youth was assigned a country and researched how that country celebrated Easter. From their traditions to the type of foods they ate, and what celebrations may take place during this time. The youth chose one traditional dish to prepare with their Easter celebration. The youth learned a lot from this project and so did the staff!

We have welcomed several new staff as well this month. We are very excited to be able to expand our team. Many come with a wealth of knowledge and experience



# 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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